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**TO:** Wisconsin Works Agencies  
Training Staff

**BWF OPERATIONS MEMO**

Number: 26-04  
Date: 05/29/2026

**FROM:** Patara Horn, Director  
Bureau of Working Families  
Division of Family and Economic Security  
Department of Children and Families

**AFFECTED PROGRAMS:**

Transform Milwaukee Jobs  
Transitional Jobs

**SUBJECT: TRANSFORM MILWAUKEE JOBS AND TRANSITIONAL JOBS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA POLICY CHANGE**

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**CROSS REFERENCE:** [TJ/TMJ Manual Section 2.1](#)

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 29, 2026

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to announce new eligibility criteria for the Transform Milwaukee Jobs (TMJ) and Transitional Jobs (TJ) program.

**BACKGROUND**

On April 3, 2026, Wis. Stat. § [49.163\(2\)\(am\)4](#) was repealed and Wis. Stat. § [49.163\(2\)\(am\)5](#) was amended to read, "have not filed for unemployment insurance benefits or have filed but is not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits."

**POLICY**

**CURRENT POLICY**

A TJ or TMJ applicant must be unemployed for at least four weeks and be ineligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits in order to retain eligibility for the TJ or TMJ program.

**NEW POLICY**

As of April 3, 2026, Wis. Stat. § [49.163\(2\)\(am\)4](#) is repealed and TJ or TMJ applicants no longer have to be unemployed for four consecutive calendar weeks to become eligible for either program, or not to have worked more than 16 hours within a week beginning on Sunday and ending on Saturday to be eligible for either program. As of April 3, 2026, Wis. Stat. §

[49.163\(2\)\(am\)5](#) has been amended to allow TJ and TMJ applicants eligibility if they have not filed for unemployment insurance benefits or have filed but were deemed ineligible for benefits.

### ***CARES WORKER WEB (CWW) AND WISCONSIN WORK PROGRAMS (WWP)***

All updates to CWW and WWP will be announced in a separate communication, and published on the [BWF System Updates page](#) in May 2026.

### ***AGENCY ACTION***

TJ and TMJ agencies must familiarize staff with the updated policy as described in this memo and update any relevant local agency procedures.

### ***ATTACHMENTS***

[Policy Attachment](#)

### ***CONTACTS***

For W-2 Policy Questions: [BWF Policy Question SharePoint](#)

For W-2, CARES and WWP Functionality Questions: BWF Work Programs Help Desk  
[BWFworkprogramsHD@wisconsin.gov](mailto:BWFworkprogramsHD@wisconsin.gov)

DCF/DFES/BWF/DB