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Wisconsin Works (W-2) and Other
Economic Support Programs

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Wisconsin Works (W-2) and Other Economic Support Programs

Introduction

Public assistance for children in need had been provided under the aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) program beginning in 1935. However, in 1996, the federal government enacted P.L. 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, which replaced the AFDC program with a block grant program called temporary assistance for needy families (TANF).

Under the TANF program, public assistance benefits are funded with block grants to states. States are also required to contribute state funds under maintenance-of-effort provisions. Although the TANF program allows states to develop, operate, and implement their own public assistance programs, the federal legislation imposes work requirements and time limits on recipients of TANF benefits, and eliminates the federal entitlement to public assistance that was provided under the AFDC program.

In order to receive federal funding, states must submit a plan describing how the state will conduct its statewide TANF program.

At the state level, Wisconsin implemented a number of welfare reform initiatives beginning in 1987, leading to the replacement of the AFDC program in Wisconsin. Under 1993 Wisconsin Act 99, the AFDC program was to be repealed on January 1, 1999, and the Department of Health and Social Services was required to submit to the Legislature a proposal for welfare reform in Wisconsin that provided for the replacement of the basic AFDC program by December 31, 1998.

The proposal for the replacement of AFDC in Wisconsin was introduced as 1995 Assembly Bill 591 on October 2, 1995. AB 591 was passed by the Legislature on March 13, 1996, and signed by the Governor as 1995 Wisconsin Act 289 on April 25, 1996. The new program is referred to as "Wisconsin Works" (W-2).

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) administers the W-2 program and other economic support and work programs based on provisions under Chapter 49 of the state's statutes. At the local level, individual W-2 agencies under contract with DWD are responsible for program administration.

The W-2 program was implemented on a pilot basis in two counties -- Pierce and Fond du Lac -- beginning on March 1, 1997, and began statewide on September 1, 1997. Some recipients continued to receive benefits under the AFDC program until March, 1998, when the AFDC program ended.

As shown in Table 1, \$610.9 million in 2005-06 was expended in DWD and other agencies for W-2 and other TANF-funded programs. State general purpose revenue (GPR) expenditures for the program totaled \$160.4 million. Federal funding (FED) includes the federal TANF block grant, child care block grant funding, TANF funds carried over from the prior fiscal year, and other federal dollars. The program revenue (PR) is primarily from child support collections assigned to the state by public assistance recipients. The segregated revenue (SEG) is from utility public benefits funding, which is transferred to DWD to support W-2.

Table 1: W-2 and Other TANF-Funded Programs Total Expenditures (2005-06)

	2005-06
GPR	\$160,399,600
PR	20,267,300
SEG	9,232,000
FED	<u>420,964,500</u>
Total	\$610,863,400

Program expenditures include state and local administration, several types of benefit payments, child care assistance, and other support services. A detailed listing of these revenues and expenditures is provided in this report under "Program Funding and Participation."

The remainder of this paper provides detailed information regarding W-2 employment positions, child care subsidies, other benefits, and program administration. In addition, information is presented concerning FoodShare (formerly food stamps), kinship care, the caretaker supplement, and other related programs. Data on program funding, expenditures, and participation are also provided. Finally, Appendix C outlines the restrictions that apply to the use of federal TANF and child care funds and the types of state expenditures that may be counted toward the TANF maintenance-of-effort requirement.

Several key acts relate to W-2: (a) 1995 Wisconsin Act 289, which created the W-2 program; (b) 1997 Wisconsin Act 27, the 1997-99 biennial budget act; (c) 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, the 1999-01 biennial budget act; (d) 2001 Wisconsin Act 16, the 2001-03 biennial budget act; (e) 2003 Wisconsin Act 33, the 2003-05 biennial budget act; and (f) 2005 Wisconsin Act 25, the 2005-07 biennial budget act. Act 27 and Act 9 made a number of statutory modifications to the program. Act 16 established the funding for W-2 for the 2001-03 biennium. Act 33 established funding for the 2003-05 biennium. Act 25 established funding for the 2005-07 biennium. Other state legis-

lation has also modified the program since its inception.

It should be noted that the federal TANF program was to sunset on September 30, 2002. However, Congress passed a number of continuing resolutions to extend the program through March 31, 2006. Congress then reauthorized the program through September 30, 2010, at the same funding levels, by including the reauthorization provision in P.L. 109-171, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The Deficit Reduction Act made several changes to the program, including new work participation verification procedures, a change in the credit states receive for work participation rates, elimination of high performance bonus funds, and new grants to promote healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood. Most of these changes are discussed in further detail in Appendix C.

W-2 Employment Positions

Participants in the W-2 program are assigned by the local W-2 agency to either unsubsidized employment or one of three types of subsidized employment. Subsidized employment includes trial jobs, community service jobs (CSJs), and transitional placements.

The following sections describe the eligibility requirements for W-2 employment positions and job access loans. Notwithstanding fulfillment of the eligibility requirements for any component, an individual is not entitled to services or benefits under the W-2 program.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for a W-2 employment position or job access loan for any month, an individual must meet the nonfinancial and financial eligibility requirements described below. Most of

those requirements are included in the statutes; however, the Department has promulgated rules establishing certain eligibility criteria.

Nonfinancial Eligibility Requirements. An individual must meet certain nonfinancial eligibility requirements. The main requirements are summarized below. All nonfinancial eligibility requirements are fully described in Appendix A.

1. The individual is a custodial parent who has attained the age of 18.
2. The individual is a U.S. citizen or qualifying alien.
3. The individual has residence in Wisconsin.
4. Every parent of the individual's W-2 group (the individual, his or her spouse or nonmarital coparent, and any dependent children and grandchildren who reside together) fully cooperates in efforts to establish paternity of the dependent child and obtain support payments, unless it is determined that the parent has good cause for not cooperating.
5. The individual has made a good faith effort to obtain employment and has not refused a bona fide job offer within the 180 days immediately preceding the application.
6. The individual is not receiving federal or state supplemental security income (SSI) payments or federal social security disability insurance (SSDI) payments. If the individual is a dependent child, the custodial parent of the individual may not be receiving an SSI caretaker supplement payment on behalf of the individual.
7. No other individual in the W-2 group is a participant in a W-2 employment position. This provision does not apply to an individual applying for a job access loan.

8. The individual assigns to the state any right of the individual or of any dependent child of the individual to support or maintenance from any other person that accrues during the time that any W-2 benefit is paid to the individual.

Financial Eligibility Requirements. An individual also must meet all of the following financial eligibility requirements in order to qualify for a W-2 employment position or a job access loan.

Resource Limitation. The individual is a member of a W-2 group whose assets do not exceed \$2,500 in combined equity value, excluding the equity value of vehicles up to a total value of \$10,000 and one home that serves as the group's homestead.

Income Limitation. The individual is a member of a W-2 group whose gross income is at or below 115% of the federal poverty level (FPL). The following sources of income are included in calculating gross income:

1. All earned and unearned income of the individual, except for: (a) benefits received for participation in a W-2 employment position and parent of infant grant; (b) kinship care and foster care payments received for children who are not included in the W-2 group; (c) federal and state earned income tax credits; (d) specific types of loans, in-kind income, and vendor payments; (e) income earned by a dependent child of an individual; (f) child support payments; and (g) federal or state student financial aid or any scholarship used for tuition and books.
2. The income of a nonmarital coparent or of the individual's spouse, if the spouse resides in the same home as the dependent child.

In addition, under rules promulgated by the Department and in accordance with federal law, if the individual is a sponsored alien, the resources of the sponsor and the income of the sponsor and his or her spouse are attributed to the individual.

The definition of gross income under current law suggests a very broad measure of income. However, under administrative rules, any income from sources that are required to be disregarded by federal or state law for purposes of determining eligibility for means-tested programs must not be counted as income. These sources include food stamps, the women, infants, and children (WIC) program, Indian tribal settlements, and federal education programs.

State Sixty-Month Time Limit. In addition to the above requirements, the length of time an individual or any other adult in the individual's W-2 group may receive benefits is limited to 60 months. The months do not have to be consecutive. Under this provision, the time limit begins on the date when the individual has attained the age of 18. The limit applies to the total number of months in which the individual has actively participated in the job opportunities and basic skills (JOBS) program under prior law, has received benefits under a subsidized W-2 employment position, or has received benefits in Wisconsin or any other state that were funded by federal TANF dollars. Participation in the JOBS program counts toward the 60-month limit beginning on October 1, 1996. Therefore, participants were first subject to the time limit beginning in October, 2001.

Time also counts against an individual's time limit when another adult in the W-2 group receives benefits while in that W-2 group, except while that adult was living on an American Indian reservation. The months in which an individual receives a reduced or no W-2 benefit due to a sanction also count toward the time limit.

The 60-month time limit may be extended if the W-2 agency determines that unusual circumstances warrant an extension. However, under administrative rules, the Department may review, approve, or overturn the W-2 agency's decision. According to the rules, "unusual circumstances" means that the W-2 participant: (a) is unable to work because of a personal disability, or is needed at home to care for

a member of the W-2 group whose incapacity is so severe that without in-home care provided by the W-2 participant the incapacitated W-2 group member's health and well-being would be significantly affected; (b) has low achievement ability, a learning disability, or emotional problems of such severity that they prevent the individual from obtaining or retaining employment, but are not sufficient to meet the criteria for eligibility for SSI or SSDI; (c) has severe family problems that prevent the W-2 participant from obtaining or retaining employment; or (d) has made all appropriate efforts to find work and is unable to find employment because local labor market conditions preclude finding a job that pays minimum wage and conforms to all applicable federal and state laws.

The 60-month time limit for receiving assistance is also part of federal law. States may exempt up to 20% of the average monthly number of families receiving assistance in a year from the 60-month time limit by reason of hardship or if the family includes a member who has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty. Based on a total TANF caseload of about 17,700 in September, 2006, including W-2 and TANF child-only cases (kinship care and caretaker supplement recipients), the maximum number of cases that could exceed the 60-month time limit under this provision would be 3,533 cases. [Child only cases are not subject to the time limits, but are included in the calculation of maximum number of cases that may be exempt.] As of September, 2006, there were 581 active extension cases in the W-2 program.

Review of Eligibility. The W-2 agency is required to review an individual's eligibility periodically. The individual remains eligible until the W-2 group's assets or income is expected to exceed the respective limits described above for at least two consecutive months.

Prospective Budgeting. Rather than determining eligibility based on the family's actual assets and income in prior months, the Department uses pro-

spective budgeting for both initial eligibility determinations and reviews of eligibility. Under prospective budgeting, the financial and employment planner at the local W-2 agency estimates the income and assets that will be available to the family in future months. Income and assets are considered unavailable when the individual can reasonably document that they cannot be accessed for 31 or more days. A W-2 group must be prospectively ineligible for two consecutive months before the case closes.

Placement in Employment Positions

According to DWD administrative rules, as soon as possible, but no later than five working days after the date the W-2 agency receives a signed application, the W-2 agency is required to schedule a personal interview with the applicant. The applicant will then have seven working days to provide any requested information. The financial and employment planner in the W-2 agency who is assigned to an individual is required to assess and place individuals within seven days of the initial interview. However, the financial and employment planner may extend the application process to 30 days. According to the W-2 Manual issued by DWD, if extenuating circumstances exist that make the verification requirements unduly burdensome, the W-2 agency may extend the verification due date up to 30 days from the initial request for W-2 services. The application process can be extended up to 30 days only if the applicant needs extra time to meet verification requirements.

The financial and employment planner is required to develop a written employability plan, in consultation with the W-2 participant, that includes the participant's W-2 employment position placement, required activities, and an identified goal for obtaining unsubsidized employment. In determining appropriate placement for a participant, priority must be given to placement in unsubsidized employment first, followed in order by trial jobs, community service

jobs, and transitional placements. Each of these employment positions is described in more detail below.

W-2 agencies are also required to conduct an educational needs assessment of each individual who applies for a W-2 employment position. If the individual and the W-2 agency determine that the individual needs, or would benefit from, education or training, and if the W-2 agency determines that the individual is eligible for a W-2 employment position, the W-2 agency must include education or training activities in any employability plan developed for the individual. If the agency determines the appropriate placement for the individual is unsubsidized employment or a trial job, and the individual needs basic education and wishes to participate, then basic education will be included in the employability plan and will be paid for by the W-2 agency.

Work Requirements and Time Limits

Federal law governing the use of TANF dollars imposes certain work participation rates that affect the state and the individual: the state is held accountable for ensuring that minimum participation rates are met, and individuals receiving TANF assistance are subject to specified work requirements.

Under state law, participants in each of the W-2 employment positions must meet certain work requirements and are subject to the time limits described below. The work requirements for each type of employment position are summarized in Table 2.

Unsubsidized Employment. As a condition of eligibility, an individual who applies for a W-2 employment position may be required by the W-2 agency to search for unsubsidized employment during the period that his or her application is being processed. In addition, the W-2 agency may require applicants for W-2 employment positions to participate in job orientation during the time the

Table 2: Grant Amounts and Work Requirements for W-2 Positions

Type of W-2 Position	Maximum Grant or Wage Per Month	Maximum Subsidy to Employer	Maximum Hours of Work	Maximum Hrs. of Educ. & Training
Trial Job	At least min. wage	\$300	N.A.	Incl. in work hrs.
Community Service Job	\$673	N.A.	30	10
Transitional Placement	628	N.A.	28	12
Technical College Program - CSJ	673	N.A.	25	15
Technical College Program - Transitional Placement	628	N.A.	25	15
Parent of Infant	673	N.A.	0	0
Two-Parent Families*	673	\$300 if trial job otherwise \$0		55

*Grant amount for two-parent families is based on the W-2 position for the participant parent. The 55-hour requirement includes unsubsidized or subsidized employment, work experience, on-the-job training, or community service program and education activities. N.A. = Not applicable

compete for available jobs in the unsubsidized labor market.

For an unemployed individual placed in the unsubsidized employment category, DWD requires the financial and employment planner to maintain contact with the individual at least once per week. If the participant has not obtained unsubsidized employment within 30 days, the financial and employment planner must consider placing the individual in a trial job or a community service job.

application is being processed, or engage in training activities.

All participants in W-2 employment positions are required to search for unsubsidized employment throughout their participation. The agency is required to assist a participant in his or her search for unsubsidized employment.

According to the W-2 Manual issued by DWD, individuals who have been determined by the financial and employment planner as appropriate for placement into unsubsidized employment may be either employed or unemployed. Unemployed individuals may receive case management services to assist in finding a job if they state in writing that they wish to receive such services.

DWD indicates that an unemployed individual may be placed in the unsubsidized employment (or "job-ready") category if the individual displays all of the following characteristics: (a) has no barriers to work which cannot be addressed through supportive services; (b) is capable of working and has a willing attitude; (c) has a steady and/or recent working experience; and (d) has an educational or training background that allows the individual to

W-2 agencies must provide follow-up case management services for at least 12 months to individuals who move from a subsidized employment position to an unsubsidized job. These services include: employment skills training; job retention and advancement services; English as a second language classes if necessary; a course of study meeting the standards for granting a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation; or other remedial education courses. These services are provided regardless of income and assets.

Trial Jobs. Trial jobs provide work experience and training to assist participants to move into unsubsidized employment. The W-2 agency must pay a wage subsidy to an employer that employs a participant in a trial job and agrees to make good faith efforts to retain the participant as a permanent, unsubsidized employee after the wage subsidy is terminated. The employer is also required to provide worker's compensation coverage.

The trial job wage subsidy may not exceed \$300 per month for full-time employment of a participant. For less than full-time employment, the \$300 maximum wage subsidy is reduced to reflect the number of hours actually worked in proportion to full-time employment.

Trial jobs may include educational and training activities prescribed by the employer as an integral part of the work performed in the trial job placement. Hours spent participating in such activities are included in determining the number of hours actually worked.

A W-2 participant may participate in a trial job for a maximum of three months, with an opportunity for a three-month extension under circumstances determined by the W-2 agency. An individual may participate in more than one trial job, but generally may not exceed a total of 24 months of participation in all trial job placements, which need not be consecutive.

The Department, or the W-2 agency with the Department's approval, may grant an extension of the 24-month limit on a case-by-case basis if the participant has made all appropriate efforts to find unsubsidized employment and local labor market conditions preclude a reasonable job opportunity for that participant, as determined by the agency and approved by the Department.

Community Service Jobs. Community service jobs are intended to provide work experience and training to assist participants to move into unsubsidized employment or a trial job. Community service jobs are limited to projects that the Department determines would serve a useful public purpose or to projects whose cost is partially or wholly offset by revenue generated by such projects.

Community service jobs may include education and training assigned as part of an employability plan developed by the W-2 agency. Such educational and training activities are defined by DWD by rule and include a course of study for GED or high school equivalency, technical college courses, and educational courses that provide an employment skill. Permissible educational and training activities also include employer-sponsored training, English as a second language, and basic educational courses that the W-2 agency determines

would facilitate the individual's efforts to obtain employment.

The W-2 agency may require a community service job participant to work up to 30 hours per week in work training activities and to participate in educational and training activities for up to 10 hours per week, for a total of 40 hours per week.

W-2 agencies may also require individuals to participate in an initial two-week assessment and motivational training program, including training on parenting skills, as part of the required activities. Participation in such programs may not exceed 40 hours per week and satisfies the work, education, and training requirements during the initial two-week period.

A W-2 agency is required to allow 18- and 19-year old individuals who have not obtained a high school diploma or declaration of equivalency of high school graduation to attend high school or enroll in a course of study meeting the standards for the granting of a declaration of equivalency of high school education. Participation in such educational activities must be counted, in whole or in part, toward satisfying the work, educational, and training requirements under a W-2 community service job.

Under rules promulgated by the Department, W-2 agencies may allow more than 10 hours of educational and training activities during the first months of participation in a community service job, as long as the total work, training, and educational requirement does not exceed 40 hours per week.

An individual may participate in a community service job for a maximum of six months, with an opportunity for a three-month extension under circumstances approved by the Department. After each six months of an individual's participation in a community service job and at the conclusion of each community service job assignment, the W-2 agency must reassess the individual's employability. An

individual may participate in more than one community service job, but generally may not exceed a total of 24 months of participation in all community service job placements, which need not be consecutive.

The Department, or the W-2 agency with the Department's approval, may grant an extension of the 24-month limit on a case-by-case basis if the participant has made all appropriate efforts to find unsubsidized employment and has been unable to find unsubsidized employment because local labor market conditions preclude a reasonable job opportunity for that participant. In addition, the W-2 agency, with DWD's approval, must also determine that no trial job opportunities are available.

Transitional Placements. In order to be eligible for a W-2 transitional placement, an individual must meet one or more of the following eligibility requirements in addition to the financial and nonfinancial eligibility requirements outlined above.

1. The W-2 agency determines, on the basis of an independent assessment by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (within DWD) or similar agency or business, that the individual has been incapacitated for a period of at least 60 days or will be incapacitated for a period of at least 60 days;

2. The agency determines that the individual is needed in the home because of the illness or incapacity of another member of the W-2 group; or

3. The agency determines that the individual is incapable of performing a trial job or community service job.

The W-2 agency is required to assign a W-2 transitional placement participant to work activities such as a community rehabilitation program or a job similar to a community service job or a volunteer activity. A transitional placement may also include the same education and training activities as are allowed for community service jobs.

In addition, the agency may require participation in any of the following: (a) an alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) evaluation, prescribed assessment, and treatment program; (b) mental health activities such as evaluation, therapy, and medication management; (c) counseling or physical rehabilitation activities; or (d) other activities that the W-2 agency determines are consistent with the individual's capabilities.

Transitional placements may be required to engage in work activities (including the AODA, mental health, counseling, and physical rehabilitation activities identified above) for up to 28 hours per week and to participate in education and training activities for up to 12 hours per week, for a total of 40 hours per week. The educational and training activities must be assigned as part of an employability plan developed by the W-2 agency.

Under rules promulgated by the Department, W-2 agencies may allow more than 12 hours of educational and training activities during the first months of a transitional placement, as long as the total work, training, and educational requirement does not exceed 40 hours per week.

As with community service job placements, W-2 agencies may also require individuals to participate in an initial two-week assessment and motivational training program, which counts toward the individual's work and training requirements.

An individual may participate in a transitional placement for a maximum of 24 months, which need not be consecutive. The 24-month period may be extended on a case-by-case basis by the Department or the agency with the Department's approval.

Technical College Program for Community Service Job and Transitional Placements. 1999 Wisconsin Act 9 allowed community service job and transitional placements to allocate more than the maximum allowed hours per week for education in

order to participate in a technical college program.

All of the following requirements must be met to participate in the technical college program: (a) the W-2 agency, in consultation with the community steering committee required under W-2 and the technical college district board, determines that the technical college education program is likely to lead to employment; (b) the participant maintains full-time status in the technical college education program, as determined by the technical college, and regularly attends all classes; (c) the participant maintains a grade point average of at least 2.0, or the equivalent as determined by the technical college; and (d) the participant is employed or engages in a community service job or transitional placement for 25 hours per week.

Participants can be in this program for a maximum of two years. The W-2 agency is required to work with the community steering committee and the technical college district board to monitor the participant's progress and the effectiveness of the program in leading to employment.

Two-Parent Families. Under state law, and in accordance with federal law, if one parent in a two-parent family is participating in a W-2 employment position, the second parent is generally required to participate in unsubsidized or subsidized employment, work experience, on-the-job training, or community service programs. In addition, the W-2 agency is required to create an employability plan for the second parent. The family does not receive any additional W-2 cash assistance for the work performed by the second parent.

The second parent is not subject to this work requirement if: (a) the family is not receiving federally-funded child care assistance; (b) the second parent is disabled; or (c) the second parent is caring for a severely disabled child. The second parent can elect to participate in work activities, even if the W-2 group is not receiving child care assistance.

If the second parent is subject to the work requirement, the combined number of hours of required participation in work activities for both parents is 55 hours per week. In these cases, the first parent must participate in up to 40 hours of W-2 activities, of which no fewer than 30 (or 28 if placed in a W-2 transitional placement) must be in work activities. This means that the second parent would be assigned to 15 hours of work activities.

Employer Criteria

Under rules promulgated by the Department, a trial job employer is required to do all of the following: (a) pay the participant the amount established by contract, but not less than the minimum wage for every hour worked; (b) make a good faith effort to retain the participant as a permanent unsubsidized employee after the wage subsidy is terminated; (c) provide worker's compensation; (d) inform the participant of his or her eligibility for the federal and state earned income tax credits; (e) provide the same education and training opportunities provided to other employees; and (f) provide a grievance procedure for regular employees of the worksite to resolve any complaints related to displacement.

In addition, employers of community service job and transitional placement participants must do all of the following: (a) provide a structured work environment that includes close supervision and willingness to mentor and coach participants to succeed in the workplace; (b) provide a position that replicates actual conditions of work and provides responsibilities and expectations similar to unsubsidized employees of the employer; (c) cooperate with the W-2 agency to provide verification of the participant's hours of participation and missed hours; and (d) provide a grievance procedure for regular employees of the worksite to resolve any complaints related to displacement.

An employer that does not meet these criteria is ineligible to receive any subsidy for any position

provided to the participant.

Nondisplacement Provisions

No W-2 employment position may be implemented so as to: (a) have the effect of filling a vacancy created by an employer terminating a regular employee or otherwise reducing its work force for the purpose of hiring a W-2 participant; (b) fill a position when any other person is on layoff or strike from the same job or any substantially equivalent job within the same organizational unit; or (c) fill a position when any other person is engaged in a labor dispute regarding the same or a substantially equivalent job within the same organizational unit. DWD must promulgate rules that specify a grievance procedure for resolving complaints involving a violation of these prohibitions.

Cash Benefits

A recipient's monthly benefit amount under W-2 depends upon the type of placement and the number of hours worked during the month. Unlike the AFDC program, there is no family-size adjustment. The cash benefits for each type of employment position are summarized in Table 2.

Trial Jobs. Participants in trial jobs receive the amount established in a contract between the W-2 agency and the trial job employer. The employer pays participants no less than the state or federal minimum wage, whichever is applicable, for every hour worked in a trial job. Currently, the federal minimum wage is generally \$5.15 per hour. The state minimum wage is generally \$6.50 per hour. As noted, hours spent participating in educational and training activities are included in determining the number of hours worked for trial jobs.

Community Service Jobs. The grant amount for community service jobs is \$673 per month. The same grant amount applies to community service job participants in the technical college program. For every hour that the participant misses required

work or educational activities without good cause, the grant is reduced by \$5.15, based on the federal minimum wage. Good cause is determined by the agency's financial and employment planner and includes: (a) a required court appearance for any reason, including for a victim of domestic abuse; (b) unavailability of child care; (c) observation of a religious holiday; and (d) other circumstances beyond the control of the participant, but only as determined by the financial and employment planner.

Benefit levels are prorated for participants in community service jobs who are required to work fewer than 30 hours per week because the participant has unsubsidized employment.

Transitional Placements. The monthly grant amount for transitional placements is \$628. The cash benefit is the same for transitional placements in the technical college program. The sanctions described above for community service jobs also apply to transitional placements.

Custodial Parent of Infant. A participant who meets the nonfinancial and financial eligibility requirements for a W-2 employment position and who is a custodial parent of a child who is 12 weeks old or younger is eligible to receive a monthly grant of \$673.

The W-2 agency may not require caretakers of infants to participate in a W-2 employment position. Receipt of a grant under these provisions does not constitute participation in a W-2 employment position for purposes of the 24-month time limit for individual employment components or the 60-month time limit for participation in all W-2 employment positions, if the child was born less than 10 months after the parent was first determined to be eligible for AFDC or for a W-2 employment position. If the child is born more than 10 months after the parent was first determined to be eligible, receipt of the grant counts against the time limits unless the child was conceived as a result

of incest or sexual assault.

Payment Procedures

The original W-2 legislation did not establish procedures related to the payment of grants for participation in W-2 employment positions, nor did it require DWD to establish procedures by rule. According to the W-2 policy manual produced by DWD, the W-2 participation period is from the 16th day of a month to the 15th day of the next month. The W-2 payment is issued for completed participation on the first day of the month after the participation period ends. Therefore, participants in W-2 employment positions receive payments as follows:

- If participation in W-2 begins between the first day and the 15th day of a month, a prorated initial payment is issued on the first day of the following month, as shown in Table 3, Example 1. The second and subsequent payments are made on the first day of each month thereafter.
- If participation begins between the 16th day and the last day of Month A, a prorated initial payment is provided in two parts: (a) the first partial payment is provided after the first day of the following month (Month B) to cover participation from the beginning date to the end of Month A; and (b) the second payment is issued on the first day of the third month (Month C) for participation from

the first day through the 15th day of Month B. The first full payment will be provided on the first day of the fourth month (Month D) for participation from the 16th day of Month B to the 15th day of Month C. These payments are depicted in Table 3, Example 2.

Beginning in 2002, W-2 agencies are required to implement an emergency payments program to assist W-2 participants who have an emergency need while waiting for their first payment. Eligibility for and the amount of an emergency payment are determined by the W-2 agency. Emergency payments may be used to pay for needs such as shelter, food, and work-related expenses. Prior to 2002, emergency payments were a voluntary component of the W-2 agency contracts.

Child Support

As noted above, an individual must assign to the state any right of the individual or of any dependent child of the individual to support or maintenance from any other person that accrues during the time that any W-2 benefit is paid to the individual. Under federal law, 58% of assigned support collected must be paid to the federal government, while the state retains the remaining 42%.

Prior to 2005 Act 25, the state operated under a federal waiver that allowed the state to pass through all child support collected to the

Table 3: Payment Schedule Examples

	<u>Example 1</u>	<u>Example 2</u>
If participation begins:	January 6	January 18
Partial payment provided:	February 1, for participation January 6 – January 15.	After February 1, for participation January 18 – January 31; and March 1, for participation February 1 – February 15.
First full payment provided:	March 1, for participation January 16 – February 15.	April 1, for participation February 16 – March 15

individual, without having to pay the federal government its share of the child support collected. As a result of this waiver, state law required that all child support collected be passed through to the W-2 recipient. Therefore, W-2 recipients received all child support collected on their behalf.

The federal waiver expired December 31, 2006. To address the expiration of the federal waiver, Act 25 changed the requirement that all assigned child support collected be passed through to the W-2 participant. Instead, the state must first pay the federal government its share of the assigned child support collected and then pass the remainder of the support collected through to the W-2 participant. Therefore, for every dollar of assigned child support collected, \$0.58 is paid to the federal government, while \$0.42 is passed through to the W-2 participant.

Legislative Fiscal Bureau Informational Paper #45, "Child Support Enforcement Program" provides additional information regarding the pass-through of child support and the federal waiver.

Other Benefits

In addition to the employment benefits outlined above, W-2 participants are eligible for FoodShare and child care subsidies. Participants may also be eligible for medical assistance. Further, participants in unsubsidized employment and trial jobs are eligible for the federal and state earned income tax credits.

Worker's Compensation

For W-2 trial jobs, the employer must provide the participant with worker's compensation coverage. Participants in community service jobs and transitional placements are employees of the W-2 agency for purposes of worker's compensation coverage, unless the employer provides coverage. A participant in a community service job or transitional placement who is provided coverage by the

W-2 agency and who makes a claim for worker's compensation may not make a claim or maintain an action in tort against the employer who provided the community service job or transitional placement from which the claim arose.

Child Care Under W-2

The current child care subsidy program was established as part of the W-2 legislation (1995 Act 289) and is administered by DWD, through local W-2 agencies and county human and social services departments. The subsidy program is called "Wisconsin Shares."

Under the program, the state subsidizes the cost of child care for qualified families by making payments directly to the child care provider chosen by the parent. The parent is also required to contribute to the cost of child care; the parent's copay amount is based on income, family size, the type of child care selected, and the number of children in care. The eligibility and copay requirements were modified as part of 1999 Act 9.

Prior to the W-2 legislation, the state provided child care assistance through four separate programs: low-income child care, at-risk child care, AFDC child care, and JOBS child care.

Child Care Subsidy Program

Eligibility Criteria. In order to be eligible for a child care subsidy, an individual must meet all of the following conditions, as determined by the W-2 agency:

Criteria for Parent, Child, and Employment. The individual must be a custodial parent, guardian, foster parent, subsidized guardian, interim caretaker, legal custodian, person acting in the place of a parent, or a person providing kinship

care for a child under the age of 13 (under the age of 19 if the child is physically or mentally incapable of caring for him- or herself), for whom child care is needed to do any of the following:

1. Work in an unsubsidized job, including training provided by an employer during regular hours of employment.

2. Work in a W-2 employment position, including participation in job search, orientation, education, and training activities required under W-2.

3. Participate in up-front job search and orientation or family activities required after the individual applies for W-2.

4. Participate in a job search or work experience component of the food stamp employment and training (FSET) program.

5. Participate in a course of study at a technical college, or participate in educational courses that provide an employment skill, as determined by DWD, if the W-2 agency determines that the course would facilitate the individual's efforts to maintain employment. An individual may receive a child care subsidy under this provision for up to two years.

6. Participate in basic education, including an English as a second language course, literacy tutoring, or a course of study to obtain a GED if the W-2 agency determines that basic education would facilitate the individual's efforts to maintain employment. An individual may receive a child care subsidy under this provision for up to two years.

7. Obtain a high school diploma or participate in a course of study to obtain a GED if the parent is 19 years of age or younger. If the parent is age 17 or younger, the individual must also reside with his or her custodial parent, with a kinship

care relative, in a foster home, a group home, or an independent living arrangement supervised by an adult.

8. Meet the Learnfare school attendance requirements.

Income and Resource Criteria. Initial eligibility for the child care subsidy program is limited to families with gross income of no more than 185% of the federal poverty level. Once eligible, families retain eligibility until gross income exceeds 200% of poverty for two consecutive months. Once a case has been closed for more than 30 days, the family must reapply. In order to be eligible, their gross income must be at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. The definition of gross income is the same as used for purposes of determining eligibility for W-2 employment positions, except that the income of farmers and self-employed persons is adjusted to allow for the subtraction of business expenses. Participants in the subsidy program are not required to meet the resource limitation requirements that are required of W-2 employment position participants.

Foster and kinship care parents (who are caring for a child under court order and receiving kinship care payments) may be eligible to receive child care if the natural parent's income at the time the child was removed from the home was at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. 2001 Act 16 extended this eligibility criterion to include long-term kinship care as well. Previously, long-term kinship relatives were subject to the general financial eligibility standards described above.

If the natural parent's income is over 200% of poverty, the foster/kinship care parent's gross income must be at or below 185% of poverty at the time of application.

In addition to the requirements outlined above, DWD may establish other eligibility criteria by rule.

Non-Financial Criteria. To be eligible for the child care subsidy program, the child receiving care must be a U.S. citizen, or a qualifying alien, as determined by DWD by rule. In addition, an individual must meet all of the following non-financial eligibility criteria.

1. Fully cooperate with efforts to establish paternity for any minor child and in obtaining support payments for that child.

2. Assign to the state any right of the individual to support or maintenance from any other person.

3. Furnish the W-2 agency with any relevant information the agency determines is necessary within seven working days after receiving the request. The time limit may be extended if the agency determines that seven days would be unduly burdensome.

County Administration of Child Care. Once an individual has been determined eligible for the child care subsidy program, the W-2 agency must refer the individual to a county department of social or human services for child care assistance.

The county departments administer the program and do all of the following: (a) determine a parent's copayment; (b) provide a voucher to individuals for the payment of child care services or otherwise reimburse child care providers; (c) set maximum reimbursement rates for day care providers; (d) certify Level I and Level II day care providers that are not licensed by the state; and (e) assist eligible individuals to identify and select appropriate child care. (A description of Level I and Level II day care is provided in the following section.) According to administrative rule, the child care administrative agency must redetermine need for service and eligibility at least every six months.

The county may provide child care services itself, purchase child care services from a provider,

provide vouchers to an eligible parent for the payment of services, reimburse an eligible parent for payments made to a provider, adopt any other appropriate arrangements (subject to DWD approval), or use any combination of these methods.

Allowable Child Care Providers. An eligible parent may choose the child care provider from four types: (a) a licensed day care center; (b) a Level I certified day care provider; (c) a Level II certified day care provider; or (d) a day care program provided or contracted for by a school board. A day care center that provides care for four or more children under the age of seven must be licensed by the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). Licensed day care is further broken down into family day care centers that provide care for four to eight children and group day care centers that provide care for nine or more children. Day care providers that are not required to be licensed by the state or established by a school board, but are reimbursed under the subsidy program, must be certified by the county department of social or human services.

County certifications are broken down into two categories: Level I (regular) day care and Level II (provisional) day care. Regularly certified day care providers must complete 15 hours of training for certification (the county may also require up to five hours of annual training). Training must include information on child growth and development, positive discipline, child abuse and neglect, interpersonal relationships, daily schedule, health and safety, sudden infant death syndrome, shaken baby syndrome, business practices, and nutrition. In order to receive the Level I payment rate, the provider must care for at least one unrelated child. Provisionally certified providers are not subject to the 15-hour training requirements. Both regularly and provisionally certified providers, and all employees, substitutes, and volunteers of those providers, must have training in the most current, medically accepted methods of preventing sudden infant death syndrome and shaken baby syndrome.

State law prohibits subsidies from being used to provide care for a child by a person who resides with the child, unless the county determines that the care is necessary because of a special health condition of the child. 2001 Act 16 expanded the prohibition to include parents who do not reside with the child.

Copayment Liability. The statutes specify that eligible families are liable for "the percentage of the cost of the child care as specified by DWD." According to administrative rule, the Department must set a schedule for parent copayments that requires all families to have a payment responsibility, unless prohibited by state or federal law. In addition, the copayment amounts must be based on family size, family gross income, the number of children in a given family in child care, and the type of child care selected. However, there are exceptions to the copay schedule:

a. State law specifies that an individual who is under the age of 20 and is attending high school or participating in a course of study to obtain a GED may not be liable for more than the minimum copayment amount for the type of child care received and the number of children receiving child care.

b. Foster care parents and kinship care parents who have court-ordered placement of a child are not subject to copay requirements.

c. Kinship care parents who are providing care for a child without a court order are subject to the minimum copayment.

d. Parents who have left a W-2 employment position for an unsubsidized job qualify for the minimum copay for one month.

e. Families with children who receive child care services for 20 hours or less in a week are subject to one half of the usual copay amount.

f. State law prohibits a copayment responsibility for minor teen parents who are Learnfare participants.

g. Federal law prohibits copayments from those participating in the food stamp employment and training program.

Attachment 1 shows the copayment schedule in effect at the time of this writing. This schedule was first implemented in February, 2006. As the schedule shows, the weekly copayment amount varies based on the family's size and income, the number of children in subsidized care, and whether the parent is using licensed or certified child care. The copayment schedule is structured so that the required copayment will not exceed 12% of the family's income. In addition, the copayment amounts for certified child care are less than the copayments for licensed child care. For example, the weekly copayment for a family of two with \$1,100 in monthly income (approximately 100% of poverty) and one child in certified day care is \$12 (or \$624 per year). This copayment amount makes up 4.7% of the parent's annual income. If this same parent were using licensed child care, the weekly copayment would be \$17, or \$884 per year, which is 6.7% of annual income.

The copayment amounts may be adjusted by DWD to reflect the following changes: (a) child care prices or the rates paid by county or tribal agencies; (b) the amount of available child care funding; (c) inflation; (d) the federal poverty level; and (e) other economic factors that affect the cost of child care, such as a change in demand. If a proposed change would increase copayments by more than 10%, the change must be promulgated by rule and at least one month of advance notice must be provided to the public. DWD may not issue emergency rules to implement such an adjustment.

Child Care Subsidy Rates. Prior to February, 2006, each county established the maximum child

care subsidy that could be paid to a licensed child care provider on an annual basis, subject to DWD review and approval. The rates were determined by surveying licensed group and licensed family day care centers for the rates they charge to the general community. The rate was set so that at least 75% of the number of places for children with licensed providers could be purchased at or below the maximum rate. The maximum rate for Level I providers could not exceed 75% of the rate for licensed family day care providers and the maximum rate for Level II providers could not exceed 50% of the rate for licensed family day care providers.

DWD modified the methodology of calculating reimbursement rates, effective February 25, 2006. DWD established four rate zones based on the percent of the population in each county that lives in an urban area: (a) 0-24%; (b) 25-49%; (c) 50-74%; and (d) 75-100%. Each county and tribe is placed into one of these four zones based on U.S. census data. Rates are then set so that at least 75% of the number of places for children with licensed providers could be purchased at or below the maximum rate in each zone, rather than in each county. In addition, DWD did not increase or decrease any county's reimbursement rate by more than 10%. Table 4 shows in which zone each county and tribe was placed in 2006.

Separate rates are provided for the different types of child care (licensed family, licensed group, regular certified, provisionally certified, and certified in-home). Separate rates are also established for infants and toddlers under two years of age and for older children. Higher rates than the established maximum are allowed on a case-by-case basis for children with special needs. Providers that are accredited by certain national or state organizations are eligible for higher subsidy rates. County or tribal agencies may establish their own rates for child care provided for less than a two-week period, provided sporadically, or provided for care of an ill child through negotiations with the child care provider. Finally, lower rates are provided for be-

Table 4: 2006 Urban Rate Zones

Zone	County/Tribe
0-24%	Adams, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Clark, Florence, Forest, Iowa, Juneau, Kewaunee, Lafayette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Pepin, Polk, Price, Sawyer, Shawano, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Vilas, Washburn, Waushara, Red Cliff, Sokaogon, La Courte Oreilles, and Lac du Flambeau
25-49%	Ashland, Barron, Chippewa, Columbia, Crawford, Dodge, Door, Dunn, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iron, Jackson, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Monroe, Oneida, Pierce, Richland, Rusk, St. Croix, Waupaca, and Bad River
50-74%	Calumet, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Marathon, Jefferson, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Portage, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Wood
75-100%	Brown, Dane, Eau Claire, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, Waukesha, Winnebago, and Oneida Tribe

fore-and-after school child care.

The 2006 subsidy rates for each county and tribal agency are shown in Attachment 2.

Criminal History and Background Investigations. Current law requires the Department of Health and Family Services or county departments to obtain certain information on persons who have or seek a license, certification, or contract to operate a child care facility, the employees or prospective employees of a provider, and any adult who resides at the site. The required information includes: (a) a criminal history search from the Department of Justice; (b) information from the registry of nurses aids maintained by DHFS; (c) information maintained by the Department of Regulation and Licensing regarding the status of the person's credentials, if applicable; (d) information maintained by DHFS on substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect against the person; and (e) information regarding the denial of a license to op-

erate a child care facility, a foster home, a child welfare agency, or other similar entity licensed by DHFS for the reasons noted above. A child care provider must obtain the same information on employees. The county department or DHFS is directed to request the same information on every provider and their employees at least every four years.

DHFS or a county department will not issue, continue, or renew a license or certification to a provider if: (a) the provider has been convicted of a serious crime; (b) the provider is found to have abused or neglected children or any client or misappropriated the property of a client; or (c) the person who holds the position must be credentialed by the Department of Regulation and Licensing and the person's credentials are not current or are too limited so as to restrict their ability to provide adequate care to a client. A provider who has violated these provisions may still receive a license or certification if they demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that they have been rehabilitated. This exception does not apply to foster parents who committed certain crimes, including, but not limited to, a felony crime against children, homicide, certain types of battery, sexual assault, burglary, endangering safety by use of a dangerous weapon, operating while intoxicated, and felony drug offenses within five years. A provider is also prohibited from employing or contracting with a person who will have access to children under the same conditions.

DWD and the county departments may refuse to pay a child care provider an authorized subsidy if it is determined that the provider, an employee, or any other person living on the premises where the child care is provided: (a) has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor that substantially relates to the care of children; (b) is the subject of a pending criminal charge that substantially relates to the care of children; or (c) has been determined to have abused or neglected a child.

A person who provides false information under these provisions can be required to forfeit not more than \$1,000 and may be subject to other sanctions. DHFS or the county departments may charge a reasonable fee for any background investigation required under these provisions.

Indirect Child Care Services

Child Care Quality and Availability. Federal law requires states to use 4% of certain federal and state funding sources for child care quality improvements. In addition, some funds the state receives under the federal child care and development program are earmarked for certain kinds of activities including expansion of child care, child care quality improvements, and resource and referral services.

Approximately \$10.8 million annually is budgeted for programs to improve child care quality and availability. The funding is allocated for the following programs:

Technical Assistance. Funding for technical assistance to child care providers is budgeted at \$400,000 annually. Funding in 2005-06 and 2006-07 is provided for: (a) the Registry (a system that documents verified formal and informal education on individuals in the early care and education workforce); (b) the Wisconsin child care improvement project (a system of specialized support services to establish child care programs to improve program quality and business practices); (c) inter-tribal child care project (a project to improve the quality of tribal child care programs and increase collaboration among tribal child care, tribal head start, and Wisconsin head start programs); (d) the University of Wisconsin-Extension Wisconsin child care research project (a project to focus attention on the quality of early care and education, particularly on services to low-income children, through research and evaluation); (e) Wisconsin child care resource and referral network (to provide a broad range of training and technical assistance services

to persons interested in working in the field of early care and education); and (f) strengthening families-Center for the Study of Social Policy (a program to prevent child abuse and neglect).

Resource and Referral Agencies. Wisconsin's 16 child care resource and referral agencies (CCRRs) and the statewide CCRR network are budgeted to receive \$1,225,000 annually. The network and agencies work to increase the supply of child care, offer technical assistance and training, and work with communities, school districts, and employers to solve child care problems. Agencies also work to help parents select child care by providing information on available providers and helping locate specialized care. After allocating funds to the network, grants are based on the number of counties and populations served by the agency.

Child Care Scholarships and Stipends. Two programs to attract and retain quality child care workers are funded at \$3,275,000 annually. Approximately three-fourths of these funds is expended for Wisconsin's teacher education and compensation helps (TEACH) program for scholarships to child care providers to attend technical or private colleges or universities to achieve a higher educational level by completing a specific education path, and for mentoring opportunities. The remaining funds are expended for the rewarding education with wages and respect for dedication (REWARD) program which provides stipends to child care teachers, providers, and directors based on their level of education specific to the child care field.

Child Care Information Center. The child care information center (CCIC) is a mail-order lending library and information center that serves those who work in the field of child care and early childhood education. The CCIC provides free information services, library services, and adult learning services to help Wisconsin child care professionals. The CCIC is administered by the Department of Public Instruction's reference and

loan library. The CCIC is budgeted \$125,000 annually.

Other Expenditures. Other funding that counts toward the federal requirement includes DWD administration costs (\$1,363,500 annually) and child care center licensing activities performed by DHFS (\$4,438,200 in 2005-06 and \$4,440,500 in 2006-07).

Child Care Local Pass-Through Program. In July, 2000, the Joint Committee on Finance approved the creation of a local pass-through program to provide funds to local public agencies that provide the required matching funds to improve the quality of child care. 2005 Act 25 provides \$2,478,500 annually for the program.

2001 Act 16 required DWD to promulgate rules to administer the local pass-through program. The rules went into effect August 1, 2002, and refer to the program as grants supporting community child care initiatives. Under the rules, a local government or tribe may submit a single application, a cooperative application, or a collaborative application on behalf of several local governments or tribes. Applicants must certify matching expenditures equal to a minimum of the federal medical assistance matching rate for Wisconsin for the fiscal year in which the grant occurs (42% for 2006-07). The grants may be used for the following: (a) enhancing the quality and increasing the supply of child care for all families; (b) providing parents with a broad range of child care options; (c) improving the quality of, and coordination among, child care programs and early development programs; (d) increasing the availability of early childhood development care services and before-and after-school care services; (e) educating consumers about child care; (f) improving the health and safety aspects of child care, including regulation; and (g) providing crisis respite child care to children in protective services cases or in need of protective services.

In 2006-07, grants have been awarded to 46 local governments and tribes. According to DWD, through collaborative efforts a total of 85 local jurisdictions and agencies are represented.

Other W-2 Benefits and Services

Job Access Loans

Individuals who meet the nonfinancial and financial eligibility requirements for participation in a W-2 employment position may also be eligible for a job access loan if the individual: (a) needs the loan to address an immediate and discrete financial crisis that is not the result of the individual's failure to accept a bona fide job offer or the individual's termination of a job without good cause; (b) needs the loan to obtain or continue employment or to repair or purchase a vehicle that is needed to obtain or continue employment; (c) is not in default with respect to the repayment of any previous job access loan or repayment of any W-2 grant or wage overpayments; and (d) is not a migrant worker.

Under rules promulgated by the Department, W-2 agencies issue job access loans to individuals. The minimum loan amount available is \$25, and the maximum an individual may receive is \$1,600. Emergency payments may be made within 24 to 96 hours of the approval of the job access loan.

The W-2 agency must determine a minimum monthly repayment amount for each loan, and an individual receiving a loan must submit to the agency a repayment plan for the loan which includes the maximum cash repayment amount and the shortest repayment period that the W-2 agency determines is feasible. At least 25% of the loan amount must be repaid in cash. The remaining 75% may be repaid in cash or through a combination of cash and volunteer in-kind community work approved by the W-2 agency. The participant must

repay a job access loan within 12 months, which may be extended to 24 months with W-2 agency approval.

2003 Act 33 authorized DWD to certify delinquent job access loan repayments to the Department of Revenue for setoff against any state tax refund or credit owed to the person who received the loan. Any revenues recovered must be used to make additional job access loans. DWD may also collect delinquent repayments through other legal means.

2005 Act 25 specified that the sole source of funding for job access loans would be job access loan repayments. In addition, repayments may be used to fund administrative costs associated with collecting delinquent job access loan repayments.

In general, individuals who are less than 18 years old are not eligible for W-2 employment positions or job access loans. However, if the person will be 18 within two months of the date of application, the person may be eligible for a loan if the individual is in kinship care, a foster home, a group home, or an adult-supervised independent living arrangement approved by the W-2 agency. In addition, the individual must have graduated from high school or met the standards for the granting of a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation.

Transportation Assistance

The statutes provide that W-2 agencies may provide transportation assistance in the manner prescribed by DWD by rule. Although DWD has not promulgated a rule regarding this provision, general guidelines for providing transportation assistance have been included in the W-2 manual. These guidelines specify that the W-2 agency must:

1. Identify existing public transportation systems such as buses, shared-ride taxis, reverse commute services, commuter bus services, and

transportation options for the disabled;

2. Identify specific transportation needs of W-2 participants and develop a package of transportation-related options that address those needs;

3. Organize, provide for, or facilitate the provision of easy access to transportation, either on a case-by-case basis or agency-wide;

4. Limit financial assistance for transportation to a form of existing public transportation if public transportation that meets the needs of the participant is available;

5. Ensure that it does not create a new transit service infrastructure or duplicative services where existing public transportation arrangements are adequate;

6. Provide timely and accurate reimbursement for transportation costs; and

7. Work with the community steering committee and children's services network to identify existing transportation resources and/or potential resources outside of W-2.

Funding for transportation assistance is provided under the general W-2 contract allocation for each W-2 agency.

Pregnant Women

A pregnant woman who would be eligible for a W-2 employment position except that she is not a custodial parent of a dependent child is eligible for employment training, job search assistance services, and case management, provided by the W-2 agency. The pregnancy must be medically-verified.

Noncustodial Parents

An individual who would be eligible for W-2 services except that the individual is the

noncustodial parent of a dependent child is eligible for certain services if the child's custodial parent is a W-2 participant and if the individual is subject to a child support order. The types of services that may be provided by the W-2 agency under this provision include job search assistance, case management, and basic skills training designed to enable the individual to obtain and retain employment.

Minor Custodial Parents

Under the W-2 program, an individual must be at least 18 years old in order to participate in a subsidized employment position. However, a custodial parent under the age of 18 is eligible to meet with a financial and employment planner, regardless of the income or assets of that individual or the individual's parents. The planner may provide the individual with information regarding W-2 eligibility, available child care services, employment and financial planning, family planning services, community resources, eligibility for FoodShare and other food and nutrition programs, and information on high school and school-to-work preparation.

Sanctions, Dispute Resolution, Overpayments

Sanctions

As noted earlier, a \$5.15 hourly sanction is imposed if a participant in a community service job or transitional placement misses required work or educational activities without good cause. As described below, additional sanctions may be imposed upon recipients for refusal to participate in an employment position, not cooperating with child support requirements, other intentional program violations, and for failing a drug test.

2005 Act 25 required W-2 agencies to do all of the following before taking any action against a W-2

participant that would result in a 20% or more reduction in the participant's benefits or in termination of the participant's eligibility to participate in W-2: (a) provide written notice of the proposed action and of the reasons for the proposed action to the W-2 participant; (b) after providing written notice, explain orally in person or by phone, the proposed action and the reasons for the proposed action; and (c) after providing written notice and an oral explanation, allow the W-2 participant reasonable time to rectify the deficiency, failure, or other behavior to avoid the proposed action.

Refusal to Participate. A participant who refuses to participate three times in any W-2 employment component is ineligible to participate in that component. The participant is eligible to participate in any other W-2 employment position component for which the participant has not refused to participate three times. A participant is considered to have refused to participate if he or she: (a) expresses verbally or in writing to a W-2 agency that he or she refuses to participate; (b) fails to appear for an interview with a prospective employer or, if the participant is in a W-2 transitional placement, fails to appear for an assigned activity without good cause; (c) voluntarily leaves appropriate employment or training without good cause; (d) loses employment as a result of being discharged for cause; (e) refuses to accept a bona fide offer of employment; or (f) demonstrates through other behavior or action, as determined by the financial and employment planner, that he or she refuses to participate.

Cooperation With Child Support Efforts. In order to be eligible for a W-2 employment position or child care, every parent in an individual's W-2 group must fully cooperate in efforts to establish paternity and obtain support payments or any other payments or property to which that parent and the dependent child may have rights, unless it is determined that the parent has good cause for not cooperating. An individual who fails three times to meet these requirements remains ineligible until all members of the individual's W-2 work group cooperate or for a period of six months, whichever is

later.

Intentional Program Violations. W-2 agencies may permanently deny all W-2 benefits to an individual if it is determined by a court or an administrative hearing that a member of a group receiving W-2 benefits has intentionally violated, on three separate occasions, any W-2 statutory provision or rule for the purpose of establishing or maintaining eligibility for W-2 benefits or increasing the value of those benefits.

Drug Testing. Individuals applying for a W-2 employment position or job access loan must state in writing whether they have been convicted of a felony that has as an element possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance. If a participant in a community service job or transitional placement was convicted in any state or federal court of such a felony after August 22, 1996, and within five years of applying for a W-2 employment position, the W-2 agency must require the individual to submit to a test for use of a controlled substance as a condition of continued eligibility. If the test results are positive, the W-2 agency must decrease the pre-sanction benefit amount for that participant by up to 15% for at least 12 months, or for the remainder of the participant's period of participation in the employment position, if less than 12 months. If, at the end of 12 months, the individual is still a participant in the employment position and submits to another test for the use of controlled substances, and if the results of the test are negative, the full benefit amount must be restored. The W-2 agency may require an individual who tests positive for use of a controlled substance to participate in a drug abuse evaluation, assessment, and treatment program as part of the work or education and training requirements for that employment position.

Dispute Resolution

Under state law, a two-part process is established for reviewing decisions by local W-2 agencies. The first step of the process allows individuals to petition the local agency for review

of certain decisions. If the agency's review does not result in a decision that is acceptable to the individual, he or she can then petition DWD for review of the agency's decision. The W-2 agency may also request a review by the Department.

W-2 Agency Review. Any individual whose application for a W-2 employment position is not acted upon by the local W-2 agency with reasonable promptness may petition the W-2 agency for review of such action. A petition for review may also be made if the application is denied in whole or in part, if the individual's benefit is modified or canceled, if the individual believes that the benefit was calculated incorrectly, or if the individual believes that he or she was placed in an inappropriate employment position. Review is not available if the agency's action occurred more than 45 days prior to submission of the petition.

Upon a timely petition for review, the agency must give the applicant or participant reasonable notice and opportunity for a review. The agency must render its decision as soon as possible after the review and send by first class mail a certified copy of its decision to the applicant or participant. The agency is required to deny a petition for review or refuse to grant relief if the petitioner withdraws the petition in writing or abandons the petition. Abandonment occurs if the petitioner fails to appear in person or by representative at a scheduled hearing without good cause, as defined by DWD by rule.

DWD Review of Financial Eligibility Determinations. If the W-2 agency's decision involved denial of an application based solely on the determination of financial ineligibility, DWD is required to review the W-2 agency's decision if: (a) the applicant or participant petitions the Department for review of the decision within 21 days after the certified copy of the W-2 agency decision is mailed; or (b) the W-2 agency requests DWD review of the agency's decision. DWD must make a decision as soon as possible and must send

a certified copy of its decision to the applicant or participant, county clerk, and W-2 agency. The Department's decision is the final ruling, but may be altered as conditions change.

DWD Review of Other Agency Decisions. If the agency's decision does not involve denial of an application based solely on the determination of financial ineligibility, DWD is authorized, but not required, to review a decision by a W-2 agency.

Corrective Actions. The W-2 agency must place an individual in the first available W-2 employment position that is appropriate for that individual if: (a) the individual's application for a W-2 employment position was denied and the W-2 agency or the Department determines that the individual was in fact eligible; or (b) the individual was placed in an inappropriate W-2 employment position. The individual would be eligible for the benefit for the W-2 employment position beginning on the date on which the individual begins employment or education and training activities for that position. Further, if the W-2 agency or the Department determines that a person's benefit was improperly modified, canceled, or calculated, the W-2 agency must restore the benefit to the appropriate level retroactive to the date on which the error first occurred.

Overpayments

The Department is required to recover all overpayments of benefits paid for participation in W-2 employment positions, and of child care subsidies and transportation assistance.

For community service job and transitional placements, the Department is required to recover an overpayment of employment benefits from an individual who continues to receive such benefits by reducing the amount of the individual's benefit payment by no more than 10%. A participant may make a voluntary repayment in addition to the amount withheld.

For trial jobs, the value of the benefit subject to recovery may not exceed the amount that DWD paid in wage subsidies with respect to that participant while the individual was ineligible to participate.

The W-2 agency must ask a former participant in a trial job, community service job, or transitional placement who received an overpayment to voluntarily repay the overpayment amount. If the former participant refuses, the W-2 agency must refer the individual to the Department for collection or court action.

In cases of intentional program violations, the Department must recover the overpayment by deducting the following amounts from subsequent monthly W-2 employment benefits:

- a. If the amount of the overpayment is less than \$300; 10% of the monthly benefit payment.
- b. If the overpayment is at least \$300, but less than \$1,000; \$75.
- c. If the overpayment is at least \$1,000, but less than \$2,500; \$100.
- d. If the overpayment is \$2,500 or more; \$200.

W-2 agencies may recover, on behalf of the Department, payments made to a recipient who receives a "windfall" by gift, inheritance, sale of assets, court judgment or settlement of any damage claim, or by winning a lottery prize.

Whenever W-2 payments are made as the result of fraud or error, these payments may be recovered through a tax intercept program. The state share of these recovered payments is used to fund state and local welfare fraud and error reduction efforts.

If a person receives an overpayment of W-2, child care, or transportation benefits, the W-2 agency must provide notification to the person, who

can choose to follow the dispute resolution procedures outlined in this paper. If still not satisfied, the person can request a hearing. If a person fails to repay after the dispute resolution procedures, DWD may issue a warrant to a county circuit court clerk that places a lien against any of the person's property. DWD can direct the county sheriff to levy and seize property. The first \$1,000 in a bank account is exempt from any levy. In addition, the greater of the following is exempt from the levy: (a) a subsistence allowance of 75% of the individual's disposable earnings; or (b) an amount equal to 30 times the federal minimum hourly wage for each full week of the individual's pay period.

Other Related Programs

FoodShare Wisconsin

DHFS administers FoodShare Wisconsin (the federal food stamp program) according to federal law and regulations. DHFS is responsible for ensuring the proper certification of applicant households, overseeing issuance of benefits, maintaining records, and submitting appropriate reports to the federal government. DWD, through a contract with DHFS, maintains administration of the food stamp employment and training (FSET) program. Individual eligibility determinations, issuance of debit cards, and implementation of the FSET program are generally conducted at the local level.

In order to be eligible for FoodShare, individuals must:

1. be United States citizens or qualified resident aliens;
2. live in the county where the application is made and not reside in an institution that provides meals, such as a nursing home;
3. provide a social security number for all

members of their household;

4. cooperate in providing all other information necessary for making a determination of eligibility; and

5. meet income eligibility requirements of gross cash income below 130% of the federal poverty level and net income below 100% of the federal poverty level (for households without an elderly or disabled member).

In addition, individuals may be required to participate in work programs, either through FSET or the work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents.

An individual is ineligible to receive FoodShare benefits for any month in which the person is a fugitive felon or violates a condition of probation, parole, or extended supervision imposed by a state or federal court. Households with a striking worker are ineligible for FoodShare, unless the household was previously eligible for these benefits.

Finally, households with gross monthly income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and authorized to receive a TANF-funded benefit or service are categorically eligible to receive FoodShare benefits, except when the household includes a member sanctioned from the FoodShare program for a drug felony or fraud.

Kinship Care

DHFS is budgeted TANF funds to support monthly payments to certain qualifying individuals who care for relative children. A qualifying caregiver receives \$215 per month per child as a "kinship care" payment. In addition, a relative who has been appointed as a guardian of a child may be eligible to receive "long-term kinship care payments," which are the same as kinship care payments, but caregivers that receive long-term kinship care payments do not receive ongoing services

that other kinship care caregivers receive. In counties and tribes other than Milwaukee County, relative caregivers receive these payments from the county or tribe, while caregivers in Milwaukee County receive these payments from DHFS, which administers child welfare services in that county. Each calendar year, DHFS allocates funding to counties to support the estimated costs of making these payments.

Relatives, which are defined by rule, of minor children are eligible for kinship care payments if the following conditions apply:

1. The county or DHFS determines that there is a need for the child to be placed with the relative and that placement with the relative is in the best interests of the child;

2. The county or DHFS determines that the child meets one or more of the criteria for children in need of protection or services or juveniles in need of protection or services, or that the child would be at risk of meeting one or more of these criteria;

3. The county or DHFS conducts a background investigation of the relative, any employee or prospective employee of the relative who has or would have regular contact with the child, and any other adult resident in the relative's home to determine if the relative, employee, prospective employee, or adult resident has any arrests or convictions that could adversely affect the child or the relative's ability to care for the child; and

4. The relative cooperates with the county or DHFS in the application process, including applying for other forms of assistance for which the relative may be eligible.

There are no financial eligibility requirements individuals must meet to receive kinship care benefits. However, a caregiver who receives an SSI or foster care payment on behalf of a child may not receive a kinship care payment on behalf of the

child.

The program is not administered as a statewide benefits program with a single budget. For this reason, although total funding budgeted for the program on a statewide basis may be sufficient to support all kinship care benefits costs, individual counties and tribes may have surpluses and shortfalls in their kinship care budgets when their actual caseloads do not correspond with the initial funding allocations they receive from DHFS. The Department makes adjustments to the initial calendar year county allocations, based on caseload information the agency receives from counties. By rule, DHFS, counties, and tribes may place eligible caregivers on waiting lists to receive kinship care benefits if the amount of funding allocated for these payments is insufficient to support caseloads. However, individuals who care for children under a court order may not be placed on waiting lists to receive these payments.

The SSI Caretaker Supplement

Effective January 1, 1998, SSI recipients with dependent children began receiving a caretaker supplement. Recipients receive \$250 per month for the first eligible child and \$150 per month for each additional eligible child. SSI recipients are not eligible to participate in W-2.

SSI recipients are eligible for the supplement if the following apply:

1. The custodial parent receives state SSI benefits and is ineligible for a W-2 employment position solely because he or she receives state SSI benefits;
2. If the dependent child has two custodial parents, each custodial parent receives state SSI benefits;
3. The custodial parent assigns to the state any right of the custodial parent or of the dependent

child to support from any other person;

4. The dependent child meets the eligibility criteria under the former AFDC program; and
5. The dependent child does not receive federal SSI benefits.

Medical Assistance and BadgerCare

Most W-2 recipients are eligible for medical assistance (MA) or BadgerCare under financial and nonfinancial criteria established by federal and state law.

Medical Assistance. MA supports the costs of providing acute and long-term care to persons who are elderly, blind, disabled, children, members of families with dependent children, and pregnant women who meet specified financial and nonfinancial eligibility criteria.

Federal law requires states to provide MA coverage to all persons who would have been eligible for cash assistance under the AFDC program on July 16, 1996, as well as certain individuals who would have met the requirements of AFDC, but who would not have actually received AFDC benefits. States may also extend coverage to other individuals who do not meet all of the AFDC program requirements. Wisconsin's MA program provides coverage for several optional AFDC-related groups, in addition to the AFDC-related groups states are required to cover under their MA programs. In addition to AFDC-related groups, the state provides MA coverage to the following groups of individuals in low-income families:

1. Pregnant women in families with income that does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level;
2. Children under the age of six in families with income that does not exceed 185% of the

federal poverty level; and

3. Children between the ages of six and 19 in families with income that does not exceed 100% of the federal poverty level.

BadgerCare. BadgerCare funds health services for certain individuals in low-income families with dependent children that do not qualify for MA. An individual meets the program's financial eligibility requirements if his or her family income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level. Once enrolled, an individual may remain eligible for the program as long as the enrollee's family's income does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level.

Individuals in families that have insurance or access to a group health insurance plan for which their employer subsidizes at least 80% of the monthly premium cost are not eligible for BadgerCare. In addition, individuals who had health insurance coverage during the three months prior to their applying for BadgerCare are ineligible for BadgerCare.

Individuals enrolled in BadgerCare are eligible for all of the services and benefits that are currently available to MA recipients. Families with income that exceeds 150% of the federal poverty level must pay a monthly premium to be covered under BadgerCare. The premium is equivalent to approximately 5% of the family's income. Revenue from premiums offsets some of the costs of providing benefits under the program.

Legislative Fiscal Bureau Informational Paper #43, "Medical Assistance, BadgerCare, SeniorCare, and Related Programs" provides additional information on these health programs.

Learnfare

Dependent children age six through 17 in a W-2 group that includes a participant in a trial job, community service job, or transitional placement are

subject to the Learnfare school attendance requirement unless otherwise exempt. Each child must be enrolled in school, or must have been enrolled in the immediately preceding semester. In addition, minor parents, habitual truants (absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of five or more school days during a semester), dropouts, and students not enrolled in school must participate in case management services.

The W-2 agency is required to verify enrollment during a case review. If the children and parent do not provide all information necessary for the W-2 agency to verify enrollment, the parent is not eligible for a W-2 employment position.

A financial penalty is imposed if a child fails to meet the enrollment requirement and does not cooperate with case management services without good cause. According to the administrative rules, the penalty is a reduction in the W-2 participant's cash benefit of \$50 per month per penalty, not to exceed \$150 per month. The penalty is imposed each month until the child complies with the Learnfare requirements.

The child or W-2 participant may request a review of an agency decision. If a review is requested within 10 days of the notice of a financial penalty, the penalty will not be imposed until after the review is completed, unless the petition is withdrawn or abandoned.

Children First

The children first program provides job training and work experience to noncustodial parents to promote the emotional and financial responsibility that a noncustodial parent has for his or her children. A noncustodial parent who has no current means of meeting a child support obligation may be ordered by the court into the program. A participant in children first is considered an employee of the W-2 agency for purposes of worker's compensation benefits only. Participants are reimbursed a maxi-

imum of \$25 per month for transportation costs associated with participating in the program. The program requires a formal partnership between the county child support agency, the county/tribal judicial system, and the W-2 agency. 1999 Wisconsin Act 9 increased the amount provided to county child support agencies or W-2 agencies administering the program from "up to \$200" to "up to \$400" for each participant. Additional program costs are paid by the agency. A participant successfully completes the program when he or she either fulfills child support obligations for three consecutive months, or completes 16 weeks of employment and training activities.

Emergency Assistance

The emergency assistance program provides assistance to needy persons in cases of fire, flood, natural disaster, energy crisis, homelessness, or impending homelessness. The W-2 agencies administer the emergency assistance program at the local level.

According to DWD administrative rule, recipients must meet nonfinancial and financial eligibility requirements to be considered a needy person. The nonfinancial eligibility criteria include: (a) the emergency resulted from a fire, flood, natural disaster, energy crisis, homelessness, or impending homelessness; (b) the family must be living and intending to reside in Wisconsin; (c) the family must be U.S. citizens or qualifying aliens; (d) the child involved was living with a qualified caretaker within six months prior to the application; and (e) assistance is needed to avoid destitution of the child or to provide living arrangements and the need is not due to the caretaker refusing to accept employment or training without good cause.

1999 Wisconsin Act 9 expanded emergency assistance to persons facing impending homelessness, in addition to those who were already homeless. A family is considered homeless or facing impending homelessness if: (a) the family has left or must leave

its current housing because it is uninhabitable; (b) the family is experiencing a financial crisis that makes it very difficult to make a rent, mortgage, or property tax payment and the family has been notified that it will be required to leave if the payment is not made immediately; (c) the family has a current shelter that is designed for temporary accommodations such as a motel, hotel, or other shelter facility; (d) a member of the family was a victim of domestic abuse; (e) the family is without a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence; or (f) the family is living in a place that is not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation.

The financial eligibility criteria include: (a) the amount of unpaid expenses and cost of needs due to an emergency exceed available income and resources; (b) the group has physical needs such as food, clothing, temporary housing, security deposit, home energy, household items, home repairs and appliances, transportation, and medical care; (c) the group must have gross income at or below 115% of the poverty level; and (d) assets cannot exceed \$2,500 in combined equity value, excluding vehicles with an equity value of up to \$10,000, one home, assets with a fair market value of less than \$3,000 that would require liquidation at a loss, assets unavailable within 30 days, and available real property. Gross income is measured similar to W-2, but excludes W-2 benefits, kinship care, SSI income, and SSI caretaker supplement income. In addition, any income received in the month of the emergency, but before the date of the emergency, that was used to meet the group's needs is excluded.

The actual payment amount is calculated as the lowest of the following three amounts: (a) the maximum payment amount per group member (\$150) multiplied by the number of members in the group; (b) the amount requested by the group; or (c) the total financial need, defined as unpaid expenses and costs due to an emergency less available income and resources. The maximum benefit amount has been \$150 per eligible family member since September 1, 1995. There is no maximum payment

amount in cases of need due to an energy crisis.

Emergency assistance payments can only be used for temporary or transitional shelter in cases where the need arises out of a fire, flood, or natural disaster. Recipients who are homeless or facing impending homelessness may only use assistance to obtain or retain permanent living accommodations. W-2 agencies are also required to determine the emergency assistance group's social service needs and make appropriate referrals for services such as counseling, family shelter, and child care funding.

Emergency assistance may be provided once in a 12-month period. Prior to 2005 Act 25 emergency assistance in cases of homelessness or impending homelessness not related to domestic violence could only be provided once every 36 months.

W-2 agencies must determine eligibility for emergency assistance within five working days. If the group is found eligible, assistance must be provided within the same five working days. Benefits are in the form of cash, voucher, or vendor payment. An individual may petition the W-2 agency for a review within 45 days of submitting an application for emergency assistance if: (a) the application for emergency assistance is not acted upon promptly; (b) assistance is partially or wholly denied; (c) the award is modified or canceled; or (d) the reward is insufficient. The person must be given reasonable notice and opportunity for a review, and a decision must be rendered as soon as possible. In addition, the individual may request that DWD review the agency's decision within 14 days of the decision.

Workforce Attachment and Advancement

The workforce attachment and advancement program was created by 1999 Wisconsin Act 9. Funds can be used for post-employment services to assist with job retention; incumbent worker training to promote job advancement and increased earnings; services to employers to retain workers and provide career progression paths; job readiness and placement services to unemployed per-

sons; and basic skills development. The general purposes of the program are to stabilize low-income workers, provide training so that individuals can move to higher-paying jobs, and help employers retain workers and upgrade their skills.

Half of the program funds are provided to W-2 agencies and half are provided to workforce development boards. The funds allocated to W-2 agencies are based on all of the following case categories served by each W-2 agency: W-2 cases (both employment position and case management), FSET cases, diversion as defined by DWD, noncustodial parents, and child care cases. The funds allocated to workforce development boards are based on a formula that takes into account all of the following: (a) the percentage of the population of the area served by the board with an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level; (b) labor force participation; and (c) the unemployment rate of the area served by the board. The W-2 agencies and workforce development boards may transfer funds between organizations based on local planning processes to administer the program.

To receive services under the workforce attachment and advancement program, a person generally must: (a) be an adult living in Wisconsin; (b) have a family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level; (c) be pregnant or a custodial or noncustodial parent of a minor child living in Wisconsin; (d) be working or seeking work; and (e) agree to cooperate with the child support agency. There are no asset requirements. In order for noncustodial parents to be eligible, they must: (a) be the parent of a child who lives in Wisconsin, but not reside with the child; (b) have individual income, net of child support payments, at or below 200% of the federal poverty level; and (c) cooperate with child support enforcement. The child does not have to be low-income for the noncustodial parent to be eligible for this program.

Program performance is measured based on job placement rates, job retention rates, and increased earnings. For noncustodial parents, performance is

measured by increased child support payments.

DWD provided funding through the workforce attachment and advancement program to W-2 agencies and workforce development boards from early 2000 through December, 2003. 2003 Act 33 allowed DWD to retain statutory authority to administer the program, but eliminated all funding. Therefore, DWD has provided no funding for this program since December, 2003.

Early Childhood Excellence

The early childhood excellence program was also created by 1999 Act 9. It is a grant program that aims to develop early childhood centers for TANF-eligible children under age five. The centers provide outreach and training for parents of children served by the center and training for child care providers. The centers emphasize stimulation of the child's language skills and senses of vision and touch. A local matching contribution of 25% is required. Those who receive training under the grant may in turn apply for a grant to establish an early childhood program.

2005 Act 25 retained the statutory authority for the early childhood excellence program, but eliminated all funding, beginning July 1, 2005.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Periodic Earnings Check

DWD is required to periodically review the earnings of participants in the W-2 program by checking amounts credited to the recipient's social security number. Any discrepancy between the amounts reported as earnings and the amounts credited to the social security number must be investigated. Federal law requires the state to implement such a verification system. If the state does not implement this system, the federal TANF

grant could be reduced by 2% per year.

Release of Participant Information

W-2 agencies are required to maintain a monthly report at their offices showing the names of all W-2 participants and the amounts paid to those individuals during the preceding month. In addition, the agency is required to notify a W-2 participant when that individual's record has been inspected, and must provide the participant with the name and address of the person making the inspection. W-2 agencies may withhold the right to inspect the name and benefit amount of participants from private individuals who are not inspecting the information for public, educational, organizational, governmental, or research purposes until the person whose record is to be inspected has been notified, but not for more than five working days.

In general, no person may use or disclose information concerning applicants and participants of the W-2 program for any purpose not connected with the administration of the program. However, W-2 agencies are permitted to release the current address of a participant to a law enforcement officer if the officer demonstrates in writing that the participant is violating a condition of probation, parole, or extended supervision imposed under state or federal law, or has information that is necessary for the officer to conduct his or her official duties and the location or apprehension of the participant is within those official duties. In addition, if a law enforcement officer believes, on reasonable grounds, that an outstanding warrant has been issued for the arrest of a W-2 participant, the W-2 agency may notify a law enforcement officer when the participant appears to obtain his or her benefits.

In addition to the above provisions, W-2 agencies are required to release the current address of a recipient of benefits under a W-2 subsidized employment position or as a custodial parent of an infant, to a person, the person's attorney, or an employee or agent of the attorney if the person is a

party to a legal action or proceeding in which the recipient is a party or witness, except in certain cases of abuse or harassment.

W-2 Evaluations

Under prior law, the statutes required DWD to contract with the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) for a financial and performance audit of the W-2 program. The audit was required to include the program's effect on wages paid to participants, and the provision of child care services. The Audit Bureau was required to file its report no later than July 1, 2000. The Audit Bureau released six reports: *Wisconsin Works (W-2) Expenditures* (February, 1999); *Food Stamp Program* (July, 2000); *Review of Maximus, Inc.* (July, 2000); *Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program* (January, 2001); *Review of Employment Solutions, Inc., and Other Selected Agencies* (February, 2001); and *Wisconsin Works Program* (April, 2001). These six reports concluded the required audit by LAB, and the statute requiring this audit was repealed in 2001 Wisconsin Act 105.

However, a request for a follow-up audit to the *Wisconsin Works Program* (April, 2001) resulted in another audit, *Sanctioning of Wisconsin Works (W-2) Participants* (December, 2002). In addition, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee requested another comprehensive audit of the W-2 program by LAB. LAB released an initial report on November 9, 2004, which reviewed the W-2 agency of Opportunities Industrialization Center of Greater Milwaukee, Inc. The more comprehensive report of W-2 by LAB, *Wisconsin Works (W-2) Program*, was released in April, 2005.

In addition to the audits conducted by LAB, DWD has formed a Contract and Implementation (C&I) Committee to address specific W-2 agency contracts issues. The Committee establishes a forum for W-2 agencies to provide input to DWD. DWD creates C&I workgroups to focus on specific issues raised by the Committee. For example, the performance measures workgroup focuses on selecting the best methods to successfully monitor

and measure W-2 agencies' performance.

Eligibility for Other Programs

Weatherization Assistance. A Wisconsin Works group in which one member is a participant in a trial job, community service job, or transitional placement is eligible for assistance under the state weatherization program.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. In cases where the adult members of a household are eligible for a W-2 trial job, community service job, or transitional placement, the household is eligible for assistance under the low-income home energy assistance program.

Federal Nutrition Programs. Children receiving TANF assistance are automatically eligible for free school meals and other child nutrition programs. Women, infants, and children receiving TANF assistance are also eligible for the WIC program.

County Relief Block Grant. No person may be eligible for relief under the county block grant program in a month in which the person has participated in a W-2 employment position or in which a W-2 employment position is immediately available to the individual.

Homestead Tax Credit. Property taxes or rent under the homestead tax credit are reduced by one-twelfth for each month or portion of a month that a claimant participated in a W-2 community service job or transitional placement or received W-2 benefits as the custodial parent of an infant.

Funeral, Burial, and Cemetery Counties and tribes are required to pay funeral, burial and cemetery expenses for most individuals who, at the time they died, were receiving W-2, SSI, or MA benefits and whose estates are insufficient to pay these expenses. Counties are not required to pay for any funeral expenses if the decedent's total funeral expenses exceed \$3,500. Further, the county or tribe is not required to pay for any cemetery expenses if

the total funeral or burial expenses exceeds \$3,500. DHFS may waive the \$3,500 limit if it determines that a special circumstance exists. Counties and tribes may pay up to \$1,500 for funeral and burial expenses and up to \$1,000 for cemetery expenses. Requests for payment must be made within 12 months of the recipient's death. DHFS is required to reimburse counties and tribes for eligible expenses they incur under the program.

Other Miscellaneous Provisions

It is illegal to send or bring a person to a county for the purpose of obtaining W-2 benefits. DWD is required to investigate suspected fraudulent activity on the part of W-2 participants and to conduct activities to reduce payment errors. DWD is also required to distribute funds to W-2 agencies for the administrative costs of reducing payment errors.

Payments for kinship care, community service jobs, transitional placements, custodial parents of infants, child care, and transportation are exempt from every tax, and from execution, garnishment, attachment, and every other process and are inalienable.

W-2 Administration

W-2 Agency Contracts

The AFDC program was administered by county agencies and tribes at the local level. In contrast, the W-2 program can be administered by governmental and private agencies. The first set of W-2 agency contracts covered September 1, 1997, through December 30, 1999, and the second round of contracts covered calendar years 2000 and 2001. The third round of W-2 contracts covered calendar years 2002 and 2003. The fourth round of W-2 contracts covered calendar years 2004 and 2005. The current W-2 contracts are for calendar years 2006 through

2009, as DWD changed the contract period from two years to four years.

Contracting Process

As a general provision, state law authorizes the Department of Workforce Development to award a contract to any person to administer the W-2 program in a geographical area determined by DWD on the basis of a competitive process approved by the Department of Administration (DOA). For the first set of contracts, county departments of human or social services and tribes were given the right of first refusal to administer the program, if the county department or tribe met caseload reduction goals established by DWD. For subsequent contracts, agencies awarded a contract in the previous round are given the right of first selection (RFS) if they meet financial and performance criteria established by DWD.

2001 Act 16 specifies that the competitive process used to award contracts must include cost and prior experience criteria. For the 2006-2009 contracts, a total of 40 W-2 agencies earned RFS and 23 geographic areas were opened to competitive bidding, including 15 agencies that did not get RFS and four agencies that relinquished RFS. It should be noted that although five of the geographic regions opened to competitive bidding were located in Milwaukee County, a reorganization of service delivery in those regions opened up 11 contracts for competitive bidding. This is discussed in further detail below under 2006-2009 W-2 Agency Contracts.

Geographical Areas. The Department must determine the geographical area that each W-2 agency will cover. No area can be smaller than one county, except on federally recognized American Indian reservations and in counties with a population of 500,000 or more (Milwaukee County). An area may include more than one county.

If any changes are made to the geographical area for which a W-2 agency is responsible, Act 16 requires that DWD use a competitive process to

award the W-2 contract for that area, regardless of whether the W-2 agency has met the performance standards required for the right of first selection.

Contract Requirements. The contracts require each W-2 agency to establish a community steering committee to participate in the implementation of the W-2 program including: advising the agency; helping to identify available employment and training opportunities; creating and encouraging others to create subsidized jobs and on-the-job training; fostering and guiding entrepreneurial efforts of participants; providing mentors; identifying child care needs; and coordinating with the council on workforce investment created by the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Each committee consists of at least 12, but not more than 15, individuals. The committee must appoint a chairperson who represents business interests.

Each agency contract also must contain provisions requiring the W-2 agency to perform several activities including: (a) establish a children's services network to provide information about community resources available to dependent children in W-2 groups; (b) employ at least one financial and employment planner to work with participants; (c) employ staff to meet the needs of participants who are refugees and have cultural or linguistic barriers; and (d) ensure that services delivered under W-2, the FoodShare program, and MA are coordinated in a manner that most effectively serves the recipients of those services. In addition, W-2 agencies are required to: (a) determine eligibility for W-2 child care assistance and refer eligible families to county departments of human or social services for child care services; (b) provide, or contract with another person to provide, credit establishment and credit repair assistance after submission of a proposed plan to DWD; (c) provide a single-page description of all benefits and services that may be provided to any individual by a W-2 agency; and (d) perform any other tasks specified by DWD in the W-2 agency contract that the Department determines are necessary for W-2

administration.

W-2 agencies may also establish a nutrition outreach program with the community steering committee, and may coordinate with local food pantries and food banks and other interested parties to increase the supply of food available.

W-2 agencies are also required to establish a referral relationship with other employment and training programs, to encourage employers to make training available on business sites for participants, and to work with the Department of Commerce to coordinate services.

Prior to 2001 Act 16, W-2 agencies were required to certify eligibility for and issue food stamps to W-2 participants to the extent allowed by federal law. The 2000-2001 contracts also required W-2 agencies to determine MA eligibility for persons who applied for W-2. Because federal law does not allow private agencies to perform this eligibility determination, the private W-2 agencies contracted with local governments to perform these functions. When the W-2 agency is a county agency or county consortium, county staff are able to perform these functions. Act 16 transferred the responsibility for food stamp and MA eligibility determination for W-2 participants from the W-2 contracts to the county income maintenance (IM) contracts so that the private W-2 agencies would no longer have to contract with the counties to perform these functions. The IM contracts are administered by DHFS.

Audits of W-2 Agencies. W-2 agencies are subject to audit by the Legislative Audit Bureau. The LAB may inspect, at any time, any W-2 agency's records as the Audit Bureau deems appropriate and necessary. In performing audits of W-2 agencies, the LAB may audit only the records and operations of the agencies that pertain to the receipt, disbursement, or other handling of state appropriations. If the LAB inspects the records of individual participants, the Bureau must protect the confidentiality of those records. The Department also may require a

W-2 agency to submit to an independent annual audit paid for by the agency.

Requests for Information. In accordance with rules promulgated by the Department, a W-2 agency may request from any person any information that it determines appropriate and necessary for the administration of W-2. The W-2 agency may disclose information obtained under this provision only in the administration of W-2.

The Department may request, from any W-2 agency, any information that the Department determines appropriate and necessary for the overall administration of the program, and the agency must provide the information through written reports, computer reports, and other appropriate forms. The Department may also inspect, at any time, any W-2 agency's records as the Department determines appropriate and necessary for the overall administration of the program.

Financial Accountability. 2001 Act 16 required that for the 2002-2003 contracts, agencies were sanctioned an amount equal to 50% of unallowable expenses. Unallowable expenses included those identified by DWD or an audit sponsored by DWD or by the Legislative Audit Bureau. The 2004-2005 contracts included language that required a W-2 agency to return all payments determined to be disallowed under the contract. The 2006-2009 contracts include the same language.

In addition, other financial accountability provisions in the 2006-2009 contracts include: (a) the reduction of advance payments to W-2 agencies and the requirement that private agencies receiving advance payments obtain a bond or equivalent; (b) limitations on advertising, promotional, telecommunication, and legal service costs; (c) stronger language regarding potential fines and penalties; and (d) the requirement that W-2 agencies perform on-site monitoring of their subcontractors at least annually.

Statement of Economic Interests. 2005 Act 25 required all W-2 agencies, which are not county departments or tribal governing bodies, to include a statement of economic interests and a \$50 filing fee with the submission of a bid to participate in W-2 under the W-2 agency contracts. The statement of economic interests must include all of the following: (a) the agency's assets and liabilities; (b) the sources of the agency's income; (c) all of the agency's other clients, as well as a description of the goods or services provided to those clients; and (d) the identity of all of the agency's subsidiaries, affiliates, and parent companies, if any.

If the W-2 agency is not required to submit a bid because it has been awarded RFS, the agency must, before executing the succeeding contract, submit to DWD a statement of economic interests and a \$50 filing fee. All agencies that are required to submit a statement of economic interests must also submit an updated statement and a \$50 filing fee to DWD one year after entering into a contract.

2006-2009 W-2 Agency Contracts

Under the current contracts, W-2 is administered at the local level as follows: (a) 46 counties are served by county human/social services agencies; (b) 25 counties outside of Milwaukee County are served by non-county agencies; and (c) four non-county agencies cover five regions in Milwaukee County. There are four for-profit W-2 agencies: Maximus in Milwaukee County; Arbor Education and Training in Waukesha County; the Kaiser Group in Walworth County, and Policy Studies, Inc. in Milwaukee County. All other non-county agencies are non-profit organizations. Eight tribes operate separate state programs as allowed under federal law. Members of other tribes may receive W-2 benefits and services from the W-2 agency in the county in which the individuals reside.

Table 5 displays the 2006-2007 amounts of the 2006-2009 W-2 contracts for all current W-2 agencies.

Table 5: 2006-2007 W-2 Agency Contract Amounts*

<u>W-2 Agency</u>	<u>2006-2007 Contract Amounts</u>			
	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Administration</u>	<u>Total</u>
Counties				
Ashland and Price Consortium	\$221,896	\$185,716	\$71,932	\$479,544
Bayfield	85,069	71,199	27,576	183,844
Buffalo	58,667	49,101	19,018	126,786
Burnett	73,753	61,728	23,909	159,390
Clark	263,936	220,903	85,560	570,399
Crawford	48,761	40,811	15,807	105,379
Capital Consortium (Dane, Dodge, Marquette, and Sauk)	5,296,507	4,472,930	1,716,964	11,446,401
Door	138,142	115,619	44,781	298,542
Dunn	337,978	282,872	109,562	730,412
Eau Claire	745,265	623,752	241,592	1,610,609
Fond du Lac	836,283	699,931	271,097	1,807,311
Southwest Consortium (Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland)	395,909	331,358	128,342	855,609
Green Lake	113,996	95,409	36,954	246,359
Iron	41,969	35,127	13,605	90,701
Jefferson	263,507	220,544	85,421	569,472
Kenosha	3,380,617	2,829,420	1,095,892	7,305,929
La Crosse	635,327	531,739	205,953	1,373,019
Marathon	1,097,690	918,715	355,837	2,372,242
Marinette	196,162	164,179	63,590	423,931
Oconto	156,999	131,400	50,894	339,293
Outagamie and Calumet Consortium	891,909	746,486	289,130	1,927,525
Pepin	59,189	49,539	19,187	127,915
Polk	157,785	132,059	51,149	340,993
Racine	2,111,619	1,767,328	684,522	4,563,469
Rock	1,730,328	1,448,204	560,919	3,739,451
Rusk	73,577	61,580	23,851	159,008
Sawyer and Washburn Consortium	143,856	120,401	46,633	310,890
Lakeshore Consortium (Sheboygan and Manitowoc)	760,015	636,098	246,373	1,642,486
Taylor	86,715	72,576	28,110	187,401
Vernon	96,784	81,004	31,374	209,162
Waupaca	270,980	226,797	87,843	585,620
Winnebago	837,885	701,271	271,617	1,810,773
PAW Consortium (Portage, Adams, and Wood)	1,283,517	1,074,244	416,076	2,773,837
Non-County				
Milwaukee CMA Maximus (NW, SW)	31,356,576	15,859,306	5,246,209	52,462,091
Milwaukee CMA UMOS (SE, C)	27,954,075	13,549,962	4,611,560	46,115,597
Milwaukee CMA YWCA (NE)	9,850,389	4,832,956	1,631,483	16,314,828
Milwaukee JCPA Maximus (SW)	0	5,922,952	807,675	6,730,627
Milwaukee JCPA PSI (NW, NE)	0	13,789,982	1,880,453	15,670,435
Milwaukee JCPA UMOS (SE, C)	0	12,908,666	1,760,272	14,668,938
Milwaukee SSI UMOS	5,967,000	1,400,000	818,556	8,185,556
Arbor E & T (Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha)	1,616,718	1,353,117	524,090	3,493,925
Kaiser Group Walworth	416,184	348,326	134,914	899,424
Forward Service Corp. Bay Area (Brown, Florence, Kewaunee, and Menominee)	1,613,903	1,350,762	523,178	3,487,843
Forward Service Corp. Northern (Forest, Vilas, Oneida, Langlade, and Lincoln)	664,582	556,224	215,437	1,436,243
Forward Service Corp. Waushara	161,533	135,196	52,364	349,093
Shawano Job Center	193,957	162,333	62,874	419,164
Workforce Connections Inc. Western WI (Jackson, Juneau, Monroe, and Trempealeau)	768,979	643,600	249,280	1,661,859
Workforce Connections Inc. Columbia	228,785	191,483	74,165	494,433
Workforce Connections Inc. Pierce and St. Croix	226,177	189,299	73,319	488,795
Workforce Connections Inc. Douglas	455,298	381,063	147,594	983,955
Workforce Resource Inc. Barron and Chippewa	517,182	432,856	167,654	1,117,692
Total	\$104,883,930	\$93,208,123	\$26,402,147	\$224,494,200

*Generally, administration cannot exceed 15% of base contract amount.

Source: Department of Workforce Development

The table segregates the amount for cash benefits to recipients, the amount for services, and the amount for administration. The amount of funding for each W-2 agency during the 2004-2005 W-2 contracts was based primarily on projected caseloads. Funding in 2006-2007 for the 2006-2009 W-2 contracts required each geographic area to share equally in the statewide funding reduction under 2005 Act 25 from the funding levels under the 2004-2005 W-2 agency contracts. Administrative expenses were generally established at 15% of the total contract amount (either 10% or 12% for Milwaukee W-2 agencies, described below).

Under the 2006-2009 W-2 agency contracts, Milwaukee County is divided into five regions: (a) northwest (NW); (b) northeast (NE); (c) central (C); (d) southwest (SW); and (e) southeast (SE). In addition, contract agencies have been divided into three types, based on the area of specialization: (a) case management agencies (CMA); (b) job development and placement agencies (JDPA); and (c) a supplemental security income (SSI) advocacy agency.

A CMA determines eligibility, conducts initial employability screening and educational assessments, administers career assessments, and determines the appropriate W-2 track. In general, a CMA is responsible for the payment of benefits. A JDPA specializes in connecting W-2 job seekers with job readiness services, work experience, training opportunities, and employment. The SSI advocacy agency is responsible for the case management of W-2 participants who are determined to have a reasonable chance of obtaining SSI or Supplemental Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). As indicated in Table 5, three W-2 agencies serve as CMAs for all five Milwaukee regions [Maximus, United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS), and YWCA], three W-2 agencies serve as JDPAs for all five Milwaukee regions [Maximus, Policy Studies Inc. (PSI), and UMOS], and one W-2 agency serves all of Milwaukee County as the SSI advocacy agency (UMOS). Administrative expenses total 10% of the total contract amount for the CMAs and the SSI advocacy

agency. Administrative expenses total 12% of the total contract amount for the JDPAs.

As shown in the table, the current contracts total \$224.5 million, including \$104.9 million for benefits, \$93.2 million for services, and \$26.4 million for administration. This represents a \$58.5 million reduction (21%) from the \$283.0 million expended for the previous contracts.

Performance Standards and Incentives Under the W-2 Agency Contracts

Performance Standards. The Department must establish performance standards for the administration of W-2. If an agency does not meet these standards, the Department may withhold any or all payment from the agency.

Performance Bonuses. In addition, W-2 allows agencies to receive some funds as performance bonuses. Performance bonuses for the 1997-1999 W-2 agency contracts were based on the contract surplus amount (the contract amount less all allowable agency expenses). After sanctions, the total unspent contract amount was \$232.9 million (or 36% of the initial contract amount). These funds were distributed as follows: (a) \$84.3 million was returned to the state; (b) \$83.4 million was provided to the W-2 agencies for community reinvestment; and (c) \$65.2 million was provided to W-2 agencies as performance bonuses.

The performance bonus calculation was substantially revised for the 2000-2001 contracts so that performance bonuses were based on W-2 agencies meeting performance standards, determined by DWD, rather than based on unexpended funds. For the 2000-2001 contracts, a total of 4% of the contract amount was available for profit. The total base contract allocations for the 2000-2001 contracts were \$369.3 million. Therefore, the potential bonus funding was \$14.8 million (4% of \$369.3 million). However, funding budgeted for the bonuses was reduced to \$12.8 million under 2001 Act 16 to re-

flect the amount of bonus funding that agencies were projected to earn. The actual amount agencies were eligible to receive was \$13.4 million, or \$0.6 million more than budgeted. Because the budgeted funding was insufficient to cover the full amount earned by agencies, DWD pro-rated payments so that agencies received approximately 95.5% of the amount earned. This funding was distributed to agencies in August, 2002. There were no restrictions on how agencies could spend the funds.

Beginning with the 2002-2003 contracts, the statutes require DWD to base any performance bonus calculations on all of the following: (a) the placement of participants in W-2 employment positions into unsubsidized employment; (b) whether the placement is full-time or part-time; (c) the job retention rate of former participants in W-2 employment positions, as defined by DWD; (d) wages and benefits earned by former participants in W-2 employment positions; (e) appropriate implementation of W-2; and (f) customer satisfaction. DWD may not use caseload decreases or reduced spending by W-2 agencies that are not directly attributable to placement of participants in unsubsidized employment as a basis for performance payments. In addition to the statutorily-required criteria, the 2002-2003, 2004-2005, and 2006-2009 contracts require agencies to meet additional minimum standards of performance.

The 2002-2003 contracts stated that the amount of funding available for performance bonuses for the 2002-2003 contracts would be determined by the 2003-05 biennial budget (2003 Act 33). However, Act 33 provided no funding for performance bonuses.

The 2004-2005 contracts stated that if performance bonus funding became available for the 2004-2005 contracts, the allocation methodology for bonus calculations would be issued. Neither 2003 Act 33 nor 2005 Act 25 provided funding. However, both 2003 Act 33 and 2005 Act 25 indicated that funds could be allocated from underspending in

other programs or from the receipt of additional TANF funds, if approved by the Joint Committee on Finance. No funding was requested for performance bonuses.

The 2006-2009 contracts no longer include a provision for performance bonus funding. Instead a provision is included for large W-2 contract agencies to earn incentive funds based on placement outcomes.

A large W-2 contract agency is defined as an agency whose CSJ caseload reaches at least 50 for the most recent three consecutive months prior to the start of the contract period and each calendar year thereafter during the contract period. DWD withholds 20% of the services and service-related administration funding from the contract allotment for these agencies and then requires these agencies to earn the withheld funds through program placement outcomes.

Appendix B to this paper provides a summary of the 2006-2009 contract performance standards and the incentive earnings outcomes.

Community Reinvestment. For the first two sets of contracts, agencies were also eligible to receive additional funds for investment in the community. These funds are referred to as community reinvestment funds. Community reinvestment funds can only be used on TANF-eligible activities and are meant to supplement the contract. As with performance bonuses, community reinvestment funds were based on unspent contract funds under the first contracts. Of the unspent contract funds, \$83.4 million was provided to the W-2 agencies for community reinvestment.

Under the 2000-2001 contracts, W-2 agencies were eligible to receive an allocation for community reinvestment equal to 3% of the contract amount. In order to access community reinvestment funding, W-2 agencies were required to meet base contract benchmarks. Eight W-2 agencies did

not meet the base performance benchmarks, and were not eligible to receive community reinvestment funds. W-2 agencies that did meet the benchmarks were required to submit a plan to DWD for how to spend these funds by May 30, 2002. DWD reviewed and approved the plans and executed a contract amendment with each of the agencies for expenditure of these funds for the period January 1, 2002, through December 30, 2003. The amount provided to these W-2 agencies for community reinvestment totaled \$11.0 million.

The community reinvestment funds that agencies were eligible to receive were eliminated, beginning with the 2002-2003 contracts.

Future W-2 Agency Contracts

Under current law, DWD may either award a contract on the basis of a competitive process approved by the Department of Administration or award a contract to a W-2 agency if that agency has met specific performance standards. Agencies that do not meet the performance standards are permitted to apply for a contract under a competitive process. Agencies that meet the performance standards but opt not to compete for a subsequent contract must notify their employees at least six months prior to the expiration of the contract.

If no acceptable provider in a geographical area is selected under the bidding process, DWD must administer the program in that area. However, the Secretary of the Department of Administration is authorized to waive the normal state procurement requirements with respect to a contract entered into by DWD for the administration of Wisconsin Works under certain conditions.

As noted above, if DWD changes a geographical area, DWD must use a competitive process to award the contract for that area regardless of whether a W-2 agency has met the performance standards.

The next W-2 agency contracts will be issued

for the time period of January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2013.

Program Funding and Participation

Program Funding

The primary source of funding for the W-2 and child care programs is the federal TANF block grant. Additional funding is provided by the federal child care development block grant, state GPR appropriated to DWD, and other program revenues.

Wisconsin's annual TANF block grant allocation from the federal government is \$318.2 million. Under federal law, a tribal organization in a state may elect to operate a separate tribal public assistance program. For a tribe that submits an acceptable plan, the federal government will provide funding to the tribe and reduce the state's TANF block grant by an equivalent amount. After accounting for the eight separate tribal programs (Bad River, Forest County Potawatomi, Red Cliff, Mole Lake Sokaogon, Lac du Flambeau, Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican, Oneida, and Menominee), Wisconsin's TANF block grant is estimated at \$314.5 million in 2006-07.

A key provision of federal law is a maintenance-of-effort (MOE) requirement, which obligates the state to spend an amount of state dollars equal to 75% of historic state expenditures if the state meets federal mandatory work requirements, or 80% if the state does not meet these requirements. Historic state expenditures generally means federal fiscal year (FFY) 1994 expenditures for the former AFDC and JOBS programs, AFDC-emergency assistance, AFDC-related child care, and at-risk child care. In addition, the MOE may be reduced by the percentage reduction in the state's TANF block grant attributable to tribal programs. The state's MOE requirement is \$167.3 million an-

nually, based on 75% of historic state expenditures. Certain other programs also count towards MOE. More information regarding allowable state expenditures for the MOE requirement is provided in Appendix C.

2005-07 Revenues and Expenditures

Table 6 shows actual and budgeted revenues and expenditures for W-2 and other economic support programs for the 2005-07 biennium. The 2005-06 figures include budgeted amounts and estimates of actual expenditures in that year as provided by DWD.

The figures for 2006-07 are budgeted amounts, which reflect 2005 Wisconsin Act 25 and more recent revenue estimates. The figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 also include a modified carryover amount based on expenditures in 2004-05 and 2005-06. A description of these revenues and expenditures follows.

Revenues Available for Public Assistance Programs. The following revenues are available for the W-2 program, child care, and other related programs. As shown in the table, total revenues available for public assistance programs in 2005-06 are now estimated at \$620.3 million compared to the budgeted amount of \$609.0 million. Revenues are estimated at \$584.4 million for 2006-07.

State Funding. State funding included \$189.9 million (\$160.4 million GPR, \$20.3 million PR, and \$9.2 million SEG) in 2005-06, and is estimated at \$168.7 million (\$144.0 million GPR, \$15.5 million PR, and \$9.2 million SEG) for 2006-07. The program revenue is primarily from child support collections assigned to the state by public assistance recipients. It also includes funds from welfare fraud collections. The segregated revenue was established in 2003 Act 33, which created an annual appropriation funded from segregated utility public benefits funding, beginning in 2004-05.

Federal Funding. Federal funding totaled \$430.4

million in 2005-06 and \$415.7 million in 2006-07, which includes the TANF block grant (\$314.5 million annually), the TANF high performance bonus (\$6.4 million in 2005-06), the child care development block grant (\$83.0 million in 2005-06 and \$81.8 million in 2006-07), federal revenue from the food stamp employment and training program (\$7.8 million in 2005-06 and \$8.1 million in 2006-07), and TANF and CCDBG fraud recoveries (\$1.8 million in 2005-06 and \$2.2 million in 2006-07). In addition, available funding shows \$16.8 million in 2005-06 from TANF block grant funds that were carried over from 2004-05, of which \$9.0 million was unspent and carried over in 2006-07. It should be noted that the TANF high performance bonus funds have been eliminated under the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and will no longer be available, beginning in 2006-07.

Public Assistance Expenditures. Funding for W-2 and other economic support programs is allocated in 2005-07 as shown in the following paragraphs. In some cases in which more funds were spent than were budgeted in 2005-06 (such as direct child care subsidies, emergency assistance, and caretaker supplement for children of SSI recipients), the additional funds came from programs with underspending in that year.

W-2 Subsidized Employment Benefits. Budgeted expenditures include \$59.2 million in 2005-06 and \$51.9 million in 2006-07 for wage subsidies and cash grants for participants in W-2 trial jobs, community service jobs, and transitional placements. Actual expenditures for subsidized employment benefits in 2005-06 were \$50.9 million.

Administration and Services. Funding of \$19.0 million in 2005-06 and \$16.8 million in 2006-07 was budgeted for W-2 agency office costs. Administration funds generally cannot exceed 15% of the contract amount and are provided for office costs such as salaries and fringe benefits. Actual expenditures for W-2 administration in 2005-06 were \$15.7 million.

Table 6: W-2 Related Revenues and Expenditures

	2005-06 Budget	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Budget
Revenues			
State General Purpose Revenue	\$154,299,600	\$160,399,600	\$143,961,200
Program Revenue in DWD	590,500	881,300	627,600
TANF Block Grant	314,499,400	314,519,300	314,499,400
TANF High Performance Block Grant	5,000,000	6,415,800	0
Child Care Block Grant	81,832,300	82,987,900	81,832,300
TANF and CCDBG Recoveries	1,509,900	1,830,100	2,194,900
Federal FSET Funds	8,112,600	7,777,700	8,112,600
Public Benefits Funding	9,232,000	9,232,000	9,232,000
Child Support Collections	15,426,000	19,386,000	14,906,400
TANF Carryover from Prior Year	<u>18,531,100</u>	<u>16,840,700</u>	<u>9,003,400</u>
Total Available	\$609,033,400	\$620,270,400	\$584,369,800
Expenditures			
W-2 Agency Contract Allocations			
Subsidized Employment Benefits	\$59,184,700	\$50,916,400	\$51,930,000
Administration	18,999,900	15,716,700	16,834,100
Services	49,534,800	52,638,700	43,463,000
Child Care			
Direct Child Care Subsidies	310,332,100	324,897,700	313,432,100
Programs to Improve Quality and Availability	8,867,000	8,839,800	8,867,000
Day Care Licensing	4,438,200	4,937,100	4,440,500
Other Benefits			
Kinship Care	23,034,200	22,413,300	22,686,300
Caretaker Supplement for Children of SSI Recipients	30,444,000	30,631,900	30,394,000
Emergency Assistance	4,500,000	7,882,400	4,500,000
Child Support Related to W-2			
Children First	1,140,000	1,015,300	1,140,000
Administrative Support			
State Administration	16,060,000	16,060,200	16,060,000
Grant Programs			
Grants to Boys and Girls Clubs of America	300,000	287,600	300,000
Expenditures in Other Programs			
Earned Income Tax Credit	55,232,000	55,232,000	55,232,000
SSBG Transfer to DHFS/Community Aids	13,420,500	14,715,200	13,420,500
Child Welfare Safety Services	5,707,200	3,029,700	5,707,200
Child Welfare Information System	1,310,800	1,172,500	1,317,700
Child Welfare Prevention Services	<u>1,489,600</u>	<u>880,500</u>	<u>1,489,600</u>
Total Expenditures	\$603,995,000	\$611,267,000	\$591,214,000
Ending Balance	\$5,038,400	\$9,003,400	-\$6,844,200

Source: Based on information available from the Department of Workforce Development as of December, 2006.

Funding of \$49.5 million in 2005-06 and \$43.5 million in 2006-07 was budgeted for non-cash services to W-2 participants. These funds are used to provide services such as job training, job readiness, motivation, education, and social services to W-2 recipients. Actual expenditures for services in 2005-06 were \$52.6 million.

Total budgeted expenditures in 2006-07 for benefits, administration, and services are \$112.2 million.

For the 2005-06 allocation for administration, services, and benefits, \$71.6 million was budgeted for the last six months of the 2004-2005 W-2 contracts and \$56.1 million was for the first six months of the 2006-2009 W-2 contracts. Actual expenditures for administration, services, and benefits totaled \$119.3 million in 2005-06. For the 2006-07 allocation, all funds are budgeted for the 2006-2009 W-2 contracts.

Child Care Program. The child care program provides funds for subsidies, programs to improve child care quality and availability, and child care licensing as described below. The total amount budgeted for the child care program was \$323.6 million in 2005-06 and \$326.7 million in 2006-07.

(a) *Child Care Subsidies.* A total of \$310.3 million in 2005-06 and \$313.4 million in 2006-07 was budgeted for child care subsidies under Act 25. Actual subsidies for 2005-06 totaled \$324.9 million.

(b) *Programs to Improve Child Care Quality and Availability.* The 2005-07 budget included \$8.9 million annually for programs to improve child care quality and availability. These funds are for state administration of the child care program, activities designed to increase the capacity and quality of child care providers in the state, and the local pass-through program. A more thorough description of programs funded under this program is included in the Indirect Child Care Services section of this paper.

(c) *Child Care Licensing.* Funds totaling \$4.4 million annually were transferred from DWD to DHFS to license and monitor family and group day care facilities.

Kinship Care. Budgeted expenditures for kinship care were \$23.0 million in 2005-06 compared to actual expenditures of \$22.4 million. For 2006-07, budgeted expenditures total \$22.7 million, which includes \$21.0 million for the \$215 monthly benefit, \$1.5 million for assessments and background investigations of kinship care relatives, and \$0.2 million for other administration. The funding amounts for kinship care are transferred to DHFS, which administers the program.

Caretaker Supplement Program. Prior to 2006-07 the caretaker supplement program had been funded by TANF and GPR. Beginning in 2006-07 the program was funded entirely with TANF funds. In the 2005-07 biennium, TANF funds budgeted for benefits and administrative costs were \$30.4 million annually. A total of \$30.6 million TANF was expended in 2005-06 for the caretaker supplement program. The caretaker supplement benefit is \$250 for the first eligible child and \$150 for each additional eligible child.

Emergency Assistance. A total of \$4.5 million annually was provided for the emergency assistance program in 2005-06 and 2006-07. Actual expenditures were \$7.9 million in 2005-06. DWD began tracking emergency assistance grants in January, 2002. The number of grants issued in calendar year 2002 totaled 7,820. After 2005 Act 25 allowed emergency assistance to be provided for homelessness or impending homelessness not related to domestic violence once in a 12-month period, rather than once in a 36-month period under prior law, emergency assistance grants issued increased to 11,137 in calendar year 2006. A total of 45,913 emergency assistance grants have been issued since DWD began tracking these grants in January, 2002.

Children First. Budgeted expenditures for the children first employment program for

noncustodial parents were \$1.1 million annually. Actual expenditures for 2005-06 were \$1.0 million. A total of 3,327 participants were served in calendar year 2006.

State Administration. The budget provided \$16.1 million annually for state administration of the W-2 program and other public assistance programs being funded by TANF. Actual expenditures on state administration in 2005-06 were \$16.1 million.

Boys and Girls Clubs. Budgeted expenditures included \$300,000 annually for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The federal TANF regulations allow states to utilize TANF funds for the refundable portion of state earned income tax credits. In total, the EITC cost \$82.0 million in 2005-06. TANF funding budgeted for the EITC totals \$55.2 million annually. The remaining portion of the credit is paid by GPR. Actual TANF expenditures for 2005-06 were \$55.2 million.

TANF Received by DHFS for Community Aids. Under current federal law, states are allowed to transfer up to 10% of the state's TANF block grant funds to be used to carry out programs under the social services block grant (SSBG). In the past, the transfer amount has varied between 4.25% and 10%. These TANF funds are received directly by DHFS and are distributed to counties through community aids. 2005 Act 25 budgeted 4.25% of the TANF block grant to be used for SSBG purposes under community aids. The biennial budget provided \$13.4 million annually to DHFS in TANF funds for SSBG. The actual amount transferred in 2005-06 was \$14.7 million.

Child Welfare Safety Services. The biennial budget provides \$5.7 million in TANF funds annually for child welfare safety services in Milwaukee County. Safety services are available to families in Milwaukee County where abuse or neglect issues have been identified, but the Bureau of Milwaukee

Child Welfare (BMCW) has determined that the child or children can remain at home safely if appropriate services are provided to the family.

Safety services can include: (a) supervision, observation, basic parenting assistance, social and emotional support, and basic home management; (b) child care; (c) routine and emergency drug and alcohol services and screening; (d) family crisis counseling; (e) routine and emergency mental health services; (f) respite care; (g) housing assistance; and (h) transportation. Families receive services that are appropriate to their individual situation. In 2005, 1,277 families received safety services through BMCW. In 2005-06, TANF expenditures for safety services totaled approximately \$3.0 million.

Child Welfare Information System. 2003 Act 33 created a new statutory allocation under the TANF program for the electronic Wisconsin statewide automated child welfare information system (eWISACWIS) administered by DHFS. Case workers and administrators use eWISACWIS for managing child welfare services, including intake, assessment, eligibility determinations, case management, court processing, financial reporting, and administration.

The budget for eWISACWIS is \$1.3 million annually in TANF funds for this biennium. In 2005-06, \$1.2 million in TANF funds was spent to support eWISACWIS. The TANF funds support the portion of implementation and ongoing support costs of the system that are related to the kinship care program.

Child Welfare Prevention Services. The biennial budget provides \$1.5 million in TANF funds annually for child abuse prevention services in Milwaukee County. The Department of Health and Family Services has awarded these funds to Community Advocates, Inc., which then allocates the funds to local agencies for two primary purposes: (a) to provide home-visiting services for

first-time parents in Milwaukee County; and (b) to provide community-based services to families in Milwaukee County to prevent child abuse and neglect. TANF expenditures totaled \$0.9 million in 2005-06.

Ending TANF Balance. Table 6 shows an estimated ending TANF balance of -\$6.8 million in 2006-07. However, this is subject to change as the figures for 2006-07 are budgeted amounts.

Table 7 shows the annual ongoing TANF revenues and expenditures based on amounts budgeted in 2006-07 with adjustments to account for one-time items. As shown in the table, annual expenditures exceed annual revenues by an estimated \$9.7 million. Because ongoing expenditures exceed ongoing revenues, any balance that is carried forward from the current biennium will be needed to address the TANF structural deficit in 2007-09.

As noted above, Table 7 is based on budgeted amounts in 2006-07. The TANF structural deficit would be greater than \$9.7 million if actual expenditures exceed the amounts budgeted. For example, based on data received through December, 2006, actual expenditures for child care subsidies in 2006-07 will most likely exceed the amount budgeted.

Table 7: 2006-07 TANF Structural Deficit

Annual Revenues	\$581.5
Annual Expenditures	591.2
Structural Deficit	-\$9.7

Program Participation

Table 8 shows the number of AFDC, W-2, kinship care, and SSI caretaker supplement cases receiving benefits or other services for 1997 through 2006. Table 8 also has a chart showing the change in the number of cases receiving cash benefits from these programs from 1985 to 2006.

Since August, 1997, was the last month of the AFDC program, the 1997 data is for August. All other data in the table and chart is for the month of September.

AFDC and W-2 Recipients. The AFDC caseload data for August, 1997, includes those cases in which the child receiving AFDC was living with a non-legally responsible relative or was the child of an SSI parent. Beginning in September, 1997, W-2 agencies began converting AFDC cases to the W-2 program. Cases converted to the W-2 program could have been placed in a W-2 employment position and received a cash benefit under one of those W-2 employment positions.

Alternatively, in some cases the W-2 applicant may have been determined to be eligible for case management services only. Those receiving only case management services include: (a) individuals who are currently working in unsubsidized employment and are receiving case management to retain or advance in their jobs; (b) individuals determined ready for unsubsidized employment who are conducting job search activities; (c) pregnant women with no other children; (d) noncustodial parents; or (e) minor parents.

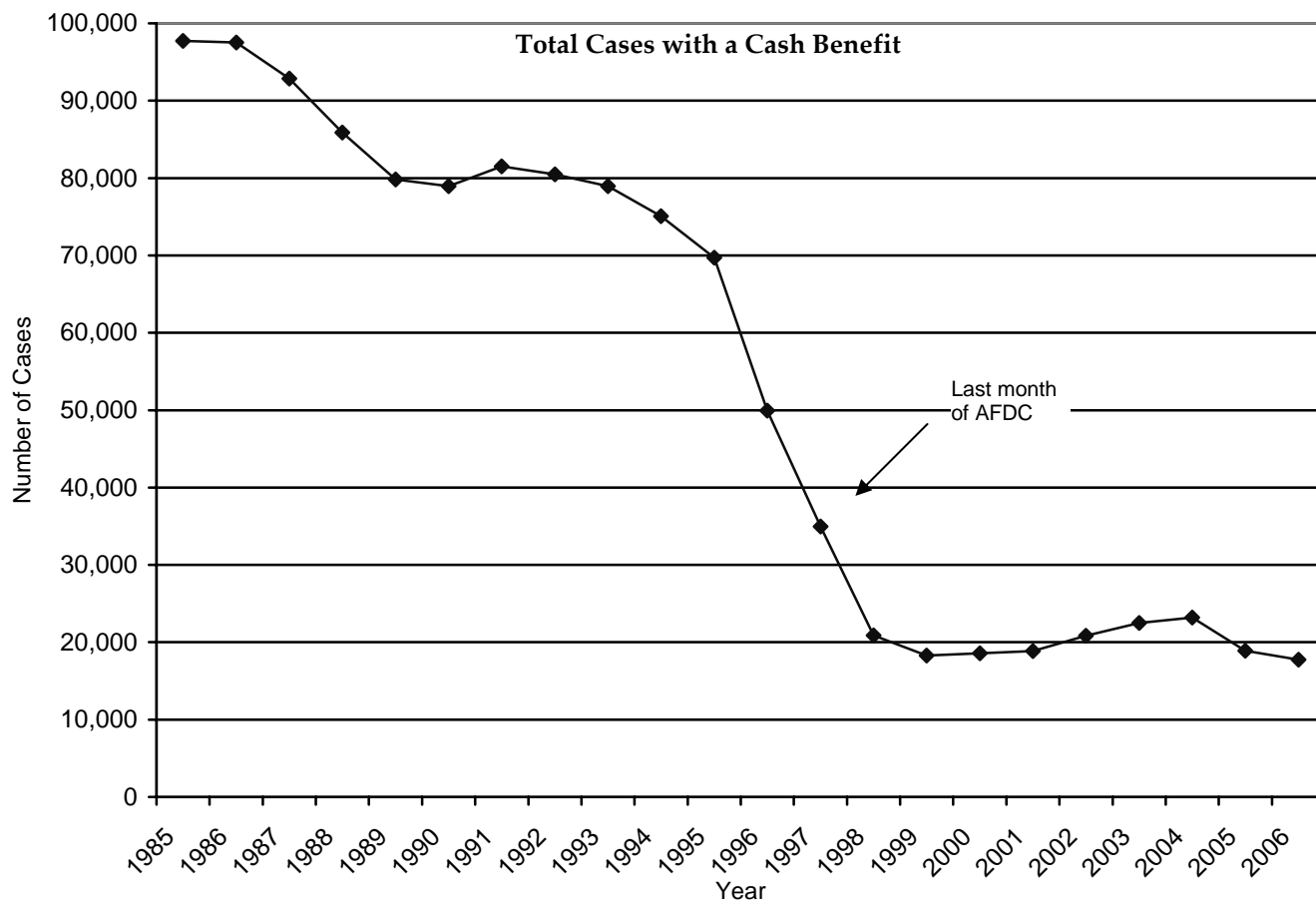
Breakdown into W-2 Employment Positions. During the month of September, 2006, DWD reported 10,198 cases receiving a W-2 cash benefit or case management services. Of those, 29.0% were placed in transitional placements, 23.5% were placed in a community service job, 0.1% were placed in a trial job and 13.1% received a benefit as a caretaker of a child under 13 weeks of age. The remaining 34.3% were receiving case management services only.

Kinship Care and Caretaker Supplement Recipients. When comparing caseloads for the AFDC program with the W-2 program, it is important to include the kinship care and SSI caretaker supplement cases, as these cases previously received AFDC benefits and are included in the August, 1997, AFDC caseloads.

Table 8: Program Participation

	Aug. 1997	Sept. 1998	Sept. 1999	Sept. 2000	Sept. 2001	Sept. 2002	Sept. 2003	Sept. 2004	Sept. 2005	Sept. 2006
The AFDC Program	34,491	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
The W-2 Program -Total	---	15,241	11,388	11,172	11,796	13,657	14,790	15,849	11,305	10,198
W-2 Cash Benefit	---	10,047	7,389	6,772	8,062	9,993	11,287	12,013	7,881	6,701
W-2 Case Management	---	5,194	3,999	4,400	3,734	3,664	3,503	3,836	3,424	3,497
W-2 Employment Positions										
Transitional Placements	---	2,261	2,452	2,510	2,665	3,335	4,003	4,703	3,513	2,953
Community Service Jobs	---	6,822	3,899	3,159	4,133	5,325	5,737	5,889	2,951	2,396
Trial Jobs	---	83	42	25	19	37	18	29	21	13
Caring for a Newborn	---	881	996	1,078	1,245	1,296	1,529	1,392	1,396	1,339
Kinship Care	457	5,163	5,368	6,232	4,893	5,200	5,263	5,188	5,149	5,320
Caretaker Supplement	---	<u>5,668</u>	<u>5,516</u>	<u>5,576</u>	<u>5,889</u>	<u>5,646</u>	<u>5,925</u>	<u>5,992</u>	<u>5,883</u>	<u>5,744</u>
Total Cases with a Cash Benefit	34,948	20,878	18,273	18,580	18,844	20,839	22,475	23,193	18,913	17,765
Percent Change		-40.3%	-12.5%	1.7%	1.4%	10.6%	7.9%	3.2%	-18.5%	-6.1%

Source: Department of Workforce Development & Department of Health and Family Services



Kinship Care. Counties began transitioning cases from AFDC to kinship care on January 1, 1997. Beginning April 1, 1997, all new cases were assessed for kinship care eligibility. As shown in the table, it was estimated that there were 457 caretakers receiving kinship care payments in August, 1997. Counties were required to transfer all eligible cases to kinship care by December 31, 1997. The number of kinship care cases was at a high of 6,232 in September, 2000, and was at 5,320 in September, 2006.

Caretaker Supplement. Beginning January 1, 1998, AFDC cases involving dependent children of SSI recipients were converted to the SSI caretaker supplement. The number of families receiving a caretaker supplement was 5,744 in September, 2006.

Total Cases Receiving a Cash Benefit. As shown at the bottom of Table 8, the number of cases receiving a cash benefit fell from nearly 35,000 in August, 1997, to about 18,300 in September, 1999, a decline of 47.7%. The caseload increased in each year from 1999 to 2004 (about 23,200). The 2004 caseload was 26.9% higher than the 1999 level and 33.6% lower than the 1997 level.

The caseload again declined from 2004 to 2006 (about 17,800, a decline of 23.4%). The 2006 caseload is 49.2% lower than the 1997 level.

Historically, Wisconsin's AFDC caseload peaked at over 100,300 in April, 1986, and then began to decline. By 1990, the average monthly number of cases had fallen 19.2% as compared to the average monthly caseload for 1986. From 1991 to 1992 the average monthly number of cases increased slightly before beginning an extended decline. In March 1996, the caseload was 62,900, when the state implemented two significant reforms—the self-sufficiency first and pay-for-performance initiatives. By August, 1997, the caseload had declined 44.4% compared to the March, 1996, caseload. Since the peak caseload in April, 1986, the number of cases receiving cash benefits in Wisconsin has de-

clined by 82.3%.

Nationwide, the number of families receiving cash benefits under the AFDC program increased nearly every year from 1986 to 1994. In 1986, there were approximately 11 million AFDC recipients, representing 4.6% of the total U.S. population. In 1994, the caseload had increased to 14.2 million recipients representing 5.5% of the total population. After 1994, however, national caseloads began to decline, and continued to decline after the enactment of the federal welfare reform legislation in August, 1996. According to the federal Department of Health and Human Services, from federal fiscal year 1996 to federal fiscal year 2004, caseloads declined in every state and territory but Guam, resulting in a drop in the caseload over that time period of 58.3% nationwide. As of June, 2005, the number of TANF recipients nationwide was 4.5 million, which represented 1.5% of the population.

It should be noted that it is unclear how many cases nationwide now receive benefits under programs similar to the kinship care program and the caretaker supplement program in Wisconsin. These cases are not all included in national caseload data because they are not all funded with TANF. Therefore, the national decline in caseloads of 58.3% is likely overstated by an unknown amount.

Additional W-2 Caseload Information

More information regarding the current W-2 caseload is presented in Attachments 3 through 6. Attachment 3 shows the subsidized employment caseload for each W-2 agency in the state for October, 2006. Attachment 4 shows the number of W-2 participants in November, 2006, including both subsidized and unsubsidized employment, by age of the W-2 participant. All W-2 participants must be 18 years of age or older. Attachment 5 provides information regarding the number of children in W-2 groups, showing an average number of children of 1.9 per family. Finally, Attachment 6 provides

information on the interaction between W-2 and other services. It shows the total number of cases where participants were receiving W-2 cash assistance and/or case management services for the month of April for the years 1998 through 2006. It compares the total W-2 caseload with the number of W-2 cases that also receive medical assistance, FoodShare, or child care services.

years 2004-05 and 2005-06. As reflected in the table the growth is due primarily to the increase in childcare caseloads, although the average family subsidy amount has slightly increased over the two-year period. In addition, the type of child care being used has remained fairly constant at about 84% of families using more expensive licensed child care, as opposed to certified care.

Child Care Participation

Child care subsidies have increased from \$84.5 million in 1997-98 (the program's first year of operation under W-2) to \$294.3 million in 2004-05 and \$311.9 million in 2005-06.

Table 9 shows the recent level of growth in the subsidy program by comparing data for fiscal

Table 9: Child Care Subsidy Program Growth

	2004-05	2005-06	Growth
Average Monthly Subsidies	\$24,527,400	\$25,995,200	6.0%
Average Number of Children	52,300	54,600	4.4
Average Number of Families	30,200	31,200	3.3
Average Subsidy per Family	\$812	\$833	2.6

Source: Department of Workforce Development

ATTACHMENT 1

Child Care Copayment Schedule February 26, 2006*

FPL	Gross Monthly Income by Family Size										Weekly Copay Requirement																	
	2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10+		Children in Licensed Care					Children in Certified Care				
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	4	5+	1	2	3	4	5+				
70%	\$770	\$968	\$1,167	\$1,365	\$1,563	\$1,762	\$1,960	\$2,158	\$2,357	\$5	\$8	\$13	\$17	\$22	\$2	\$6	\$10	\$12	\$16	\$5	\$8	\$13	\$17	\$22				
75	825	1,038	1,250	1,463	1,675	1,888	2,100	2,313	2,525	5	11	16	20	25	4	7	11	15	17	5	11	16	20	25				
80	880	1,107	1,333	1,560	1,787	2,013	2,240	2,467	2,693	7	12	17	23	28	6	8	12	17	20	7	12	17	23	28				
85	935	1,176	1,417	1,658	1,898	2,139	2,380	2,621	2,862	11	16	20	25	33	7	11	14	18	22	11	16	20	25	33				
90	990	1,245	1,500	1,755	2,010	2,265	2,520	2,775	3,030	12	19	25	31	37	9	13	17	22	27	12	19	25	31	37				
95	1,045	1,314	1,583	1,853	2,122	2,391	2,660	2,929	3,198	16	23	30	37	43	11	16	20	25	32	16	23	30	37	43				
100	1,100	1,383	1,667	1,950	2,233	2,517	2,800	3,083	3,367	17	25	33	41	48	12	17	22	28	34	17	25	33	41	48				
105	1,155	1,453	1,750	2,048	2,345	2,643	2,940	3,238	3,535	20	28	36	43	51	15	19	24	30	37	20	28	36	43	51				
110	1,210	1,522	1,833	2,145	2,457	2,768	3,080	3,392	3,703	23	31	38	46	53	16	22	26	31	38	23	31	38	46	53				
115	1,265	1,591	1,917	2,243	2,568	2,894	3,220	3,546	3,872	25	33	41	49	56	18	23	29	34	40	25	33	41	49	56				
120	1,320	1,660	2,000	2,340	2,680	3,020	3,360	3,700	4,040	28	36	43	51	59	19	25	30	36	41	28	36	43	51	59				
125	1,375	1,729	2,083	2,438	2,792	3,146	3,500	3,854	4,208	31	39	46	54	63	22	27	33	37	44	31	39	46	54	63				
130	1,430	1,798	2,167	2,535	2,903	3,272	3,640	4,008	4,377	33	42	51	60	69	23	29	36	41	48	33	42	51	60	69				
135	1,485	1,868	2,250	2,633	3,015	3,398	3,780	4,163	4,545	36	46	55	66	75	25	31	39	46	52	36	46	55	66	75				
140	1,540	1,937	2,333	2,730	3,127	3,523	3,920	4,317	4,713	38	48	59	69	80	27	34	41	48	55	38	48	59	69	80				
145	1,595	2,006	2,417	2,828	3,238	3,649	4,060	4,471	4,882	41	51	60	71	81	29	36	42	51	56	41	51	60	71	81				
150	1,650	2,075	2,500	2,925	3,350	3,775	4,200	4,625	5,050	43	53	64	73	85	30	37	45	52	59	43	53	64	73	85				
155	1,705	2,144	2,583	3,023	3,462	3,901	4,340	4,779	5,218	46	55	66	76	87	31	40	46	53	60	46	55	66	76	87				
160	1,760	2,213	2,667	3,120	3,573	4,027	4,480	4,933	5,387	48	59	69	80	90	34	41	48	56	63	48	59	69	80	90				
165	1,815	2,283	2,750	3,218	3,685	4,153	4,620	5,088	5,555	49	61	71	81	92	35	42	51	57	64	49	61	71	81	92				
170	1,870	2,352	2,833	3,315	3,797	4,278	4,760	5,242	5,723	50	64	74	85	94	36	45	52	59	65	50	64	74	85	94				
175	1,925	2,421	2,917	3,413	3,908	4,404	4,900	5,396	5,892	52	65	76	87	96	37	46	53	60	67	52	65	76	87	96				
180	1,980	2,490	3,000	3,510	4,020	4,530	5,040	5,550	6,060	54	68	80	90	99	38	48	56	63	70	54	68	80	90	99				
185	2,035	2,559	3,083	3,608	4,132	4,656	5,180	5,704	6,228	55	70	82	91	102	39	51	57	64	71	55	70	82	91	102				
190	2,090	2,628	3,167	3,705	4,243	4,782	5,320	5,858	6,397	56	71	85	94	104	40	52	59	65	74	56	71	85	94	104				
195	2,145	2,698	3,250	3,803	4,355	4,908	5,460	6,013	6,565	59	73	87	96	107	41	53	60	68	75	59	73	87	96	107				
200	2,200	2,767	3,333	3,900	4,467	5,033	5,600	6,167	6,733	60	75	89	99	109	42	55	63	70	76	60	75	89	99	109				

Look down the column of the appropriate family size until locating the gross monthly family income level or just less than the family income. Look to the right to find the co-pay.

* Non-court ordered kinship care parents and teen parents who are not Learnfare participants are subject to the minimum copay, which is found by selecting the lowest income line (70% FPL) and then finding the copayment listed, under either licensed care or certified care, for the appropriate number of children. Parents who have left a W-2 employment position for unsubsidized work also qualify for the minimum copay for one month. Children who are authorized for 20 hours or less are subject to one-half of their share of the family copay listed above. Foster care and kinship care parents who have court-ordered placement of a child, as well as Learnfare and Food Stamp Employment and Training participants, are not subject to copay requirements.

Source: Department of Workforce Development

ATTACHMENT 2

2006 Maximum Child Care Reimbursement Rates

Counties	Licensed Group						Licensed Family						Regularly Certified			Provisionally Certified				
	0-2 Weekly Ceiling	0-2 Hourly Rate	2-3 Weekly Ceiling	2-3 Hourly Rate	4-5 Weekly Ceiling	4-5 Hourly Rate	6+ Weekly Ceiling	6+ Hourly Rate	0-2 Weekly Ceiling	0-2 Hourly Rate	2-3 Weekly Ceiling	2-3 Hourly Rate	4-5 Weekly Ceiling	4-5 Hourly Rate	6+ Weekly Ceiling	6+ Hourly Rate	0-2 Hourly Rate	2-3 Hourly Rate	4-5 Hourly Rate	6+ Hourly Rate
Adams	\$98.04	\$2.80	\$90.71	\$2.59	\$90.71	\$2.59	\$90.71	\$2.59	\$110.00	\$3.14	\$110.00	\$3.14	\$110.00	\$3.14	\$104.50	\$2.99	\$2.36	\$2.36	\$2.36	\$2.24
Ashland	145.75	4.16	145.00	4.14	132.00	3.77	130.00	3.71	131.00	3.74	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.81	2.36	2.36	2.36
Barron	121.00	3.46	110.00	3.14	104.50	2.99	99.00	2.83	115.00	3.29	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.46	2.36	2.36	2.36
Bayfield	138.00	3.94	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	115.43	3.30	125.00	3.57	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.68	2.36	2.36	2.36
Brown	206.80	5.91	169.40	4.84	148.50	4.24	147.40	4.21	143.00	4.09	132.00	3.77	126.50	3.61	122.10	3.49	3.06	2.83	2.71	2.62
Buffalo	137.50	3.93	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	123.75	3.54	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.65	2.36	2.36	2.36
Burnett	138.00	3.94	126.00	3.60	126.00	3.60	126.00	3.60	126.00	3.60	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.70	2.36	2.36	2.36
Calumet	181.50	5.19	165.00	4.71	153.00	4.37	143.00	4.09	150.00	4.29	135.00	3.86	135.00	3.86	130.00	3.71	3.21	2.89	2.79	2.79
Chippewa	162.00	4.63	145.00	4.14	140.00	4.00	130.00	3.71	131.00	3.74	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	120.00	3.43	2.81	2.68	2.57	2.57
Clark	121.00	3.46	115.50	3.30	104.50	2.99	104.50	2.99	111.38	3.18	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.39	2.36	2.36	2.36
Columbia	162.00	4.63	145.00	4.14	140.00	4.00	130.00	3.71	131.00	3.74	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	120.00	3.43	2.81	2.68	2.57	2.57
Crawford	157.38	4.50	145.00	4.14	126.93	3.63	126.93	3.63	131.00	3.74	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.81	2.36	2.36	2.36
Dane	232.00	6.63	200.00	5.71	180.00	5.14	175.00	5.00	190.00	5.43	175.50	5.01	165.00	4.71	157.50	4.50	4.07	3.76	3.57	3.38
Dodge	162.00	4.63	145.00	4.14	140.00	4.00	142.88	4.08	135.00	3.86	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	121.50	3.47	2.89	2.68	2.57	2.60
Door	162.00	4.63	145.00	4.14	140.00	4.00	130.00	3.71	131.00	3.74	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	120.00	3.43	2.81	2.68	2.57	2.57
Douglas	165.00	4.71	156.75	4.48	140.25	4.01	132.00	3.77	150.00	4.29	135.00	3.86	135.00	3.86	130.00	3.71	3.21	2.89	2.79	2.79
Dunn	143.00	4.09	145.00	4.14	137.50	3.93	121.00	3.46	131.00	3.74	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	120.00	3.43	2.81	2.68	2.57	2.57
Eau Claire	183.43	5.24	171.60	4.90	157.30	4.49	143.00	4.09	165.00	4.71	148.50	4.24	148.50	4.24	148.50	4.24	3.54	3.18	3.18	3.18
Florence	153.00	4.37	144.00	4.11	135.00	3.86	126.00	3.60	153.00	4.37	153.00	4.37	117.00	3.34	117.00	3.34	3.28	3.28	2.51	2.51
Fond du Lac	170.50	4.87	152.90	4.37	137.50	3.93	136.13	3.89	137.50	3.93	126.50	3.61	126.50	3.61	124.30	3.55	2.95	2.71	2.66	2.66
Forest	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	157.50	4.50	135.00	3.86	135.00	3.86	112.50	3.21	3.38	2.89	2.41	2.41
Grant	129.25	3.69	129.25	3.69	128.25	3.66	123.75	3.54	121.00	3.46	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.59	2.36	2.36	2.36
Green	171.00	4.89	149.40	4.27	140.00	4.00	130.00	3.71	131.00	3.74	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	120.00	3.43	2.81	2.68	2.57	2.57
Green Lake	160.60	4.59	145.00	4.14	138.60	3.96	130.00	3.71	131.00	3.74	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	120.00	3.43	2.81	2.68	2.57	2.57
Iowa	138.00	3.94	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	115.00	3.29	125.00	3.57	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.68	2.36	2.36	2.36
Iron	134.75	3.85	123.75	3.54	123.75	3.54	123.75	3.54	135.00	3.86	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	120.00	3.43	2.89	2.68	2.57	2.57
Jackson	154.00	4.40	107.25	3.06	107.25	3.06	116.60	3.33	111.38	3.18	110.00	3.14	99.00	2.83	99.00	2.83	2.39	2.36	2.12	2.12
Jefferson	181.50	5.19	148.50	4.24	134.20	3.83	136.13	3.89	150.00	4.29	135.00	3.86	135.00	3.86	130.00	3.71	3.21	2.89	2.79	2.79
Juneau	138.00	3.94	130.50	3.73	126.00	3.60	126.00	3.60	123.75	3.54	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.65	2.36	2.36	2.36
Kenosha	221.10	6.32	200.00	5.71	176.00	5.03	170.50	4.87	190.00	5.43	175.00	5.00	165.00	4.71	155.00	4.43	4.07	3.75	3.54	3.32
Kewaunee	138.00	3.94	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	115.00	3.29	118.80	3.39	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.55	2.36	2.36	2.36
La Crosse	170.50	4.87	143.00	4.09	143.00	4.09	140.80	4.02	143.00	4.09	132.00	3.77	126.50	3.61	115.50	3.30	3.06	2.83	2.71	2.48
Lafayette	121.00	3.46	104.50	2.99	104.50	2.99	104.50	2.99	125.00	3.57	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.68	2.36	2.36	2.36
Langlade	162.00	4.63	145.00	4.14	140.00	4.00	130.00	3.71	131.00	3.74	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	120.00	3.43	2.81	2.68	2.57	2.57
Lincoln	149.88	4.28	116.88	3.34	105.88	3.03	110.00	3.14	135.00	3.86	125.00	3.57	120.00	3.43	120.00	3.43	2.89	2.68	2.57	2.57

ATTACHMENT 2 (continued)

2006 Maximum Child Care Reimbursement Rates

	Licensed Group				Licensed Family				Regularly Certified			Provisionally Certified				
	0 - 2 Weekly Rate	2 - 3 Weekly Rate	4 - 5 Weekly Rate	6+ Weekly Rate	0 - 2 Weekly Rate	2 - 3 Weekly Rate	4 - 5 Weekly Rate	6+ Weekly Rate	0 - 2 Hourly Rate	2 - 3 Hourly Rate	4 - 5 Hourly Rate	6+ Hourly Rate	0 - 2 Hourly Rate	2 - 3 Hourly Rate	4 - 5 Hourly Rate	6+ Hourly Rate
Winnebago	\$225.50	\$183.70	\$169.40	\$4.56	\$165.00	\$4.71	\$148.50	\$4.24	\$143.00	\$4.09	\$143.00	\$4.09	\$3.54	\$3.18	\$3.06	\$3.06
Bad River	154.00	137.50	137.50	3.77	137.50	3.93	126.50	3.61	126.50	3.61	126.50	3.61	2.95	2.71	2.71	2.71
Wood	\$145.75	\$145.00	\$132.00	\$3.71	\$131.00	\$3.74	\$110.00	\$3.14	\$110.00	\$3.14	\$110.00	\$3.14	\$2.81	\$2.36	\$2.36	\$2.36
Tribes*																
La Courte	126.50	104.50	104.50	2.99	125.00	3.57	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.68	2.36	2.36	2.36
Lac du Flambeau	180.00	121.00	110.00	3.29	125.00	3.57	111.38	3.18	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.68	2.39	2.36	2.36
Oneida	206.80	169.40	148.50	4.21	143.00	4.09	132.00	3.77	126.50	3.61	122.10	3.49	3.06	2.83	2.71	2.62
Red Cliff	138.00	125.00	120.00	3.30	125.00	3.57	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	110.00	3.14	2.68	2.36	2.36	2.36
Sokaogon	110.00	110.00	110.00	3.14	157.50	4.50	135.00	3.86	135.00	3.86	112.50	3.21	3.38	2.89	2.89	2.41

*Forest County Potawatomi, HoChunk, St.Croix, and Stockbridge-Munsee do not administer a child care subsidy program.

Source: Department of Workforce Development

ATTACHMENT 3

Subsidized Employment Caseload By Agency October, 2006

Agency	Total Cases	Trial Job	CSJ	Trans.	Parent of Infant	Agency	Total Cases	Trial Job	CSJ	Trans.	Parent of Infant
Counties						Counties					
Adams	14	0	4	7	3	Waupaca	18	0	1	3	14
Ashland	11	0	0	4	7	Winnebago	51	0	9	13	29
Bayfield	6	0	1	4	1	Wood	<u>52</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
Buffalo	2	0	1	1	0	Subtotal	1,338	2	187	513	636
Burnett	3	0	0	0	3	Milwaukee Agencies					
Calumet	14	0	1	4	9	Maximus	1,885	3	851	798	233
Clark	5	0	0	2	3	YWCA	640	0	258	274	108
Crawford	7	0	0	0	7	UMOS	2,017	5	975	818	219
Dane	278	1	55	117	105	UMOS (SSI Advocacy)	322	0	0	320	2
Dodge	24	0	3	6	15	No Agency	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Door	8	0	0	4	4	Subtotal	4,865	8	2,084	2,210	563
Dunn	21	0	9	8	4	Other Non-County					
Eau Claire	30	1	5	15	9	Barron	10	0	0	4	6
Fond du Lac	31	0	5	10	16	Brown	85	1	11	7	66
Grant	2	0	0	1	1	Chippewa	26	0	2	10	14
Green	9	0	0	1	8	Columbia	7	0	1	1	5
Green Lake	6	0	0	3	3	Douglas	34	0	2	19	13
Iowa	3	0	0	1	2	Florence	5	0	4	1	0
Iron	1	0	0	1	0	Forest	5	0	2	1	2
Jefferson	8	0	0	0	8	Jackson	3	0	0	1	2
Kenosha	226	0	32	116	78	Juneau	5	0	0	0	5
La Crosse	29	0	4	8	17	Kewaunee	3	0	0	0	3
Lafayette	5	0	0	1	4	Langlade	6	0	0	2	4
Manitowoc	4	0	2	0	2	Lincoln	7	0	0	2	5
Marathon	42	0	19	6	17	Menominee	0	0	0	0	0
Marinette	1	0	0	0	1	Monroe	5	0	0	1	4
Marquette	2	0	0	1	1	Oneida	5	0	0	0	5
Oconto	7	0	0	1	6	Ozaukee	26	0	7	10	9
Outagamie	30	0	4	7	19	Pierce	1	0	0	1	0
Pepin	2	0	0	0	2	Shawano	14	0	7	5	2
Polk	6	0	0	5	1	St. Croix	3	0	0	0	3
Portage	35	0	2	20	13	Trempealeau	6	0	0	3	3
Price	6	0	0	2	4	Vilas	3	0	0	1	2
Racine	144	0	8	43	93	Walworth	33	0	2	20	11
Richland	7	0	0	1	6	Washington	37	0	5	15	17
Rock	131	0	5	55	71	Waukesha	73	0	6	32	35
Rusk	2	0	0	2	0	Waushara	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
Sauk	13	0	0	1	12	Subtotal	411	1	52	140	218
Sawyer	2	0	0	2	0	Total					
Sheboygan	32	0	5	12	15	6,614	11	2,323	2,863	1,417	
Taylor	8	0	0	5	3						
Vernon	0	0	0	0	0						
Washburn	0	0	0	0	0						

Source: Department of Workforce Development.

ATTACHMENT 4

W-2 Participants by Age Including Subsidized Employment and Case Management Cases November, 2006

Age of W-2 Participant	Number of Participants
Under 20	900
20-24	3,350
25-29	2,127
30-34	1,318
35-39	1,094
40 and over	<u>1,444</u>
Total Participants	10,233

Source: Department of Workforce Development

ATTACHMENT 5

Number of Children in W-2 Assistance Groups November, 2006

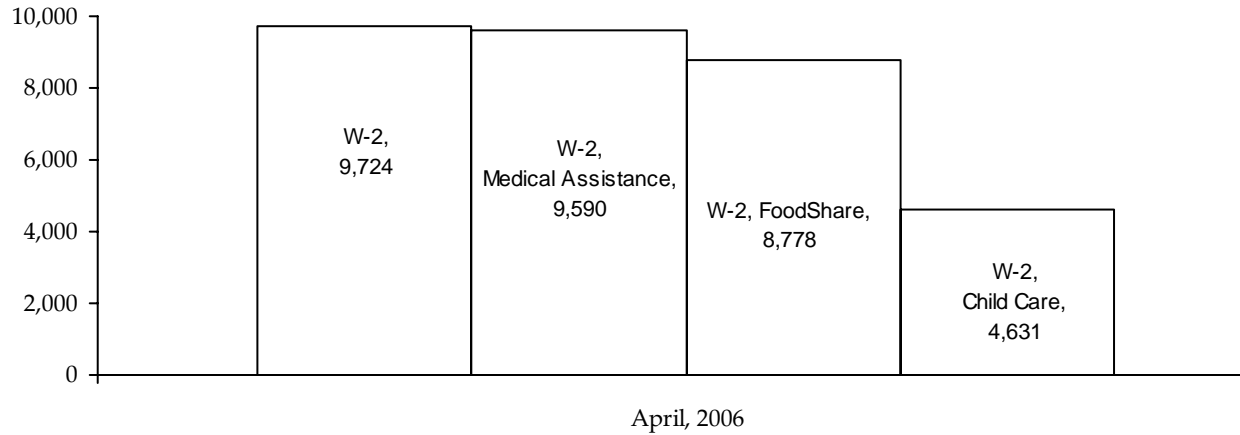
Number of Children	Number of Assistance Groups
0*	42
1	5,045
2	2,745
3	1,385
4 or more	<u>1,016</u>
Total Groups	10,233
Average Number of Children	1.9

*Almost all were case management only pregnant women with no eligible children.

Source: Department of Workforce Development

ATTACHMENT 6

Interaction Between W-2 and Other Programs



- Nearly all W-2 participants are also enrolled in medical assistance. The percentage of W-2 participants that were also enrolled in medical assistance in April, 2006, was 98.6%.
- W-2 participants automatically meet the financial eligibility requirements for the FoodShare program. The percentage of W-2 participants that were also receiving FoodShare in April, 2006, was 90.3%.
- About half of W-2 participants are eligible for child care subsidies. The percentage of W-2 participants eligible for child care subsidies in April, 2006, was 47.6%.

Source: Department of Workforce Development

APPENDIX A

Nonfinancial Eligibility Requirements for W-2 Employment Positions and Job Access Loans

1. The individual is a custodial parent who has attained the age of 18.

2. The individual is a U.S. citizen or qualifying alien who is: (a) lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; (b) granted asylum; (c) a refugee; (d) paroled into the U.S. for a period of at least one year; (e) in the U.S. but whose deportation is being withheld; (f) granted conditional entry; (g) an Amerasian immigrant as defined in section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988; (h) a Cuban-Haitian immigrant as defined in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980; (i) a battered immigrant or an immigrant whose child or children have been battered; (j) certified as a victim of trafficking; (k) an American Indian born in Canada who is at least 50% American Indian by blood; (l) an American Indian born outside of the United States who is a member of a federally-recognized Indian tribe; (m) lawfully residing in the United States and is either an armed forces veteran who received an honorable discharge, on active duty, or the spouse of a veteran or an individual on active duty; or (n) lawfully residing in the United States and authorized to work by the immigration and naturalization service.

3. The individual has residence in Wisconsin. Prior to 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, there was a 60-day residency requirement.

4. Every parent in the individual's W-2 group fully cooperates in good faith with efforts to establish paternity of the dependent child and obtain support payments or any other payments or property to which that parent and the dependent child may have rights, unless it is determined that the parent has good cause for not cooperating. An

individual in the W-2 group who fails three times to cooperate may not be eligible until all members of the W-2 group cooperate or for a period of six months, whichever is later.

Good cause for not cooperating includes the following: (a) cooperation is reasonably anticipated to result in physical or emotional harm to the child for whom support is being sought, or to the parent with whom the child is living; (b) cooperating with the child support agency would make it more difficult to escape domestic abuse or unfairly penalize the individual victimized or at risk of being victimized of domestic abuse; (c) the child for whom support is sought was conceived as a result of incest or sexual assault; (d) a petition for the adoption of the child has been filed with the court, and proceeding to establish paternity or secure support would be detrimental to the child; or (e) the parent is being assisted by a public or private social agency in deciding whether or not to terminate parental rights and the discussions have not lasted for more than three months.

5. The individual furnishes the W-2 agency with any relevant information that the agency determines is necessary, within seven working days after receiving a request for the information. The agency may extend the seven-day requirement if the agency determines that compliance within seven days would be unduly burdensome for an individual. W-2 agencies must keep all information regarding victims of domestic abuse strictly confidential, except to the extent needed to administer W-2.

6. The individual has made a good faith effort, as determined by the W-2 agency on a case-by-case basis, to obtain employment and has not refused a bona fide job offer within the 180 days immediately

preceding the application.

7. The individual is not receiving federal or state supplemental security income payments. If the individual is a dependent child, the custodial parent of the individual may not be receiving an SSI caretaker supplement payment on behalf of the individual. Under administrative rule, the individual also may not be receiving federal social security disability insurance payments.

8. On the last day of the month, the individual is not participating in a strike.

9. The individual applies for or provides a social security number for all W-2 group members.

10. The individual reports any change in circumstances that may affect his or her eligibility to the W-2 agency within 10 days after the change.

11. If the individual has applied for W-2 within the 180 days immediately preceding the current application, the individual has cooperated with the efforts of a W-2 agency to assist the individual in obtaining employment.

12. No other individual in the W-2 group is a participant in a W-2 employment position. This provision does not apply to an individual applying for a job access loan.

13. The individual is not a fugitive felon, or violating a condition of probation, extended supervision, or parole imposed under federal or state law.

14. The individual assigns to the state any right

of the individual or of any dependent child of the individual to support or maintenance from any other person that accrues during the time that any W-2 benefit is paid to the individual. No amount of support that begins to accrue after the individual ceases to receive benefits under W-2 may be assigned to the state. Under Wisconsin law, all support assigned to the state that does not have to be provided to the federal government as the federal share of assigned support is passed through to the family.

15. The individual states in writing whether the individual has been convicted in any state or federal court of a felony relating to possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance.

16. The individual cooperates in providing information needed to verify enrollment or good cause for the Learnfare program.

17. The individual cooperates in the requirement to search for unsubsidized employment throughout his or her participation in a W-2 employment position.

18. The individual cooperates in applying for other public assistance programs or resources that the financial and employment planner in the W-2 agency believes may be available to the individual.

19. The individual cooperates with providing eligibility information for other members of the W-2 group.

20. The individual cooperates with providing information for quality assurance reviews.

APPENDIX B

2006-2009 W-2 Agency Contract Performance Standards

Mandatory Standards		
Criteria	Benchmark	Applicable
<p>Entered Employment Placement Rate: Percentage of total individuals served by the agency (excluding SSI tracked individuals) for which an individual participating in W-2 or FSET obtains unsubsidized employment or better paying unsubsidized employment expected to last 30 days or longer.</p>	<p>Balance of State (BOS) and Milwaukee CMA: As of 12/31/06 -- 35% As of 12/31/07 -- 40% As of 12/31/08 -- 45%</p> <p>Milwaukee JDPA Agencies: As of 12/31/06 -- 45% As of 12/31/07 -- 50% As of 12/31/08 -- 55%</p>	<p>CMA: Yes JDPA: Yes SSI: No BOS: Yes</p>
<p>Retention/Stabilization in the Workforce: Percentage of entered employment placements for whom total unemployment insurance wages for the two quarters following the quarter of employment are equal to or greater than the target amount.</p>	<p>50% or more</p> <p>Target Amount: \$5,928 between 10/1/05 and 12/31/06 \$6,760 after 1/1/07</p>	<p>CMA: Yes JDPA: Yes SSI: No BOS: Yes</p>
<p>Wage at Employment: Total entered employment placements for whom starting wages were equal to or greater than the targeted outcome for that geographic area or consortium.</p>	<p>Benchmark set for each individual contract agency based on past W-2/FSET performance.</p> <p>Targeted outcomes calculated using average entered employment wages of W-2 and FSET individuals for each contract agency.</p>	<p>CMA: No JDPA: Yes SSI: No BOS: Yes</p>
<p>Success of Job Skills Training: Percentage of participants who successfully complete a job skills training activity and record an entered employment placement during the training or within 60 days of completion of the job skills training activity.</p>	<p>75% or more</p>	<p>CMA: No JDPA: Yes SSI: No BOS: Yes</p>
<p>SSI/SSDI Receipt: Percentage of the total participants receiving SSI/SSDI advocacy services for whom SSI/SSDI is awarded.</p>	<p>30% of all cases in BOS that are assigned SSI/SSDI advocacy or in Milwaukee that are assigned to the SSI advocacy agency approved for SSI up to 12 months from the assignment</p> <p>45% of all cases in BOS that are assigned SSI/SSDI advocacy or in Milwaukee that are assigned to the SSI advocacy agency approved for SSI up to 24 months from the assignment</p>	<p>CMA: No JDPA: No SSI: Yes BOS: Yes</p>
<p>Basic Education Activities: Adult W-2 participants who do not have a high school diploma or its equivalency in basic education, English as a second language, GED, high school equivalency, literacy skills, and regular high school.</p>	<p>65% or more</p>	<p>CMA: Yes JDPA: No SSI: Yes BOS: Yes</p>

Mandatory Standards (continued)

Criteria	Benchmark	Applicable
<p>Assessment: Set of evaluations that each W-2 participant who is placed in a subsidized or unsubsidized employment position (excluding caretakers of newborn infants) receives.</p> <p>For W-2: participants who are placed in any subsidized or unsubsidized W-2 placement (excluding caretakers of newborn infants) either initially or as movement from one placement to another, must have an informal assessment completed and documented within 30 calendar days before or after the date that W-2 placement begins.</p> <p>For transitional placements only: participants who are placed in a transitional placement must have a formal assessment initiated or completed and documented within 30 calendar days before or after the placement begins. The assessment must be by a medical or mental health/alcohol and other drug abuse health professional, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation counselor, or similarly qualified assessing agency or business.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">For W-2 Placements: at least 95%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For Transitional Placements: at least 95%</p>	<p>CMA: Yes JDPA: No SSI: Yes BOS: Yes</p>

Incentive Standards

Criteria	Incentive Amount	Applicable
<p>Job Entry Rate Less Than or Equal To 90 Days: Each W-2 or FSET individual who obtains an entered employment placement within 90 days after the work program referral or transfer date, whose employment is expected to last 30 days or more.</p>	<p>2006-2007 amounts: CMA: \$350.00 JDPA: \$350.00 BOS: \$350.00</p>	<p>CMA: Yes JDPA: Yes SSI: No BOS: Yes</p>
<p>Job Entry Rate More Than 90 Days: Each W-2 or FSET individual who obtains an entered employment placement more than 90 days after the work program referral or transfer date, whose employment is expected to last 30 days or more.</p>	<p>2006-2007 amounts: CMA: \$200.00 JDPA: \$200.00 BOS: \$200.00</p>	<p>CMA: Yes JDPA: Yes SSI: No BOS: Yes</p>
<p>Employment Retention and Stabilization: Individuals who had an entered employment placement expected to last 30 days or longer between the fourth quarter of 2005 and the fourth quarter of 2009 and the unemployment insurance wages for the two quarters following the quarter of the entered employment were equal to or greater than the target of \$5,928.</p>	<p>2006-2007 amounts: CMA: \$500.00 JDPA: \$600.00 BOS: \$600.00</p>	<p>CMA: Yes JDPA: Yes SSI: No BOS: Yes</p>
<p>Approval and Receipt of SSI or SSDI: All W-2 individuals who after their W-2 begin date in a work program office, or within 60 days of W-2 ending, begin receiving SSI or SSDI.</p>	<p>2006-2007 amounts: CMA: \$250.00 SSI: \$1,150.00 BOS: \$800.00</p>	<p>CMA: Yes JDPA: No SSI: Yes BOS: Yes</p>

APPENDIX C

General Provisions Regarding the Use of Federal Funding Under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program and the Child Care Development Block Grant

TANF Funding

Wisconsin's annual TANF block grant allocation from the federal government is currently \$318.2 million. Under federal law, a tribal organization in a state may elect to operate a separate tribal public assistance program. For a tribe that submits an acceptable plan, the federal government will provide funding to the tribe and reduce the state's TANF block grant by an equivalent amount. After accounting for the eight separate tribal programs (Bad River, Forest County Potawatomi, Red Cliff, Mole Lake Sokaogon, Lac du Flambeau, Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican, Oneida, and Menominee), Wisconsin's annual TANF grant is \$314.5 million.

Congress has reauthorized the program through September 30, 2010 by including the reauthorization provision in the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The TANF block grant was reauthorized at the same funding level. In addition, state funding is provided for the W-2 program under maintenance-of-effort requirements. The MOE requirements are discussed in the following section.

General Requirements

There are three ways in which a state may use TANF funds. First, a state may transfer up to 30% of the TANF block grant to the programs funded by the federal child care block grant and the social services block grant (SSBG). Current federal regulations limit the amount that can be transferred to the SSBG to 10% of TANF funds.

Second, a state may expend TANF funds for any use that was allowable under the previous AFDC, JOBS, emergency assistance, and child care programs.

Third, a state may expend TANF funds in any manner that is reasonably calculated to accomplish one of the purposes of the TANF program. There are four purposes specified in federal law. These are: (a) to provide assistance to "needy families" so children may be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives; (b) to end the dependence of "needy parents" on government by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; (c) to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and (d) to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Programs that meet the first or second purposes of TANF must serve "needy" families or parents. Generally, "needy" means having income and assets at or below the income or asset levels set by the state in the TANF plan submitted to the federal government. Therefore, the state may establish the level at which a family or parent is considered needy. In Wisconsin, the income limits range from 115% of the federal poverty level for W-2 employment positions to 200% of the federal poverty level for grants to Boys and Girls Clubs of America to provide services through their gang outreach program to low income, TANF-eligible youth and for child care assistance after meeting the initial threshold of 185%. These income limits could be higher; however, the state must be able to justify that the income limit chosen is a low-income standard.

Programs that meet the third and fourth purposes of the TANF program can serve both

needy and non-needy families. Expenditures for non-needy families under the third and fourth purposes of TANF can only be funded with TANF and not MOE, due to the definition of eligible families for MOE funds discussed later in this appendix.

Expenditures Classified as Assistance

The federal regulations make a distinction between an expenditure that provides "assistance" and one that does not. Expenditures that are classified as "assistance" include cash, payments, vouchers, and other forms of benefits designed to meet a family's ongoing basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, utilities, household goods, personal care items, and general incidental expenses. These benefits also include supportive services such as child care and transportation for families that are not employed.

Expenditures that are not considered "assistance" include: (a) nonrecurring short-term benefits that are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need, are not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs, and will not extend beyond four months; (b) work subsidies; (c) supportive services such as child care and transportation for families that are employed; (d) refundable earned income tax credits; (e) contributions to and distributions from individual development accounts; (f) services such as counseling, case management, peer support, child care information and referral, transitional services, job retention, job advancement, and other employment related activities that do not provide basic income support; and (g) certain transportation benefits related to the job access and reverse commute program.

If the expenditure is for "assistance," then several requirements will apply as discussed below:

Child Living with Relative. States may only provide TANF assistance to pregnant women and

men or women who have dependent minor children living in the home. States may define families to include noncustodial parents, who may then engage in work activities, counseling, educational activities, parenting classes, or money management classes.

Paternity Establishment and Assignment of Child Support. Federal law requires families receiving TANF assistance to cooperate in establishing paternity for each minor child. If the individual fails to cooperate with establishing paternity and enforcing a support order with respect to a minor child, the state is required to reduce the amount of assistance provided to the family by 25%. The state may also deny the family any assistance. In addition, any right a family member may have to support from any other person must be assigned to the state. These requirements do not apply if the family has good cause to not cooperate or meets another exception defined by the state.

Time Limit. An individual may receive TANF assistance for a maximum of 60 months. States have the option to extend assistance paid for by federal TANF funds beyond the five-year limit for up to 20% of the average monthly number of families receiving assistance during the fiscal year or the immediately preceding fiscal year. States can extend assistance on the basis of: (a) hardship as defined by the state; or (b) the fact that the family includes someone who has been battered or subject to extreme cruelty.

If the federal government determines that a state has not complied with the time limit, there will be a 5% grant reduction. The TANF regulations indicate that this penalty may be avoided only if: (a) the failure is due to extensions in cases of domestic abuse; (b) the state had reasonable cause due to natural disasters, incorrect federal guidance, or isolated problems of minimal impact; or (c) the state achieves compliance under a corrective compliance plan.

Work Participation Requirements. Federal law requires that a work-eligible individual engage in work once the state determines the individual is ready, or after 24 months of receiving TANF assistance, whichever is earlier. A work-eligible individual is defined as an adult (or minor child head-of-household) who receives assistance under TANF or a separate state program or a non-recipient parent living with a child who receives such assistance unless the parent is: (a) a minor parent and not the head-of-household or spouse of the head-of-household; (b) an alien who is ineligible to receive assistance due to his or her immigration status; or (c) on a case-by-case basis, an SSI recipient. A work-eligible individual does not include a parent providing care for a disabled family member or an individual receiving MOE-funded assistance under an approved tribal TANF program.

For purposes of this provision, the types of required work activities are defined by the state. If a parent or caretaker has received assistance for two months, they must participate in community service employment unless the recipient is participating in work requirements or the state has exempted the recipient from work requirements.

In addition, the state must meet certain minimum work participation rates or incur financial penalties. For purposes of the work participation targets, federal law defines the types of activities that may be counted. The state's work participation rates had been reduced based on caseload reductions that have occurred since 1995. Under the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, beginning in FFY 2007, the state's work participation rates may be reduced based on caseload reductions that have occurred since 2005. However, states may not count caseload reductions that have occurred due to changes in federal requirements or state eligibility

requirements.

Table 10 shows the following information for all families and two-parent families by federal fiscal year: the original federal work participation requirement; the credit Wisconsin received for reduced caseloads; the adjusted target; and the actual worker participation rate.

The percentage credits for work participation rates in Table 10 are based on caseload reductions that have occurred since 1995. Although it appears the state may meet the target work participation rates for all families using caseload reductions that have occurred since 2005, it will be difficult to meet the two-parent family work participation rates based on caseload reductions since 2005.

If a state does not comply with the minimum participation requirements, the federal government can reduce the TANF grant from 5% to 21%, depending on how many years the state fails to meet the requirements and the degree of noncompliance. However, federal law states that grant reductions will be based on the degree of noncompliance and penalties may be reduced if non-compliance was due to a high rate of unemployment or extraordinary circumstances, such as a natural disaster or regional recession.

Table 10: Worker Participation Rates

	All Families				Two-Parent Families			
	Federal Target	Credit	Adjusted Target	Actual	Federal Target	Credit	Adjusted Target	Actual
FFY								
1998	30%	-42%	0%	64%	75%	-73%	2%	39%
1999	35	-70	0	80	90	-70	20	56
2000	40	-50	0	73	90	-69	21	35
2001	45	-73	0	75	90	-73	17	39
2002	50	-72	0	69	90	-72	18	39
2003	50	-52	0	67	90	-69	21	40
2004	50	-50	0	61	90	-69	21	33
2005	50	-49	1	52	90	-69	21	25
2006*	50	-53	0	42	90	-78	12	18

*Estimated through September, 2006

Recipients who refuse to work must be penalized unless they have good cause as defined by the state. The family's grant award must be reduced at least by the pro-rata share of the award for the time the family refused to comply with work requirements. If a state does not impose penalties on families, the TANF grant can be reduced from 1% to 5%.

In addition, the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requires states to establish work verification procedures, submit a work verification plan by September 30, 2006, and have the plan approved by September 30, 2007. The plan must include: (a) a description of how a work activity meets the relevant definition, of how the state determines the number of countable hours of participation for self-employed individuals, and of the documentation the state uses to monitor participation; (b) a description of the state's procedures for identifying all work-eligible individuals; (c) a description of how the state ensures that for each work-eligible individual the state accurately inputs data into the system, properly tracks the hours worked through the system, and accurately reports the hours; (d) a description of the procedures for ensuring the state does not transmit a work-eligible individual's hours of participation in an activity that does not meet a federal definition of a countable work activity; and (e) a description of the internal controls that the state has implemented to ensure a consistent measurement of the work participation rates, including the quality assurance processes and sampling specifications the state uses to monitor adherence to the established work verification procedures.

Failure to establish or comply with work participation verification procedures could result in a grant reduction from 1% to 5%. Failure to submit the required work verification plan could result in a 5% grant reduction. Failure to maintain adequate internal controls to ensure a consistent measurement of work participation could result in a grant reduction from 1% to 5%, depending on the number of years in violation of this requirement.

Minor Parents. Assistance may be provided to unmarried minor parents only if the minor parent has a high school diploma or participates in educational activities toward attaining a high school diploma or its equivalent. In addition, no assistance may be provided to unmarried minor parents who are not living in an adult-supervised living arrangement.

Data Reporting. States are required to report detailed information regarding individuals and families receiving TANF assistance. This information includes demographic information and detail on the type, amount, and length of assistance received.

Fraud Cases. States are required to deny assistance for a period of ten years to individuals convicted in federal or state court of having made a fraudulent statement or representation with respect to the individual's place of residence in order to receive TANF assistance, Medicaid, or food stamps simultaneously in two or more states.

Fugitive Felons and Drug Felons. States are required to deny assistance to fugitive felons and persons violating a condition of parole under state or federal law. In addition, individuals convicted of a felony involving possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance after August, 1996, are barred from receiving assistance from TANF or food stamps. However, the family of the drug felon can receive a reduced amount from these grants. States may opt out of the drug felon prohibition or limit the prohibition to a certain time period.

Expenditures Classified as "Non-Assistance"

If the expenditure can be classified as "non-assistance," the following TANF requirements do not need to apply: presence of a child living with a relative; assignment of child support and cooperation with paternity establishment; time limit on assistance; work requirements and sanctions; requirements on minor parents; data reporting requirements; and exclusions for fraud cases, fugitive

felons, and drug felons. Financial eligibility levels for non-assistance can be higher or lower than for cash assistance. The different requirements for "assistance" versus "non-assistance" are shown in Table 11.

Other Restrictions

Whether for "assistance" or "non-assistance," federal law contains other restrictions regarding the use of TANF funds.

Medical Services. Federal law prohibits TANF funds from being used for medical services, except pre-pregnancy family planning services. States may use TANF funds for non-medical substance abuse treatment services, including room and board costs at residential treatment programs.

Legal Immigrants. Federal law contains certain restrictions on using federal TANF funds to provide assistance to families that include a qualified legal immigrant, depending upon the individual's immigration status and when the person entered the United States.

States have the option to provide TANF assistance to all qualified legal immigrants who entered the U.S. prior to August 22, 1996. Qualified legal immigrants are defined as lawful permanent residents, refugees, asylees, those granted parole for more than one year, those whose deportation has been withheld, those considered conditional entrants before 1980, and certain victims of domestic violence.

Refugees, asylees, and immigrants who have been granted withholding of deportation, certain permanent residents, veterans, active duty military personnel, spouses and dependents of veterans or active duty military personnel, and Cuban-Haitian refugees who enter the country after August 22, 1996, are eligible for TANF funded assistance for five years after the date they enter the country. After this time, the state has the option to provide

assistance to these families.

Other qualified legal immigrants who enter the U.S. after August 22, 1996, are not eligible for assistance funded with federal TANF dollars until five years after the date they enter. After this time, the state has the option to provide assistance to these families.

Immigrants who are not qualified generally include illegal immigrants, immigrants who are categorized as persons residing under the color of law (PRUCOL aliens), temporary agricultural workers, and asylum applicants. These non-qualified immigrants are ineligible for TANF funded assistance.

Non-Displacement. TANF funds may not be used to fill a job vacancy when another individual has been laid off from the same or any substantially equivalent job. In addition, an employer cannot terminate a regular employee in order to fill the vacancy with a TANF-funded position.

Administration. Administrative costs may not exceed 15% of all TANF expenditures. Expenditures of federal funds for information technology and computerization needed for tracking or monitoring activities are not subject to the 15% limit.

Penalties. Federal law includes several penalties that may be imposed against the state for failing to meet various requirements of the TANF program. Penalties are generally taken as a percentage of the state's TANF block grant. If the TANF block grant is reduced, the state must expend its own funds in the following fiscal year to replace the reduction in the grant. If the state fails to expend its own funds, an additional 2% of the block grant plus the amount the state has failed to expend of its own funds may be reduced from the state's block grant. The total reduction in the state's grant may not exceed 25%. If the reduction exceeds 25%, the federal government will continue to apply a penalty in subsequent years until the full amount of the penalty is taken.

States can avoid some penalties by demonstrating reasonable cause or by obtaining approval of a corrective compliance plan which identifies time periods and milestones to correct the problem. Reasonable cause can only be due to natural disasters, incorrect federal guidance, or isolated problems of minimal impact. If a state fails to meet the provisions of its corrective compliance plan but made significant progress or could not correct the problem because of a natural disaster or recession, the federal government may impose a lower penalty.

Child-Only Cases

In some cases, only the child receives assistance. In Wisconsin, this is the case for the kinship care program and the SSI caretaker supplement. Under the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, a non-recipient parent living with a child receiving assistance is a work-eligible individual subject to work participation requirements, unless the parent is: (a) a minor parent who is not a head-of-household (or a spouse of head-of-household); (b) an alien who is ineligible to receive assistance due to his or her immigration status; or (c) an SSI recipient, on a case-by-case basis. Formerly, work participation requirements did not apply to child-only cases because the parent did not receive assistance.

Maintenance-of-Effort (MOE) Requirements

Under federal law, a state must spend an amount of state dollars equal to 75% of historic state expenditures if the state meets federal mandatory work requirements, or 80% if the state does not meet these requirements. Historic state expenditures generally means federal fiscal year 1994 expenditures for the former AFDC and JOBS programs, AFDC-emergency assistance, AFDC-related child care, and at-risk child care. In addition, the MOE requirement may be reduced by

the percentage reduction in the state's TANF block grant attributable to tribal programs. The state's annual MOE requirement is \$167.3 million, based on 75% of historic state expenditures. The major provisions regarding expenditures of state dollars that could count toward the MOE requirement are described in the following sections.

Unless expenditures are for non-assistance pro-family activities, in order to count toward the maintenance-of-effort requirement, expenditures must be made for "eligible families." Eligible families must meet the income and resource requirements for needy families under the TANF program. In addition, an eligible family must have a minor child living with a parent or include a pregnant individual.

Expenditures for eligible families that may count toward the MOE include: (a) cash assistance; (b) child care assistance; (c) educational activities to increase self-sufficiency, job training and work; (d) any other use of funds that would accomplish the purposes of the TANF program, described in the previous section (including nonmedical treatment services for alcohol and drug abuse, some medical treatment services, and pro-family activities that do not constitute assistance); and (e) up to 15% can be used for administrative costs. MOE funds can be used for activities that are classified as "assistance" as well as "non-assistance." Expenditures for educational activities may not include public education expenditures, unless the expenditure is for services or assistance to a member of an eligible family and is not generally available to persons who are not members of eligible families. Expenditures for child care can include state funds to meet the requirements of the matching fund for the child care development block grant.

Expenditures in state- or local-funded programs can count towards the MOE requirement only if: (a) the expenditures exceed the amount expended for the same program in FFY 1995; or (b) the expenditures would have been previously authorized and allowable under the former AFDC,

JOBS, or emergency assistance programs. State funds used to meet the healthy marriage promotion and responsible fatherhood grant match requirement may also count to meet the MOE requirement provided the expenditure also meets all the other MOE requirements.

Unlike TANF expenditures, MOE funds can be used for services to all lawfully present immigrants, medical services, and persons who have reached the time limit for assistance.

Expenditures for eligible families that count toward MOE may not include expenditures of any federal dollars, state expenditures under the medicaid program, any state funds used to match federal funds or spent as a condition of receiving federal funds, expenditures that a state made in a prior fiscal year, expenditures used to match federal welfare-to-work funds, and expenditures made to replace reductions resulting from penalties. However, matching expenditures for the healthy marriage promotion and responsible fatherhood grant may be counted as MOE.

Under federal law, the state's basic TANF grant will be reduced by the amount, if any, by which qualified state expenditures in the previous year are less than the MOE requirement.

States may spend their MOE funds in three different funding configurations: commingled with TANF funds; segregated from TANF funds but spent on services that are funded with TANF funds; and through a separate state program. Depending on how the funds are spent, varying federal requirements will apply. These requirements are summarized in Table 11.

(a) Commingled with TANF. State MOE funds

may be commingled with TANF revenues. These funds are subject to federal funding restrictions, TANF requirements, and MOE limitations. If the expenditure qualifies as "assistance", all of the "assistance" requirements apply.

(b) Segregated from Federal Funds but Spent in TANF. If a state chooses to segregate its MOE expenditures from federal funds but spend them on services that are also funded with TANF funds, many of the TANF requirements will apply, including the work participation requirements, child support assignment, and reporting. However, time limits and some federal requirements do not apply such as restrictions for minor parents.

(c) Separate State Programs. A state can choose to use a separate state program operated outside of the TANF program. These expenditures are very flexible and are not subject to the general TANF requirements such as work requirements, time limits, and child support assignment, even if the expenditures would be normally classified as "assistance." However, they must be consistent with the goals of the TANF statute and other MOE requirements. They are also subject to the 15% administrative cap for MOE and case-record reporting requirements.

DWD reported MOE in the amount of \$203.3 million to the federal government for FFY 2006 from the following sources: (a) MOE appropriated in DWD (\$195.8 million); (b) DHFS funding for alcohol and other drug abuse programs (\$4.5 million); (c) DHFS funeral, burial, and cemetery expenses for public benefit recipients (\$0.3 million); (d) child support pass-through to W-2 participants (\$2.5 million); and (e) FoodShare for qualified aliens (\$0.2 million).

Table 11: Overview of TANF Provisions Under Different Funding Configurations

Provision	Federally Funded TANF "Assistance" Programs & "Assistance" Programs Funded with Commingled TANF and MOE Funds	Federally Funded TANF "Non-Assistance" Programs & "Non-Assistance" Programs Funded with Commingled TANF and MOE Funds	TANF Programs Funded with Segregated State MOE Funds	Separate State MOE Programs
State required to set income standards	If TANF only, income standard only required for 1 st and 2 nd purposes of TANF. If comingled, income standard required for all TANF purposes.	If TANF only, income standard only required for 1 st and 2 nd purposes of TANF. If comingled, income standard required for all TANF purposes.	Yes	Yes
Allowable expenditures	(1) Expenditures meeting the TANF purposes; or (2) expenditures authorized under old AFDC, JOBS, emergency assistance, and child care programs	(1) Expenditures meeting the TANF purposes; or (2) expenditures authorized under old AFDC, JOBS, emergency assistance, and child care programs	Must be for purposes of TANF and for cash assistance, child care, certain education, admin. costs or other activities related to TANF purposes	Same as prior column
Child living with relative requirement	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Child support assignment and paternity cooperation requirements	Yes	No	Yes	No
Time limit on assistance	Yes	No	No	No
Work requirements	Yes	No	Yes	Yes, if MOE is for "assistance"
Work sanctions	Yes	No	Yes	No
Minor parent requirements	Yes	No	No	No
Data reporting requirements	Yes	No	Yes	Yes, if states want high performance bonus or caseload reduction credit
Fraud case exclusion	Yes	No	No	No
Fugitive felons exclusion	Yes	No	No	No
Drug felons reduced benefits	Yes	No	Yes	No
Medical services	Only pre-pregnancy family planning	Only pre-pregnancy family planning	No specific restriction	No specific restriction
Non-displacement	Yes	Yes	No	No
15% administrative cost cap	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Federal Child Care Program and Funding

Financing

The child care and development block grant (CCDBG) provides a combination of discretionary and entitlement funds for child care services for low-income families and to improve the quality and supply of child care for all families. States receive discretionary funds based on each state's share of children under age five, the state's share of children receiving free or reduced-price lunches and state per capita income. There is no state matching requirement. Discretionary funds must be obligated in the year received or in the following year. Unused funds are reallocated.

CCDBG entitlement funds are allocated to states in two components. First, each state receives a fixed amount based on funding received under the three child care programs previously authorized under AFDC. These funds are often referred to as "mandatory" funds. States are not required to match mandatory entitlements, which remain available until expended.

Second, after the mandatory entitlements are allocated, any remaining entitlement funds are distributed according to each state's share of children under age 13. States must meet maintenance-of-effort and matching requirements for these funds. Specifically, states must spend all of their "mandatory" entitlement funds plus state funds equal to 100% of the amount spent in FFY 94 or FFY 95, whichever is higher, under the AFDC-related child care programs. In addition, states must provide matching funds at the FFY 95 medicaid matching rate (approximately 42% in Wisconsin). Matching funds must be spent within the year received or obligated in the year received and spent within the next fiscal year.

Wisconsin's CCDBG funding for FFY 2006 totaled \$83.5 million, which is made up of the

following allocations: (a) \$29.8 million in discretionary funds; (b) \$24.5 million in mandatory entitlement funds; (c) \$29.1 million in matching entitlement funds; and (d) \$0.1 million in reallocated awards received in FFY 2006.

Eligibility

Under the federal CCDBG program, states are allowed to provide services to children in families with income equal to or less than 85% of the state's median income. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the estimated median income for a Wisconsin family of four in FFY 2007 is \$71,267 (85% of which is equal to \$60,577). As noted, Wisconsin limits initial eligibility for the W-2 child care program to families with income of no more than 185% of the federal poverty level (\$37,000 for a family of four in 2006), who remain eligible until income exceeds 200% of poverty (\$40,000 for a family of four in 2006).

Under the federal program, the children must be less than 13 years old and living with parents who are working or enrolled in school or training, or be in the need of protective services. Federal regulations also allow, at the state's option, children over the age of 12 and under 19 to be eligible if the child is physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself or herself.

Use of Funds

There are a number of federal provisions related to the states' use of CCDBG funds. These requirements include:

a. Federal law requires states to use at least 70% of their total entitlement funds for child care services for families that are trying to become independent of TANF through work activities and families at risk of becoming dependent on TANF. States must ensure that a substantial portion of remaining funds is used to provide assistance to other low-income working families.

b. CCDBG funds may be used for child care services provided on a sliding fee scale. Federal regulations specify that fees be based on family size and income. States are also allowed to waive child care fees for families with incomes at or below the poverty level. Payment rates must ensure equal access for eligible children as compared to services provided to children whose parents are not eligible for child care subsidies.

c. States are required to spend a minimum of 4% of their child care allotments (discretionary and entitlements) for consumer education activities for parents and the public, to increase parental choice, and to improve quality and availability (including resource and referral services).

d. Child care providers must meet all state and local registration, licensing, and regulatory requirements in order to receive federal funds. States are also required to have licensing requirements in effect. States must establish minimum health and safety standards covering prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization), building and physical premises safety, and health and safety training.

e. Parents must be given an option to enroll their children with a provider under contract with the state or be given a certificate or voucher to receive services from an eligible provider of the parent's choice. Eligible providers may also include

individuals age 18 and older who provide child care for their grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces or nephews, or siblings if the provider lives in a separate residence.

f. There are specific federal requirements in regard to sectarian providers of child care services. Funds received through direct grants or contracts with a government agency may not be used for any sectarian purpose or activity, including religious worship, and instruction. However, a sectarian provider that receives a child care certificate or voucher from a parent is not so restricted.

g. No more than 5% of a state's federal child care allotment may be used for administrative costs. In addition, states must submit two-year plans to the federal Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, in conformance with federal requirements, outlining how child care programs will be administered. States are also required to submit disaggregated data on children and families receiving subsidized child care to the federal Department of Health and Human Services every quarter and aggregate data twice each year.

Federal CCDBG funds do not guarantee child care to an eligible family. However, single parents with children under the age of six who cannot find child care may not be penalized for failure to engage in work activities.