

Interagency Council on Homelessness Workgroup

Welcome to DCF

Emilie Amundson
Secretary-designee

February 11, 2020

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Overview: DCF Programs/Homelessness

Division of Safety & Permanence

- Runaway & Homeless Youth
- Independent Living
- Domestic Violence

Division of Early Care & Education

- Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy

Division of Family & Economic Security

- Community Services Block Grant
- WI Trust Account Foundation
- Refugee Programs
- Wisconsin Works
- Emergency Assistance

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Division of Safety & Permanence

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Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator

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Runaway & Homeless Youth Services

Population Served: Runaway and homeless youth (RHY) ages 12 – 21 years.

- RHY definition: youth who have run away, are at-risk of running away, are homeless, or are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
- Youth may be experiencing homelessness with their families or as unaccompanied minors.

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Runaway & Homeless Youth Services

Funding sources:

- State General Purpose Revenue: \$400,000
 - *Reflects recent increase of \$250,000*
- Federal Title IV-B (foster care prevention): \$550,000
- Allocated across seven regions based on population
- Funding levels range from \$69,000 to \$157,000.

Runaway & Homeless Youth (RHY) Services

Service delivery model:

- RHY and Independent Living (IL) services are contracted out by region.
- RHY service providers may elect to serve the entire region or select counties within the region.
- IL providers must serve the entire region.
- RHY providers required to provide emergency youth housing. For most of rural Wisconsin, this is accomplished through a host home model.

Runaway & Homeless Youth Services

Greatest unmet need: adequate funding

- Federal Title IV-B funding is decreasing and is used for a variety of foster care prevention services.
- Currently only 16 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have DCF-funded RHY Services.
- With the exception of CAP Services in Stevens Point, there are no brick-and-mortar state-funded RHY shelters north of Dane County.

Runaway & Homeless Youth Services

What we can offer

- Collaborate with the CoCs on how to best serve unaccompanied minors 17+ in light of A.B. 52.
- Support efforts to access federal FYI Vouchers for youth at-risk of homelessness after exiting out-of-home care via connections with county child welfare partners and Independent Living Transition Resource Agencies.

Domestic Violence Services

Population Served

Survivors of domestic abuse and their children or other dependents.

Funding

State: General Purpose Revenue: \$12,434,600

Federal: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act: \$1,917,698

Program Revenue (domestic abuse surcharge): \$600,000

Purpose

Shelter and related supportive services



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Domestic Violence Services

Services delivered via DCF contracts

- 61 nonprofit agencies and eleven tribes
- Domestic Violence (DV) services offered in each county/tribal area

Total Individuals Served: 43,570

- Individuals Served via Shelter Services: 6,900
- Individuals Served via Community-based Services: 36,670

Unmet need: 22,904 unfulfilled shelter requests

- Due to the shelter being at capacity
- This number reflects adults only



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Domestic Violence Services

Unmet Needs

- Increase capacity of DV programs to develop innovative approaches to meet housing needs of survivors.
- Provide incentives for landlords to work with DV programs for safe and affordable housing.
- Eviction/eviction records remain a major barrier for DV survivors. Additional legislative and/or policy solutions are needed.

What We Can Offer

- Connection to statewide network of DV programs and advocates.
- Statewide data on DV program services (usage, demographics, etc.).
- Analysis of impact of housing legislation and policy initiatives on DV survivors.

Domestic Violence: Lived Experience

"We are often stymied in helping victims find safe and affordable housing. There is a serious lack of low-income housing in our area. While we partner with our Community Action Program to assist clients with low-cost housing, there are many barriers. If a victim also has an eviction on their record, a low credit rating score, or a criminal record they are often denied housing. While we do everything we can, such as writing appeal letters on their behalf, the search for safe, affordable housing is daunting."

Domestic Violence Program in Western Wisconsin

"{City} is serious about evictions. If you have one or two, no one will rent to you. I almost had a home, beautiful home, but then he saw that I had an eviction." Survivor interviewed for "There's No Place Like Home: A Housing Research Project Measuring the Effectiveness of Housing Services in Wisconsin for Survivors of Domestic Violence", End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, 2020.

Division of Early Care & Education

Erin Arango-Escalante, Administrator

Rose Prochazka, WI Shares Policy Section Supervisor

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Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program

Population Served

- On average 20,500 families and 35,500 children served monthly
- In the past year (2019) 2,620 children served were homeless (includes children in families living doubled-up with friends or relatives due to a loss of housing and economic hardship)
- Families experiencing homelessness are exempt from the requirement to provide home address verification, but must certify that they reside in, and intend to continue to reside in Wisconsin

Approved activities

Employment, W-2, FSET, basic education or college courses + employment), teen parents enrolled in high school or equivalency program

Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program

Financial Eligibility

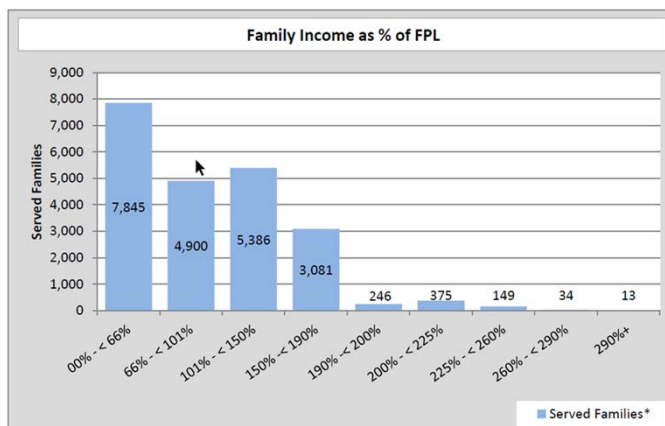
Household Income
Entry Maximum and Exit Limit

Group Size	Monthly 185% FPL	Monthly 85% SMI
2	\$2,607	\$4,242
3	\$3,288	\$5,241
4	\$3,970	\$6,239
5	\$4,651	\$7,237
6	\$5,333	\$8,235

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Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program

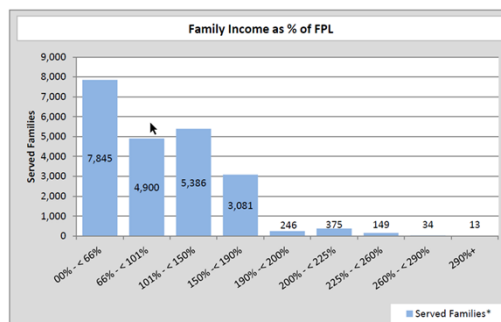
Families Served by FPL - 4th Quarter 2019



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Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program

Families Served by FPL - 4th Quarter 2019



Wisconsin Shares Child Care Program

Funding

Federal (CCDF and TANF) funding of \$357m (SFY20)

Administration

Program administered at the County and Tribal level:

- Application and eligibility determination, authorization for hours of service, & benefit load to parents' EBT card.
- Parents select child care provider (must be regulated and YoungStar rated), and use EBT card to pay for child care services



Wisconsin Shares Child Care Program

Parent Supports: parents locate available child care programs via

- Child Care Finder Public Search Site
<https://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov/Search/Search.aspx> , or
- Local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCRR) at (888) 713.KIDS or
info@supportingfamieliestogether.org
- Connections to community supports via CCRRs, family resource centers, early intervention, energy assistance, housing needs, and medical/mental health services

Provider Supports: training on

- Developing parent relationships and using trauma informed practices
- Supporting children's social-emotional development through relationships, environment, intentional teaching and individualized intervention practices to support emotional development of infants, toddlers, and young children

Wisconsin Shares Child Care Program

Child Care Program Request of ICH:

- WI Shares program has developed a website to provide resource and weblink information to support families experiencing homelessness
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/homelessness>
- This website can be strengthened with information ICH may provide to us with information on resources for families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity

Wisconsin Shares Child Care Program

How We Can Help?

- Continue to invite our participation in Continuum of Care(CoC) meetings
 - In fall 2018 and winter 2019, the Wisconsin Shares Section Chief attended three Continuum of Care(CoC) meetings: Balance of State, Milwaukee, and Dane County
- Ask us for information to help homeless service providers encourage family participation in Wisconsin Shares Child Care subsidy

Division of Family & Economic Security

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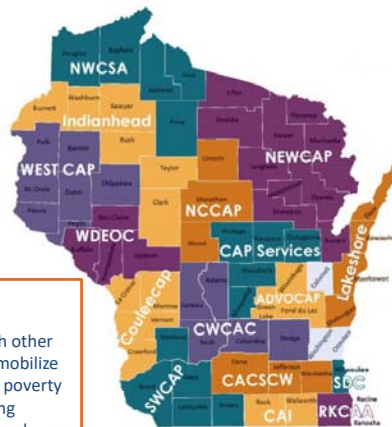
Sara Conrad, Policy Analyst

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Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Population served:

- 16 Community Action Agencies covering 69 of Wisconsin's 72 counties
- 2 statewide single-purpose agencies (UMOS and Foundation for Rural Housing)
- Agencies receiving CSBG funds are defined in Wisconsin Statutes and must serve low-income families and individuals



Service delivery:

- DCF contracts with all 18 agencies
- CSBG funds have some flexibility and can be combined with other funding sources to provide services or fund activities that mobilize community resources to fight the causes and conditions of poverty
- Services include Head Start, food assistance, various housing programs (homeless shelters, rent assistance, first-time homebuyer programs, and home repairs), weatherization, emergency fuel assistance, transportation programs, fatherhood programs, adult literacy, employment and training, and small business development



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Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Funding sources/levels/restrictions:

~\$9M Annually

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services

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Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

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Annual contracts with 18 CSBG agencies

- Allocations based on 2010 census data
- Individuals & families served must be at or below 125% FPL

Wis. Stat. s. 49.265
42 U.S.C. CHAPTER 106--CSBG PROGRAM

Greatest unmet needs (specific to ICH):

- Meetings, strategies, and discussion have been heavily centered on the HUD-funded Continuum of Care system. Yet, some of these agencies are limited in what assistance they can provide for all populations due to funding restrictions and CoC-adopted policies that serve a small percentage of homeless populations.
- CSBG agencies would like to promote the broader DPI definition of homelessness to tailor programming for a more accurate target population.
- Devise strategies that promote new flexible resources across departments that might benefit homeless or at risk households not identified or served in the current "homeless system."

What CSBG can offer to the ICH:

- The geographic reach (rural, urban and suburban) and comprehensive nature of programming. CSBG agencies serve all populations and are intensively involved in homeless and homelessness prevention activities with a variety of federal and state funds, not just HUD.



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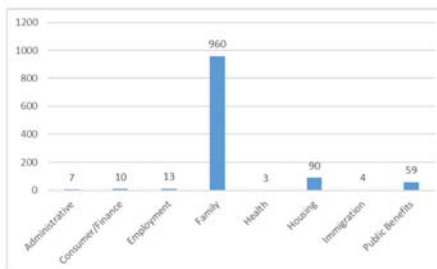
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Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation (WisTAF)

Population served:

- Statewide
- WisTAF provides grants to agencies providing civil legal services to Wisconsin's most vulnerable residents.
- WisTAF provides legal services to individuals and families in civil matters related to domestic abuse, sexual abuse, or restraining orders or injunctions.

Most common areas of civil law in which outcomes were reported by WisTAF grantees in SFY2019

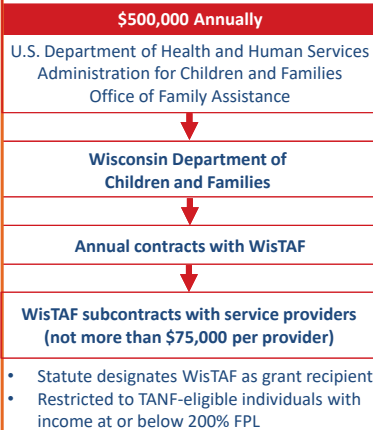


Service delivery:

- DCF contracts with WisTAF; WisTAF subcontracts with agencies across the state.
- Grants for agencies providing civil legal services to Wisconsin's most vulnerable residents.
- Families and individuals throughout the state receive the legal help they need to deal with such issues as escaping domestic violence and abuse, preventing homelessness and obtaining medical benefits.
- Grant money also funds law-related services such as legal education, indirect legal services or other community services approved by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation (WisTAF)

Funding sources/levels/restrictions:



Greatest unmet needs (specific to ICH):

- Lack of referral resources for shelter and housing space for individuals and families fleeing violence.
- Due to insufficient funding available, WisTAF fell short of its goal of making civil legal services available to domestic violence and sexual abuse survivors in every county of the state in SFY2019.

What WisTAF can offer to the ICH:

- Act as a resource for individuals who need legal services. For example unfair landlords, loss of home. Legal help to prevent homelessness
- Many private attorneys don't have the resources to undertake domestic and sexual abuse cases that include complicating factors such as housing, employment and public safety.
- There is an immense need for supportive legal services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse to obtain and retain housing.
- WisTAF is the single largest state-based funder for low-income civil legal services in Wisconsin.

Wis. Stat. s. 49.1635

Refugee Programs

Population served:

- Refugees and other ORR eligible populations, such as asylees, victims of trafficking, Special Immigrant Visa Recipients (SIVs), and certain Amerasians from Vietnam.
- Refugee is a person who is outside of his or her country and is unable or unwilling to return because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution.

Service delivery:





- DCF Refugee Programs Section (RPS) contracts with 29 partners across the state, primarily in Milwaukee, Madison and the Fox Valley areas.
- Partners providing direct services include resettlement agencies (Volags), literacy agencies, W-2 agencies, health departments and clinics, public schools, and other community-based organizations.



Federal Fiscal Year 2019 (10.1.18 - 9.30.19)

Milwaukee	Fox Valley	Madison	Other
• Burma 248	• DRC 150	• DRC 43	• DRC 8
• DRC 81	• Burma 6	• Syria 9	• Somalia 7
• Ukraine 8	• Sudan 1	• Burundi 5	• Ukraine 5
• Iraq 6		• Afghanistan 4	• Burma 4
• Somalia 3		• CAR 2	
• Eritrea 3		• Somalia 1	
• Sudan 1		• Vietnam 1	
350	157	65	24

Homelessness within refugee population:

- There are no statistics on homeless refugees in Wisconsin;
- Incidents are shared with RPS by direct service providers who coordinate amongst themselves and with community members as needed to provide immediate response and/or preventive action.

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Refugee Programs

Funding sources/levels/restrictions:

90 days – 5 years

The United States Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Refugee Resettlement

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Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

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Partners providing direct service across the state, including Volags.

Average annual budget of **\$4.6M** across all refugee programs (cash benefits and services)



What program can offer to the ICH:

- Commitment to support the realization of ICH vision, as it applies to refugees; and
- Work with partners to identify preventive strategies and opportunities for partnership with local programs supporting the homeless.

Greatest unmet needs (specific to ICH):

- Share strategies for learning how to acquire this data for refugee populations;
- Professional development for case managers;
- Continue to include RPS in the conversation:
 - RPS also participates in conversations about a 2Gen approach to refugee integration – strategy sharing; and
 - Explore opportunities to expand partnerships with faith communities.

45 CFR § 400.11 - 400.13
Title IV, Chapter 2 of the Refugee Act of 1980

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Wisconsin Works (W-2)

Participant Demographics (Data from 2017)

- 86%** were single mothers. W-2 parents usually had 1-2 children.
- 73%** had children under the age of six
- 72%** had at least a high school degree or equivalent
- 93%** of W-2 families also had BadgerCare and FoodShare

Additional Demographics:

- Participants must live at or below 115% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- The average family income with benefit was below \$1300 per month in 2017.
- In 2017, more than half of W-2 participants were on public assistance for less than 12 months.

Wisconsin Works (W-2) provides employment preparation services, case management, and cash assistance to eligible low-income families.

Service delivery:

DCF's Bureau of Working Families (BWF) contracts with agencies across Wisconsin. Some agencies have several office locations.

Homelessness and W-2 Participants:

- Many W-2 participants are at risk of losing stable housing. Some participants are homeless, including families living in doubled-up housing.
- W-2 participants may participate in W-2 activities to secure stable housing.

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Wisconsin Works (W-2)

Funding sources/levels/restrictions:

90 days – 5 years

The United States Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families (TANF funds)

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Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

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W-2 Agencies across Wisconsin

Average annual budget of **\$50M** allocated in state budget for W-2

What program can offer to the ICH:

- The W-2 program helps people in poverty overcome barriers to employment. Program participants access job skills trainings, resources, and onsite work experience.
- W-2 case managers help participants overcome barriers in housing that may impact the individual's ability to obtain and sustain employment.

Greatest unmet needs (specific to ICH):

- Professional development for DCF staff
- Recommendations and connections regarding the W-2 program and housing stability
- Data regarding housing solutions that may help W-2 participants access and sustain housing
- Continued conversations about how DCF/BWF can prepare W-2 case managers to handle housing needs for W-2 participants

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Emergency Assistance (EA)

Demographics:

DCF does not collect data regarding EA family demographics. However, most EA families have similar demographics to W-2 participants. Just like W-2, EA eligibility requires that the families live at or below 115% of the federal poverty level.

Service delivery:

DCF's Bureau of Working Families (BWF) contracts with agencies across Wisconsin. Some agencies have several office locations. W-2 Agencies administer EA to families.

Homelessness and W-2 Participants:

- EA serves to keep Wisconsin families in their homes when emergencies occur.
- Families facing homelessness or impending homelessness (including doubled-up housing) may receive EA without a financial crisis.
- Families experiencing flood, fire, or natural disasters may receive EA without a financial crisis.
- Families experiencing an energy crisis may receive EA if the family experiences a financial crisis. Many types of crisis can qualify for EA support.



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Emergency Assistance (EA)

Funding sources/levels/restrictions:

90 days – 5 years

The United States Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

(TANF funds)

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

W-2 Agencies across Wisconsin

Average annual budget of \$6M allocated in state budget for EA

What program can offer to the ICH:

- Support for families facing homelessness or impending homelessness
- Support to keep families in their homes
- Case management in addition to financial assistance
- Opportunities for families to participate in other DCF programs (W-2, JAL) and connect with other public assistance resources

Greatest unmet needs (specific to ICH):

- Professional development for DCF staff
- Recommendations and connections regarding the EA program and housing stability
- Data regarding housing solutions that may help EA recipients access and sustain housing
- Continued conversations about how DCF/BWF can prepare W-2/EA case managers to handle housing needs for EA recipients



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Thank you!