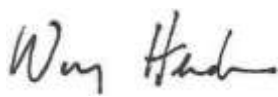


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson
Administrator 

Re: Supplemental Disaster Relief Funding – Application for Eligible Funds

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to provide information on the eligibility and application process for Supplemental Disaster Relief Funding available under Title IV-B, Subpart 1 of the Act. DCF is re-issuing this RFP due to lack of response to initial application and to provide additional clarifying information about eligible activities.

BACKGROUND

Public Law (P.L.) 116-20 provided disaster relief funding for specific areas of the United States affected by floods and tornados occurring in calendar year 2019 for which a major disaster or emergency has been declared. P.L. 116-20 provided funding under several different federal programs, including the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services (CWS) Program authorized under Title IV-B, Subpart 1 of the Act. In Wisconsin 18 counties were determined eligible. Tribal governments applied for these funds directly from the federal government and the tribes are directly distributing funds available to tribes.

Wisconsin was impacted by both extensive flooding and destructive tornadoes in 2019 that resulted in many counties declaring a state of emergency. Disaster recovery efforts to respond to these disasters resulted in an additional financial burden to local county governments, including local child welfare agencies. These funds have been allocated to address damage in specific counties.

Geographical Eligibility

Wisconsin received funds for the counties affected by the federally declared disasters, as identified by the Administration for Children and Families in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Agencies are eligible to apply for funds in proportion to the financial impact of the disaster using information from the Federal Emergency Management Agency provided to DCF by the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs using the total the amount allocated to Wisconsin. Please see chart below for eligible counties and the maximum amount of disaster relief funds they are eligible to apply for:

Eligibility for Disaster Relief Funds	
Counties	Amount
Barron	\$23,878
Clark	\$1,591
Forest	\$790
LaCrosse	\$3,184
Langlade	\$4,776
Marinette	\$1,590
Menominee	\$796
Monroe	\$1,592
Oconto	\$9,561
Oneida	\$1,592
Outagamie	\$9,561
Polk	\$41,783
Portage	\$12,735
Rusk	\$1,590
Shawano	\$1,592
Waupaca	\$6,367
Wood	\$33,424
Total	\$156,002

Use of Funding

Consistent with the specifications described in Section 421 of the Act, eligible counties will be allowed to use the funding "...to promote State flexibility in the development and expansion of a coordinated child and family services program that utilizes community-based agencies and ensures all children and raised in safe loving families by:

1. protecting and promoting the welfare of all children;
2. preventing the neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children;
3. supporting at-risk families through services which allow children, where appropriate, to remain safely with their families or return to their families in a timely manner;
4. promoting the safety, permanence, and well-being of children in foster care and adoptive families; and
5. providing training, professional development and support to ensure a well-qualified child welfare workforce."

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families has identified eligible expenditures incurred by the child welfare agency or families that will be reimbursed through the CWS Disaster Relief Funds Funding do not need to be tied to a specific family but rather for broad child welfare purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Repair of structural damage to agency or provider buildings/dwellings;
- Emergency response and/or assistance to impacted children and families;
- Temporary housing/lodging costs;
- Crisis counseling/therapy services;
- Additional agency staff time/mileage; and
- Other agency financial losses directly tied to a covered disaster.

Counties will be required to report on how the funding will be used to reduce the burden of disaster recovery efforts in their community. Expenditures eligible for reimbursement through the CWS Disaster Relief Funds will be for those incurred between the date of the covered disaster in calendar year 2019 through September 30th, 2021. To request the funds, the eligible counties shall submit an application form that is attached to this memo. Your application must include a county name, contact information and lead contact for this initiative. Information should include the specific purpose for the use of funding to reimburse damage as a result of the 2019 disasters. Examples of eligible activities are described on page two of the information memo and include repair of a property used for child welfare services as a result of wind, water or storm damage, emergency housing, food, transportation or other funds needed to assist families related to disaster recovery, costs to child welfare agency buildings and additional services that were incurred as a result of disasters as well as other expenses that resulted from disasters occurring in calendar year 2019.

Applications should be no more than two pages and must describe the key goals and activities for the use of these funds, the target population that will benefit from these resources, the anticipated timeline for activities, and the role of key partners or collaborating entities that will be involved with these activities. To be considered, applications must be complete and submitted by September 18, 2020.

Any funds remaining will be used for further enhancements and maintenance to Wisconsin's Geographic Placement Resource System (GPRS). In 2013, a Geographic Placement Resource System (GPRS) was implemented to enable Department staff to visualize the disaster zone on a map and identify all out-of-home placements within the disaster zone and enable caseworkers and the state to quickly contact all children and families impacted by the disaster and respond accordingly.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Policy Initiatives Advisor
Division of Safety and Permanence
(608) 422-6896

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachment: Application for Eligible Funds

**Supplemental Disaster Relief Funding under Title IV-B, Subpart 1 of the Act
APPLICATION FOR ELIGIBLE FUNDS**

COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Application date: _____
County: _____
Agency contact person: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

ELIGIBILITY:

In order to request funds under this program, the following criteria must apply:

1. Requested funding must be used in the eligible geographical areas:

- Barron
- Clark
- Forest
- La Crosse
- Langlade
- Marinette
- Menominee
- Monroe
- Oconto
- Oneida
- Outagamie
- Polk
- Portage
- Rusk
- Shawano
- Waupaca
- Wood

2. Requested funding must be used for approved activities that meet one or more of the following purposes:

- protecting and promoting the welfare of all children;
- preventing the neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children;
- supporting at-risk families through services which allow children, where appropriate, to remain safely with their families or return to their families in a timely manner;
- promoting the safety, permanence, and well-being of children in foster care and adoptive families; and
- providing training, professional development and support to ensure a well-qualified child welfare workforce.

APPLICATION:

Eligible County
(Please only check one):

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barron | <input type="checkbox"/> Menominee | <input type="checkbox"/> Portage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clark | <input type="checkbox"/> Monroe | <input type="checkbox"/> Rusk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Oconto | <input type="checkbox"/> Shawano |
| <input type="checkbox"/> La Crosse | <input type="checkbox"/> Oneida | <input type="checkbox"/> Waupaca |

Langlade
 Marinette

Outagamie
 Polk

Wood

Total amount of funding request: \$ _____

1) Provide a brief description the proposed plan and activities that is no more than 2 pages. This shall include, at a minimum:

- a. The overall goal of the plan and activities;
- b. The target population the plan will serve;
- c. The key activities of the plan;
- e. An overview of how the agency will use the level of funding sought.

2) List the agency's key collaborators, such as community partners, and the roles they will serve, if applicable.

Application deadlines:

To be considered, applications must be complete and submitted by September 18, 2020

Questions about this funding and completed applications should be directed to

DCFDSPPolicyAdvisor@wisconsin.gov