

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 Services/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson
Division Administrator 

Re: **New Funding for Putting Families First: Increase for Targeted Safety Support Funds**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to notify local county and tribal child protective services agencies of the allocation of federal Title IV-E revenue claimed for prior allowable expenses to expand funding available from [Targeted Safety Supports Funds \(TSSF\)](#). These new allocation amounts will be added to each State-County Child Welfare contract and each Tribal Family Services contract.

BACKGROUND

The federal Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA) puts a new emphasis on serving more children who are in imminent risk of removal in their family homes. Since 2018, Wisconsin has been progressively working toward transitioning the child welfare system to become more oriented to in-home service provision, family-focused, and collaborative through new programs, policies and other supports and have been able to seek reimbursement for these investments under FFPSA. Consistent with this shift in federal funding, TSSF operationalizes our state's vision for our child welfare system by providing flexible and immediately accessible funding that local child welfare agencies and tribal child welfare agencies can use for in-home services and supports to address unique family needs. In conversations with county child welfare agency and tribal leaders, supervisors, and direct practice professionals, TSSF has been frequently identified as the single most impactful funding source to serve children and their families in-home, thereby preventing removal or supporting stable and safe reunification. In addition, recent data analysis has shown that through these efforts, and through other supports that were available to children and their families during the recent public health emergency, our state's child removal rate has been reduced by nearly 5 children per day from the peak in 2017.

Currently, TSSF is funded solely through Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) monies. In CY2022, 65 county child welfare agencies and 5 tribal child welfare agencies participate in TSSF. The Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) has a comparable array of services also funded through federal TANF dollars called Intensive In-Home Safety Services. Recently, DCF secured authority to leverage the federal Title IV-E revenue to expand TSSF. A variety of factors contributed to the availability of Title IV-E revenue, including enhanced federal reimbursement of eligible costs during the public health emergency.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

For the remainder of the Calendar Year (CY) 2022 period and for the CY 2023 period, DCF will award approximately \$10 million to county child welfare via [s. 48.563\(1\)\(b\)](#) and to tribal child welfare agencies, regardless of current participation in TSSF. This funding was generated from reimbursement of federal Title IV-E revenue for allowable child welfare administrative and out-of-home care expenses from prior federal claiming periods. Funding will be distributed to agencies using the methodology developed collaboratively between DCF and the Wisconsin County Human Services Association in August 2021 and as established for currently participating tribal agencies. This methodology used local child poverty and SNAP data as indices for child and family need and vulnerability with a minimum allocation of \$20,000 to every county agency. Additionally, \$70,000 will be offered to all 11 federally recognized tribes located in Wisconsin's borders. Please see [Appendix 1](#) for the agency specific allocation amounts. In addition to this initial award, DCF anticipates being able to continue to allocate approximately \$5 million of Title IV-E revenue (which will vary slightly depending upon the additional Title IV-E revenue generated from the prior federal claiming periods), along with the available TANF funding in subsequent contract periods.

While DCF will distribute these funds via the TSSF program, unlike federal TANF funding used in for this program, allocation of the federal Title IV-E revenue does not have a hard State Fiscal Year cutoff; therefore, the award period for the initial Title IV-E allocation will be through December 31, 2023. Annual allocations in subsequent contract periods, will be on a calendar year cycle. For local child welfare agencies, new allocation amounts will be added to each State-County Child Welfare contract. For tribal child welfare agencies, new allocation amounts will be added to each Tribal Family Services contract. New contracts incorporating the expansion funds will be awarded beginning September 1, 2022 and will be able to issue once the next contracts are signed by all parties.

In order to support necessary cost reporting and alignment of spending for each federal funding source, some changes are needed to attend to what costs can be reimbursed by the respective federal funding sources, how these costs are reported, and how agency match and reimbursement will be addressed. Please see [Appendix 2](#) for information about updates to TSSF allowable services, cost reporting, reimbursement structure and agency match.

DCF will continue to evaluate program needs and adjust program guidance to strategically invest in [Putting Families First](#) and supporting agencies serving children and families in their homes. We appreciate your local agencies' efforts to serve children in their family homes and the creative, individualized ways that TSSF can be leveraged to support this important work.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Targeted Safety Support Funds Coordinator
Child Welfare Program and Policy Section
Bureau of Safety and Well-Being
DCFTargetedSafetySupportFunding@wisconsin.gov

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

ATTACHMENTS: [2022 TSSF Program and Fiscal Guide Expansion \(Counties\)](#)
[2022 TSSF Program and Fiscal Guide Expansion \(Tribes\)](#)

Appendix 1: County Child Welfare Agency Excess IV-E Revenue Allocations

Amount below includes calculated match. Agencies will be reimbursed at 90.11%.

County	Allocation	County	Allocation
Adams	\$60,090	Monroe	\$158,628
Ashland	\$58,936	Oconto	\$81,485
Barron	\$140,189	Oneida	\$77,099
Bayfield	\$39,195	Outagamie	\$365,822
Brown	\$652,486	Ozaukee	\$74,680
Buffalo	\$28,018	Pepin	\$22,195
Burnett	\$44,007	Pierce	\$58,515
Calumet	\$65,166	Polk	\$105,710
Chippewa	\$172,224	Portage	\$129,562
Clark	\$163,162	Price	\$41,781
Columbia	\$110,206	Racine	\$730,378
Crawford	\$53,953	Richland	\$63,926
Dane	\$1,058,981	Rock	\$547,506
Dodge	\$168,264	Rusk	\$54,186
Door	\$51,649	Saint Croix	\$116,080
Douglas	\$111,053	Sauk	\$173,689
Dunn	\$100,014	Sawyer	\$54,170
Eau Claire	\$244,816	Shawano	\$117,410
Florence	\$22,195	Sheboygan	\$274,105
Fond du Lac	\$236,866	Taylor	\$56,278
Forest	\$29,818	Trempealeau	\$73,729
Grant	\$141,029	Vernon	\$122,905
Green	\$73,236	Vilas	\$53,883
Green Lake	\$56,935	Walworth	\$221,419
Iowa	\$49,697	Washburn	\$45,155
Iron	\$22,195	Washington	\$161,948
Jackson	\$72,365	Waukesha	\$371,263
Jefferson	\$167,959	Waupaca	\$120,255
Juneau	\$86,472	Waushara	\$68,394
Kenosha	\$555,339	Winnebago	\$374,840
Kewaunee	\$33,458	Wood	\$214,616
La Crosse	\$230,325		
Lafayette	\$49,410		
Langlade	\$70,404		
Lincoln	\$59,553		
Manitowoc	\$181,789		
Marathon	\$283,947		
Marinette	\$114,293		
Marquette	\$44,567		
Menominee	\$61,670		

Appendix 1: Tribal Child Welfare Agency Excess IV-E Revenue Allocations

Tribe	Allocation
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$70,000
Forest County Potawatomi	\$70,000
Ho-Chunk Nation	\$70,000
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$70,000
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$70,000
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	\$70,000
Oneida Nation	\$70,000
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$70,000
Sokaogon Chippewa Community	\$70,000
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin	\$70,000
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians	\$70,000

Appendix 2

Allowable Services

Increased flexibility has been built into the current TSSF structure and includes changes to time limits services can be used and which categories of services require a time-limit. In the expansion, there is a smaller subset of allowable service costs in TSSF that will be time-limited for purposes of TSSF reimbursement from DCF. These service areas include the following:

- Food and Clothing Services
- Housing Assistance
- Transportation
- Daycare

These concrete resources listed above may be provided, but reimbursement under TSSF is limited to four months. If an agency determines that one of these resources is needed beyond the initial four-month time frame, an exception period of two months can be made to the TSSF Coordinator. No more than one time-limited exception may be granted to extend reimbursement for the time-limited services beyond four months for a given family for a 12-month period

Additionally, services for a child enrolled in TSSF that is reunified with a non-custodial parent with a safe finding will remain reimbursable for a 30-day transition period. Services needed to support the transition of the child(ren) to the non-custodial parent's home must fall within the TSSF allowable services guidelines.

There are no changes to TSSF eligibility or enrollment requirements.

Cost Reporting

Local county and tribal child welfare agencies will report actual program costs in SPARC on a monthly basis. For local county child welfare agencies, DCF will reimburse 90.11% of program costs monthly on SPARC, up to the allocated award amount. Tribal child welfare agencies will be reimbursed at 90.11% of total Safety Supports costs and 100% of total Safety Resources costs monthly on SPARC, up to the allocated award amount.

Spending will be captured across four cost-reporting categories:

- Line 3645A – Safety Resources
- Line 3645D – Safety Supports
- Line 3645B – Case Management – Local Child Welfare Agency
- Line 3645C – Case Management – Contracted Agency

Allowable Service Reimbursement Structure

Services identified with an Asterix are subject to timeframe restrictions*

Service	Category and Line
Daycare*	Line 3645A – Safety Resources
Food and Clothing Services*	Line 3645A – Safety Resources
Housing Assistance*	Line 3645A – Safety Resources
Transportation*	Line 3645A – Safety Resources
Crisis Services	Line 3645A – Safety Resources
Household Support	Line 3645A – Safety Resources
In-Home Health Support	Line 3645A – Safety Resources
Mental Health and AODA Services	Line 3645A – Safety Resources
Basic Home Management	Line 3645D – Safety Supports
Basic Parenting Assistance	Line 3645D – Safety Supports
Parenting Education	Line 3645D – Safety Supports
Recreational Activities	Line 3645D – Safety Supports
Respite	Line 3645D – Safety Supports
Social Supports	Line 3645D – Safety Supports
Supervision/Observation	Line 3645D – Safety Supports
Unique Child Condition Service	Line 3645D – Safety Supports
	Line 3645B – Case Management – Local Child Welfare Agency
	Case Management Services
	Line 3645C – Case Management – Contracted Agency Case Management

Local Agency Match

In accordance with [s. 49.175\(1\)\(t\)](#), TSSF requires a 9.89% agency match for the receipt of funding. Local county child welfare agencies will be reimbursed at 91% of total costs to account for the match. Tribal child welfare agencies receiving expansion funds for the first time will not have any match requirement. Tribal agencies currently contracted and receiving funds from both current and expansion will have the match requirement for TANF funds only; the 90.11% reimbursement rate will only be for TANF funds.