



Division of Safety and Permanence

DSP Informational Memo Series 2023-02i

January 25, 2023

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
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson
Administrator

Re: **Process for CY 2022 and Future Youth Aids Emergency Funds**

PURPOSE

This memo explains the eligibility criteria and award process for CY 2022 and future Youth Aids emergency funds. The award process was revised for CY 2021 to use eWiSACWIS data and no longer require county-submitted applications; this revised process will continue for CY 2022 and future years. The eligibility criteria remain the same.

BACKGROUND

Authority for allocation of Youth Aids emergency funds is found in Wis. Stat. s. 48.526(7)(e). By statute, eligibility for emergency funds is limited to counties with a total general population of no more than 45,000 people. Eligible counties are determined by the January population estimates of the Wisconsin Demographic Services Center. Eligible counties for CY 2022 are: Adams, Ashland, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Clark, Crawford, Door, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Kewaunee, Lafayette, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Price, Richland, Rusk, Sawyer, Shawano, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Vilas, Washburn, and Waushara. A total of \$250,000 is available to be allocated among eligible counties.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

1. Criteria for Emergency Funds Awards

As in previous years, Youth Aids emergency funds may be used to reimburse eligible counties for the cost of placement of youth placed under Wis. Stat. s. 938.34 (delinquent) and s. 938.345 (JIPS) in residential care centers (RCCs) and juvenile correctional facilities (JCFs). However, not



all placement costs are considered emergency costs, as it is expected that many counties will have some placement-related expenses during the year.

In order to determine whether placements are considered emergencies and calculate the portion of available funds that will be paid to each eligible county, DCF compares historic expenses for RCC and JCF placements to expenses for CY 2022. Counties are eligible for reimbursement if CY 2022 placement expenses exceed the county's annual average RCC and JCF placement expenses over the past three years.

This method has been established because it is expected that counties will generally budget for placement costs based on historical expenses.

2. Allocation Process

The JCF expenditure data comes from the Department of Corrections (DOC).

Before 2021, RCC expenditure data was submitted by counties through an application process. DCF's intent upon assuming responsibility for emergency funds allocation in 2016 was to use eWiSACWIS data; however, at that time, eWiSACWIS data did not sufficiently identify eligible RCC placements.

Beginning with 2021 emergency funds calculations, RCC expenditure data was generated from eWiSACWIS, and counties no longer needed to submit an application. Eligible placements are those with PLACEMENT_TYPE = "RCC" and PLCM_TARGET_POP = "Delinquency (YA - 06)" or "JIPS (YA - 6)", as shown in report SM10A112_PLACEMENT_ACTIVITY_AND_DETAIL. Based on positive feedback from counties, **DCF will continue to use eWiSACWIS RCC data for CY 2022 emergency funds and in the future.**

Based on the JCF expenditure data from DOC and the RCC expenditure data from eWiSACWIS, the final emergency funds allocations will be calculated.

The following process will be used to determine allocations:

- DCF will calculate each county's average annual RCC and JCF expenditures for the last three calendar years (2019, 2020, and 2021).
- Each county's average annual RCC and JCF expenditures for the three-year period (2019-2021) will be compared to the county's total RCC and JCF expenditures for CY 2022.
 - Counties with RCC and JCF expenditures for CY 2022 *equal to or lower than* the annual average of their last three years *will not* receive any emergency funds.
- Counties with RCC and JCF expenditures for CY 2022 *greater than* the annual average of their last three years *may* receive emergency funds.
 - The amount of emergency funds a county will receive will be based upon the difference between the annual average of its last three years of RCC and JCF



- expenditures and the expenditures for CY 2022.
- The differences between the 2019-2021 average expenditures and 2022 expenditures for all the counties receiving emergency funds will be added together.
- Each county will receive a pro-rated share of the total emergency funding available by multiplying each county's percentage of the total difference described in the bullet above by \$250,000 to determine the amount of emergency funds that the county is eligible to receive.

3. Awards for CY 2022

All eligible counties will be notified of whether they will receive an award, and if so, the amount. Those counties receiving awards will have their award amount added to their Youth Aids funding in the CY 2022 State-County Child Welfare contract. The counties receiving awards should be ready to promptly sign an amendment to the state-county contract for the amount of their emergency funds award.

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