

Workforce Connections, Inc.

W2

Connecting Underemployed Job
Seekers to Resources, Training, and
Development: An Overlooked
Population

Andrea Brownlee and Erika Deal



W2 and related programs are funded through the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) using Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) funds.

WISCONSIN WORKS (W2)

What is Wisconsin Works

Wisconsin Works (W2) assists individuals in meeting their employment & career goals.



Individualized services are provided to each participant through W2 agency staff, partner agencies, and Wisconsin Job Centers.



The goal of Wisconsin Works (W2) is to provide necessary and appropriate services to prepare individuals to work, and to obtain and maintain viable, self-sustaining employment, which will promote economic growth. W2 is designed to ensure that everyone in Wisconsin shares in our economic opportunities.

TANF in Wisconsin 2022

W2 Payments
Totalled
\$25,144,701

These payments
served 10,341
individuals and
their families

Where are services provided?

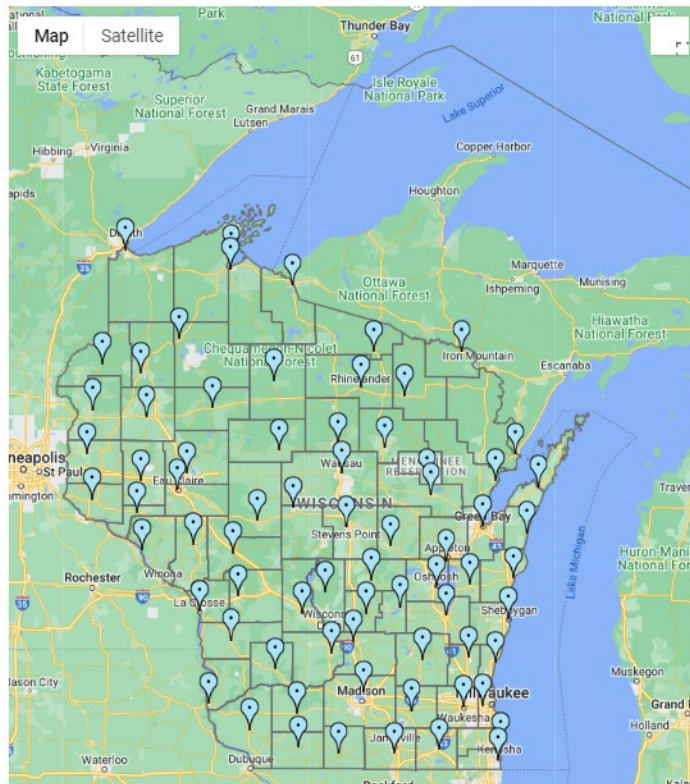
Select your county from the dropdown to view that county's contact information.

Select County Go

Type in the city name or zip code. The contact information will appear on the map below.

Example: Madison Go

Use the map to find the location. Click on the pinpoint to see the contact information.



- <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/parents/locator>

Apply by calling your agency, or online with
ACCESS

- <https://access.wisconsin.gov/access/>

Who Is Eligible?

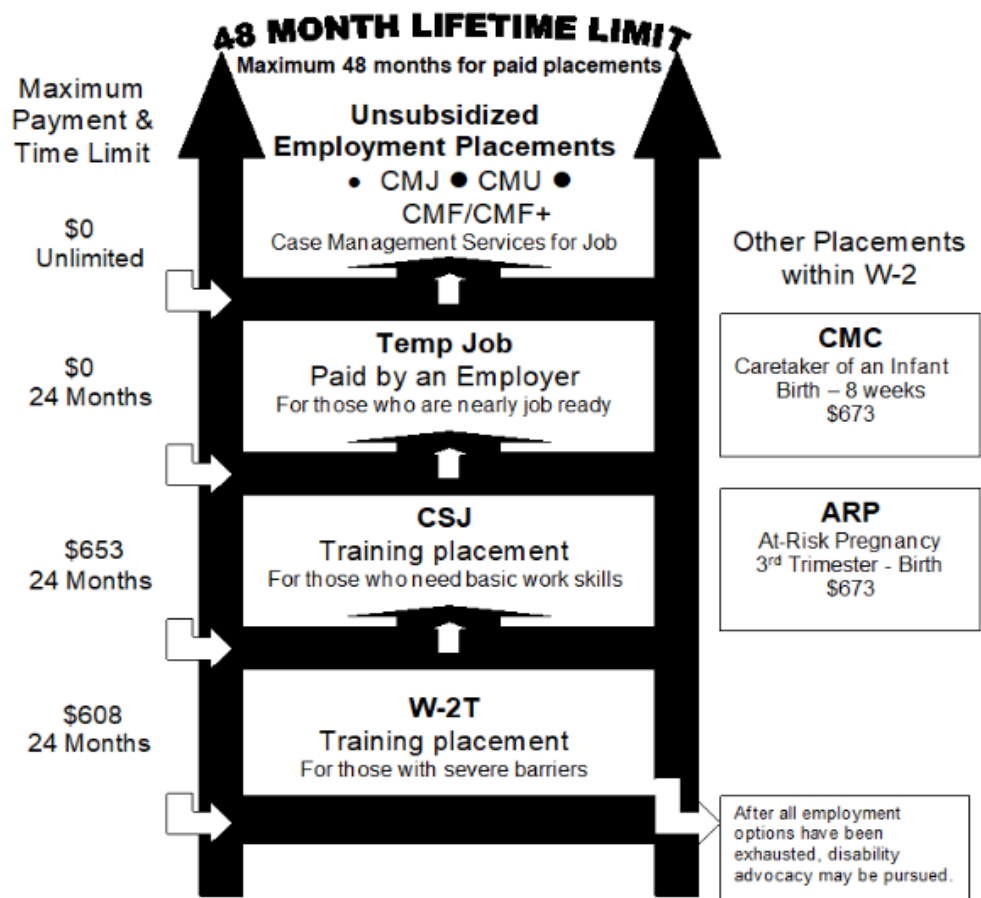
Available to ALL parents (both custodial and non-custodial) with minor children, low assets, and low income who meet the financial and non-financial criteria.

There are different levels of placement within W-2.

Each level of placement is tied to a participant's current ability for work and retraining a job.

Based on an individual's situation, skills, resources, barriers to employment, and eligibility, he/she will be offered a specific placement in W-2.

W2 Ladder



Supportive Services Available

Child Care: Families may apply for help with establishing and paying for childcare.

Transportation: W2 participants may receive help in finding and paying for transportation to and from work.

Other miscellaneous services based on your needs and eligibility.

Job Development

- Worksite placements and benefits for employer
 - Recruitment
 - Career Pathways
 - Opportunities

Worksite placements

- Utilizing non-profits
- Small businesses
 - Address barriers to employment
 - Time management
 - Enhance work skills (soft skills and hands-on)
 - Create recent referrals

Process



Connecting Career
Planner, Participant
and worksite



One on one
meetings with
participant



Establish
employment goals



Starting a worksite

Relationships with Employers

WCI has partnerships with employers to help them recruit job seekers

Offering a widened pool of job seekers

Examples of Career pathways to W2 participants

Emergency Assistance

Provides assistance to eligible families who are experiencing an emergency due to fire, flood, or natural disaster, impending homelessness, homelessness, or energy crisis.

Eligibility Criteria

Non-Financial Eligibility

- Caretaker relative of at least one dependent child
- All group members are US Citizens or qualified non-citizens
- Reside and intend to reside in WI
- Qualifying emergency
- Not received Emergency Assistance in past 12 months
- Financial Crisis beyond your control (except in cases of DV and homelessness)

Financial Eligibility

- Based on gross income
- Cannot exceed 115% of the Federal Poverty Level (currently set at \$2383 per month for a family of 4)
- Countable assets of \$2500 or less

Job Access Loans



Job Access Loans are short-term, no interest loans up to \$1600 designed to assist eligible individuals to meet emergency needs that support employment. Some acceptable uses include but are not limited to: fees for obtaining a driver's license, car repairs, down payments, uniform supplies, and equipment for remote work.



The applicant must have either a job or a bona fide job offer and meet all other financial and non-financial eligibility criteria to be eligible for a loan. Job Access Loan monthly repayments can be made in two ways: in cash or through a combination of cash and volunteer community service.

W2 Education Navigators

- The W2 Education Navigator is in regular contact with the educational systems in their regions and coordinates direct services for Adults and Youth seeking support and assistance in successfully navigating the completion or obtaining of their High School Diploma (HSD) or Equivalency degree while working with programs.
- Navigators may also assist in identifying and connecting with community resources to improve education levels and improve basic life skills while assisting with navigating barriers.

W2 Child Support Liaison (CSL)

The W2 Child Support Liaison is the primary contact between the W2 Agency and the Child Support Agencies (CSA) within the W2 geographical area. The CSL works directly with the CSAs in identifying and connecting noncustodial parents with limited earnings or ability to pay child support to employment services, including but not limited to Wisconsin Works (W2), Transitional Jobs (TJ), and the Trial Employment Match Program (TEMP), FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET), Vocational Rehabilitation, Veterans Employment Programs, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), as well as other services that may benefit the noncustodial parent.

A Success Story

Rosana

Questions?