



Wisconsin Works (W-2)

W-2 provides a wide range of employment and training services to help limited income parents find and keep jobs. W-2 provides monthly cash payments to eligible custodial parents for participating in subsidized work-experience positions that prepare them for regular employment. W-2 can also provide case management services to any eligible parents - including non-custodial and minor parents - and can help families access many other types of assistance. Each month W-2 helps over 14,000 families move toward greater self-sufficiency.

ELIGIBILITY

Am I Eligible?

YOU MAY be eligible to receive W-2 services if:

- You are a U.S. citizen or eligible alien who resides in Wisconsin;
- You cooperate with the Child Support Agency;
- You meet income and asset limits;
- You are ONE of the following:
 - a custodial parent with dependent children
 - a non-custodial parent (*case management services only*)
 - a pregnant woman with no children (*case management services only*)
 - a minor parent (*case management services only*)

What Are The Income Limits?

YOUR MONTHLY income must be less than the limits in the table below based on your household size. Do not count child support payments you receive. Certain other sources of income may be disregarded.

Monthly Income Limits Increase April 1, 2006

Household Size	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Monthly Income Limit	\$1,230	\$1,542	\$1,854	\$2,167	\$2,479	\$2,792	\$3,104

What Are The Asset Limits?

YOUR ASSETS cannot exceed \$2,500. Your house and the land it is on are not counted. The value of all your vehicles - after subtracting what you still owe on them - cannot total more than \$10,000. Income and asset limits don't apply to minor parents who receive case management services.

BENEFITS

What Are W-2 Benefits?

W-2 PROVIDES cash payments only to custodial parents with dependent children who participate in any of three "subsidized" work positions. These positions are designed to build the work skills needed to get and keep regular "unsubsidized" jobs. The work position you are placed in depends on your level of readiness for work. Your monthly income increases as you move to higher paying work positions.

- *W-2 Transition (W-2T)*. If you have a limited ability to work due to a disability, drug or alcohol problem, or because you are caring for a disabled family member, you could be offered a W-2T position. You will receive a monthly grant of \$628 for up to 28 hours/week of work and 12 hours/week of education or training to improve your work readiness. The grant is reduced if you miss work or other activities without good reason.

- *Community Service Job (CSJ)*. If you have little or no work experience or need to strengthen your basic skills you may be offered a CSJ position to better prepare you for work. You will receive a monthly grant of \$673 for up to 30 hours/week of work activities and up to 10 hours/week of attending education or training classes. Your grant is reduced if you miss work or other activities without a good reason.
- *Trial Job (Subsidized Employment)*. If you have basic skills but limited work experience you could be placed in a Trial Job. You will receive at least the minimum wage (currently \$5.15/hour) for each hour worked as well as job training. Your employer receives up to \$300 per month to cover your training and supervision.
- *Unsubsidized Employment*. The goal of W-2 is to help you obtain regular work. If you have basic skills and experience already W-2 can help you find a job. You also may move up to this level as you gain work experience. Once employed W-2 may provide services to increase your work skills or advance your career. Your income depends on your hourly wage.

What Other Services Are Available?

W-2 OFFERS many other services to help you toward self-sufficiency:

- *Case Management Services*. W-2 staff will tailor other assistance to your individual needs to help you find work, stay employed, or gain more skills.
- *Educational Opportunities*. You may be able to receive education or training, including GED, job skills training, life skills, literacy education, and English As A Second Language.
- *Job Access Loans*. Short-term, no-interest loans can help you get or keep a job. Loans are used for car repairs, uniforms, rent, or personal emergencies.
- *Transportation*. Your W-2 agency can provide bus passes or gas vouchers.

Are There Time Limits?

YOU ARE limited to 60 months of W-2 cash assistance in your lifetime and cannot be in any one work position for more than 24 months. Extensions may be possible.

What If I Have An Infant?

IF YOU are caring for an infant under 12 weeks old, you may qualify to receive a monthly cash payment of \$673 without being required to work.

What About Emergencies?

YOU MAY be able to receive up to \$150 per family member for emergencies caused by fire, flood, natural disaster, energy crisis or homelessness.

What If I Need Other Help?

YOUR W-2 agency has information on assistance programs to help you meet many other needs, like food, health care, child care, housing, utilities, and child support. They also have information on battered women’s shelters, and alcohol and drug treatment programs. You **DO NOT** have to be a W-2 participant to qualify for these services. Your W-2 Agency can take your application or tell you who to contact.

APPLICATION

How Do I Apply?

CHECK THE government listings in the blue pages of your local phone book for the number of your county or tribal human or social services office. In most counties they can take your W-2 application, but in some counties W-2 services are provided by private agencies. In that case the human or social services office can tell you who to contact. More information is available online at www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/w2/ or by calling 800-722-2295.