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STATE OF WISCONSIN

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Date: June 10, 2024

DMS, DECE, and DFES Operations Memo 24-J2

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors  
Income Maintenance Lead Workers  
Income Maintenance Staff  
W-2 Agencies  
Child Care Coordinators

From: Jonelle Brom, Director  
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**Affected Programs:**

- BadgerCare Plus
- Caretaker Supplement
- Children First
- Emergency Assistance
- FoodShare
- FoodShare Employment and Training
- Job Access Loan
- Job Center Programs
- Medicaid
- Other Employment Programs
- Refugee Assistance Program
- SeniorCare
- Wisconsin Shares Child Care
- Wisconsin Works
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

**Eligibility Policies Related to Universal Basic Income and Payments from Guaranteed Income Programs**

**CROSS REFERENCE**

- BadgerCare Plus Handbook, [Section 16.2.52 Guaranteed Income Payments](#)
- FoodShare Eligibility Handbook, [Section 4.3.4.3 Disregarded Unearned Income](#)
- Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, [Section 15.3.36 Guaranteed Income Payments](#)
- Wisconsin Shares Handbook, [Section 6.3 Disregarded Income](#)
- W-2 Policy Manual, [Section 3.2.8.1 Disregarded Income](#)

## **EFFECTIVE DATE**

June 1, 2024

## **PURPOSE**

This memo announces updated eligibility policies related to universal basic income (UBI) payments and payments from guaranteed income programs.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2022, the City of Madison launched the Madison Forward Fund, a guaranteed income program that provides monthly payments of \$500 for 155 income-eligible families. These payments are designed to supplement existing assistance programs. FoodShare, BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, Wisconsin Shares, and Wisconsin Works (W-2) created policies to exclude these payments from counted income for eligibility consideration.

As additional guaranteed income programs are beginning across the state, eligibility policies are changing to clarify how to count UBI and payments from guaranteed income programs in general, not just those from the Madison Forward Fund.

## **POLICY**

The following policies are effective as of June 1, 2024.

### ***HEALTH CARE***

Payments from UBI and guaranteed income programs are disregarded as income for BadgerCare Plus and disregarded as income and assets for Medicaid.

### ***CARETAKER SUPPLEMENT***

Payments from UBI and guaranteed income programs are counted as income and assets for Caretaker Supplement.

### ***FOODSHARE***

Payments from UBI and payments from guaranteed income programs are disregarded as income and assets for FoodShare.

### ***WISCONSIN SHARES***

Payments from UBI and payments from guaranteed income programs are considered gifts and are disregarded income.

### ***WISCONSIN WORKS***

Payments from UBI and payments from guaranteed income programs are considered gifts under [W-2 policy 3.2.8.1](#) and are disregarded income for eligibility determination. These payments do count towards the asset limit.

## **CONTACTS**

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

For Wisconsin Shares Child Care policy questions outside of Milwaukee County: Bureau of Regional Operations (BRO), Child Care Coordinators at [broccpolicyhelpdesk@wisconsin.gov](mailto:broccpolicyhelpdesk@wisconsin.gov)

For Child Care CARES/CWW and CSAW processing questions statewide and policy questions in Milwaukee County: Child Care Subsidy and Technical Assistance line at [childcare@wisconsin.gov](mailto:childcare@wisconsin.gov) or 608-422-7200

For W-2 Policy Questions: [DCF2PolicyQuestions@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCF2PolicyQuestions@wisconsin.gov)

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