



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 82
[2009 Assembly Bill 297]

**Child Abuse and Neglect
Prevention Grants**

Under current law, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) distributes grants for the prevention of child abuse and neglect under a program commonly referred to as “Family Foundations.”

Act 82 makes several changes to the Family Foundations program:

- Provides that a private agency may participate in Family Foundations.
- Prior to Act 82, DCF was authorized to distribute funding for Family Foundations to six rural counties, three urban counties, and two Indian tribes. Act 82 deletes this provision, so there is no longer a cap on the number of counties that may receive grants.
- Prior to Act 82, Milwaukee County was not eligible to receive grant funds for home visitation and case management services; that county was eligible only for the flexible funding available under the grant program. Act 82 permits Milwaukee County to use grant funds to provide home visitation and case management services.
- Prior to Act 82, Family Foundations grants were a minimum of \$10,000, with any grant over that amount to be awarded based on a formula. A specific formula was created for Milwaukee County. Act 82 deletes that formula for Milwaukee County; as a result, the formula is the same for all counties.
- Requires counties, private agencies, and Indian tribes that receive a grant to agree to match at least 25% of the grant amount annually in funds or in-kind contributions.
- Requires that DCF give favorable consideration in the application process for a grant to a county, private agency, or Indian tribe that submits a joint application.
- Requires a grant applicant to include information in their application on how the applicant’s home visitation program incorporates practice standards and critical elements that have been

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

developed for successful home visitation programs by a nationally recognized home visitation program model, and that are acceptable to DCF.

- Requires a private agency that applies for participation in Family Foundations to submit documentation with the grant application that demonstrates that the application is supported by a county and that a county will collaborate with the private agency in providing services.
- Requires DCF to evaluate the availability of home visitation programs in the state and determine whether there are gaps in home visitation services. DCF must then cooperate with counties, private agencies, and Indian tribes providing home visitation programs to address any gaps identified.
- Requires each county, private agency, and Indian tribe providing a home visitation program to collect and report data as required by DCF, using forms prescribed by DCF.
- Requires each county, private agency, and Indian tribe providing a home visitation program to develop a plan for evaluating the effectiveness of its program for approval by DCF. The bill sets forth outcomes that must be tracked and measured. The evaluation must be used to improve the quality and outcomes of the home visitation program.
- Provides that training provided by DCF to counties, private agencies, and Indian tribes participating in the program may not be limited to a particular home visitation model. Act 82 requires the training to include training regarding basic skills, uniform administration of screening and assessment tools, the issues and challenges that families face, and supervision and personnel skills for program managers. The training may also include training on data collection and reporting.

Effective date: 2009 Wisconsin Act 82 takes effect on December 16, 2009.

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