



Date: July 16, 2026

DCTS Memo 2026-04

To: Subscribers of the DCTS Memo Email Distribution List

From: Gynger Steele, Administrator

Reimbursement for Mental Health High-Cost Placements Ordered by a Tribal Court

Summary

2009 Wis. Act 318 authorizes up to \$250,000 from Tribal gaming revenues to fund high-cost mental health placements of Tribal nation members when Tribal nation or county costs exceed \$50,000 annually and when treatment services are ordered by a Tribal court. This memo outlines the criteria for these funds and how to apply.

Background

The Department of Health Services has received \$250,000 from Tribal gaming revenues to provide reimbursement for high-cost mental health placements for Tribal nation members ordered by a Tribal court. Tribal nations and counties are eligible to apply for this funding. This funding is available for eligible expenses incurred between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026.

Funding criteria

- The individual must have been court ordered for mental health placement by a Tribal court under Tribal nation ordinances comparable to Wis. Stat. § 51.20.
- The placement must have been made for the primary purpose of mental health treatment. This can include individuals who are developmentally disabled or who have a co-occurring substance use diagnosis.
- The total annual expenditure for allowable services has exceeded \$50,000.

Application process

To apply for these funds, complete the [2009 Wisconsin Act 318 High Cost Mental Health Fund Application, F-00301](#), and submit it by mail or email by August 7, 2026, to:

Sarah Coyle
Division of Care and Treatment Services
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
201 E. Washington Ave., G300
Madison, WI 53703
sarah.coyle@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Applicants will be notified whether their application has been approved within two business days after the application is received.

All requests for reimbursement from this funding source must be submitted to GEARS by December 15, 2026.

If requests for funding exceed available funds, allocations will be pro-rated based on approved funding requests.

Up to \$250,000 may be available again for state fiscal year 2027 for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, based on availability of Tribal gaming revenues. If this funding is available, instructions for applying for these funds will be shared in the summer of 2027. The criteria for the use of these funds in state fiscal year 2027 will be similar to the criteria outlined in this memo.

Send questions or concerns about this memo to DHSWEBMAILDCTS@dhs.wisconsin.gov.