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**State of Wisconsin  
Governor Scott Walker**

**TO: Income Maintenance Supervisors  
Income Maintenance Lead Workers  
Income Maintenance Staff  
W-2 Agencies  
Workforce Development Boards  
Job Center Leads and Managers  
Training Staff  
Child Care Coordinators**

**FROM:** Rich Albertoni, Director  
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<b>BEPS/DFS OPERATIONS MEMO</b>									
<b>No:</b>		11-14							
<b>DATE:</b>		4/5/2011							
<b>FS</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>MA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>BC+</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>SC</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FSET</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BC+ Basic</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>CTS</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>BC+ CORE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>RAP</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> *
<b>CC</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>W-2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>EA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CF</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JC</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>JAL</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>WIA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>EP</b>					

**SUBJECT: Prisoner Data Match Report**

**CROSS REFERENCE:** Operations Memo 99-38  
BadgerCare Plus Handbook 2.3, 3.6, 41.4, 41.7  
Medicaid Eligibility Handbook 6.9  
FoodShare Handbook 3.2.1.2.2

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 6, 2011

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Operations Memo is to describe the new Prisoner Data Match Report. This report will help ensure that ineligible incarcerated individuals are not receiving Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus or FoodShare benefits.

**BACKGROUND:**

Operations Memo 99-38 introduced the Prisoner Verification Query available to IM agencies through a data-sharing agreement with the Social Security Administration (SSA), via the State Verification Exchange System (SVES) match. This allowed a worker to query specific individuals when household composition information received was considered questionable.

To strengthen procedures that will help ensure incarcerated individuals are not receiving benefits when they are not eligible, the Department of Health Services (DHS) is changing the process for identifying incarcerated individuals.

## **Prisoner Data Match Report**

The initial Prisoners Data Match Report will be compiled by Deloitte Consulting through the SSA SVES prisoner database. This report will be distributed to each agency via the CARES and Policy Coordinators in early April.

The initial sample will contain matches from one CARES partition (i.e. all cases that start with the same number). In addition, the initial match will target State and Federal Prisons nationwide. Over time, the process will be expanded to include county jails and other correctional facilities.

When a match is found for an individual, their name and CARES PIN# will be displayed, along with their confinement date, facility name, state, contact, and phone number. Because it is not independently verified by SSA, the SSA's Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act Agreement explicitly states that prisoner data does not have the same degree of accuracy as SSA's benefit data. For this reason, agencies are required to verify that the incarceration information is accurate before taking action to terminate benefits.

### ***PROCESS:***

Agencies will be expected to verify match results within 10 days of receipt of their match lists to ensure the quality and integrity of the Medicaid (MA), BadgerCare Plus (BC+), and FoodShare (FS) programs.

For record results within the State of Wisconsin, agencies can verify the accuracy of those results through the Offender Locator website at: <http://offender.doc.state.wi.us/lop/home.do> which provides records of incarcerated offenders through the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC). The database is limited in its scope to adults who are incarcerated in the Wisconsin prison system. For record results outside the State of Wisconsin, agencies can verify results through VINELink, the online version of VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), located at: <https://www.vinelink.com/vinelink/initMap.do>.

If an individual open for an MA/BC+ or FS benefit is verified to be ineligible due to incarceration in state or federal prison, the following action should be taken in accordance with existing policy for the programs impacted:

- Terminate eligibility for incarcerated individual with respect to program rules;
- Determine if an overpayment occurred according to program policy and if so, calculate the amount and establish a benefit recovery claim; and
- Make corrections to ensure proper future benefits for others within the household assistance group.

DHS will be monitoring reports that have been submitted to agencies to determine the number of individuals who have been removed from eligibility due to an incarceration match.

### ***CONTACTS:***

BEPS CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

\*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training, BC+ Core – BadgerCare Plus Core, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

DHS/DHCAA/BEPS/AR