



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Kirsten L. Johnson, Secretary

Advisory Notification of Calendar Year 2024
Contract Covering Social Services and Community Aids Allocations

DATE: 10/4/2023

TO: County Board Chairpersons
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Developmental Disabilities Services Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors

FROM: Debra K. Standridge, Deputy Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Department of Health Services

10/4/2023

The purpose of this communication is to provide you with information to support the Department of Health Services (DHS) State County Grant Award Contract process, by announcing the current calendar year (CY) Department of Health Services Final Allocation amounts, and to highlight major changes to language in the State and County Grant Award Contract Template and the program profile requirements. The State and County Grant Award Contract establishes a contractual relationship between your local county agency and DHS.

The documents listed below are published to the [DHS State and County Contract webpage](#):

- Advisory Notification of Calendar Year 2024
- The Department of Health Services Final Allocations spreadsheet

Open Public Participation Process

Counties must meet the open public participation process requirements in Wis. Stat. § 46.031(3). Contact your Area Administrator with any questions.

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (WBPDD)

Under Wis. Stat. § 51.437(7)(a), WBPDD has review and advisory responsibilities on community budgets and plans for programs affecting persons with developmental disabilities. The Board will issue instructions which enable it to carry out these responsibilities.

CONTRACT REVISIONS

State County Grant Award Contract Template:

1. Executive Order #184 Relating to Cybersecurity and Prohibiting the Use of Certain Foreign Technologies.
Section #7(E) – Federal and State Rules and Regulations
Summary: Executive Order #184 was issued by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers to address cybersecurity issues posed by the use of certain foreign technologies.

2. Changed CARS to GEARS throughout entirety of contract.
 - a. Exceptions: linked websites and email distributions lists may still refer to CARS as those items have not yet been updated and/or may remain as is.
3. Mutual indemnification language.

Section #10 (B) – Confidential, Proprietary, and Personally Identifiable Information

 - a. **Removed:** In the event of a breach of this section by Grantee, Grantee shall indemnify and hold harmless DHS and any of its officers, employees, or agents from any claims arising from the acts or omissions of the Grantee, and its Subgrantee, employees and agents, in violation of this section, including but not limited to, costs of credit monitoring and identity theft restoration coverage for one (1) year of coverage from the date the individual enrolls, of all persons whose Confidential Information was disclosed, disallowances or penalties from federal oversight agencies, and any court costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney fees, incurred by DHS in the enforcement of this section.
 - b. **Replaced with:** To the extent authorized under State and Federal Laws, the parties agree that they each shall be responsible for any losses or expenses (including costs, damages, and attorney’s fees) attributable to the acts or omissions of their own employees, officers, subcontractors, or agents.

BCA less Match (561)

This is the BCA with the State match portion of the BCA removed. If a county does not spend county matching funds, it is still eligible to receive the funds identified based upon reimbursable Community Aids expenses.

State Match/County Match (681)

This amount is based upon 9.89 percent of all match funds.

Total Match

This is the sum of all Community Aids funds which are subject to county match.

Adults at Risk/Adult Protective Services (312)

The additional \$1,000,000 of funding provided annually through the 2023-25 biennial state budget will be distributed to counties using a population-based funding formula. This approach establishes a documented, evidence-based funding distribution that targets funds to the geographic areas where they are most needed, based on social and economic characteristics of the local population. This approach enhances the transparency of the rationale for each county’s funding level, aligns better with other aging program funding, and helps ensure that the process is equitable and meets targeting goals.

Because of the timing of the first year's contract relative to the effective date of the biennial budget, we will be distributing the \$500K increase that is due to the counties for 2023 along with the additional \$1M that will be due in 2024. That means the 2024 contract amounts will be artificially larger (increased by \$1.5M) than in subsequent years, when the increase will be just \$1M. It is our fiscal unit's understanding that these funds are ongoing and can be planned for in subsequent years.

The formula proposed for the new APS allocations is similar to the one used annually for distributing federal Older Americans Act Supportive Service Funds (Title IIIB). This formula has been approved by the Administration for Community Living as a fair and equitable method for targeting service funds. It takes into account each county's share of the population age 60 and over, those age 60 and over with income below poverty level, those age 60 and over who report a race/ethnicity other than white non-Hispanic, and those 60 and older who live alone. It also considers whether a county is predominantly rural based on population density. For the APS distribution which supports efforts on behalf of all adults-at-risk of any age, one additional factor is included: the population aged 18-59 with any disability.

The OAA Title IIIB population formula was used for distributing both CRRSA (COVID recovery funds) and ARPA (two yearly grants of American Rescue Plan Act funds) to Wisconsin's APS units over the past several years. The formula has been "tested" in the distribution of these three waves of funding, and appears to work well. The only change to the approach used for the COVID supplementary funds will be the addition of the disability factor.

Children's Community Options Program (377)

The CARS system was officially sunset in CY 2023, and all contract language now refers to its replacement, GEARS. There are no other funding or programmatic process changes from CY 2023.

Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support (381)

The 2024 State-County Contract will distribute additional funds for the Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) resulting from an increase of \$250,000 annually in the biennial state budget. Funds for this program are allocated to counties using the population-based funding formula for Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III, the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). The formula approved by the Administration for Community Living for distributing NFCSP funds was updated for this year's distribution as part of Wisconsin's State Aging Plan for 2023-25, and the updated formula will be applied to both the NFCSP and AFCSP distributions. This will result in small changes in the funding distribution, as will regular annual updates to demographic information from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, reflecting small changes in the distribution of the target populations across Wisconsin counties.

Because of the timing of the first year's contract relative to the effective date of the biennial budget, we will be distributing the \$125,000 increase that is due to the counties for 2023 along with the additional \$250,000 for 2024 in a single contract. That means the 2024 contract amounts will be artificially larger (increased by \$125,000) than in subsequent years, when the increase will be just \$250,000. It is our understanding that these funds are ongoing and can be planned for in subsequent years.

The CARS system was officially sunset in CY 2023, and all contract language now refers to its replacement, Grant Enrollment, Application, & Reporting System (GEARS).

Older Americans Act Title III Programs (560300, 560340, 560355, 560360, 560510, and 560520)

Because the federal government provides notices of each year's Older Americans Act grant awards to states several months after the State-County Contract is prepared, the annual estimated program allocations prepared for this contract are based on the final funding allocations for these programs in the

prior year. For 2024, we are deviating slightly from this approach. The final 2023 awards for Older Americans Act program funding were significantly expanded to help states address ongoing effects of the pandemic. The federal discretionary budget that includes allocations to ACL was reduced from the 2023 levels by 9% during budget negotiations earlier this year. Since it is yet unclear how this will affect Older Americans Act funds, the estimated allocations in this contract are based on the 2022 awards for each program area.

In addition, the estimated county allocations for these programs will differ from the 2022 allocations because the formula approved by the Administration for Community Living for distributing Older Americans Act funds was updated for this year's distribution as part of Wisconsin's State Aging Plan for 2023-25. Implementation of the new formula will result in small changes in the funding distribution, as will the regular annual updates to demographic information from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, reflecting small changes in the distribution of the target populations across Wisconsin counties.

These allocations combine federal funding with state funds appropriated under the Wisconsin Elders Act specifically for nutrition programming: Congregate Dining (Profile 560355) and Home Delivered Meals (Profile 560360). The 2024 State-County Contract will include additional funds for Home Delivered Meals resulting from an increase of \$225,000 annually in the biennial state budget. Because of the timing of the first year's contract relative to the effective date of the biennial budget, we will be distributing the \$112,500 increase that is due to the counties for 2023 along with the additional \$225,000 for 2024 in a single contract. That means the 2024 contract amounts will be artificially larger (increased by \$112,500) than in subsequent years, when the increase will be just \$225,000. It is our understanding that these funds are ongoing and can be planned for in subsequent years.

Elder Abuse Services (560490)

Realizing a temporary funding increase of \$27,201 in 2023, the ongoing appropriation for Elder Abuse will be a slight increase of \$6,801. Counties will see small adjustments to their allocation amounts as a result. The Elder Abuse Direct Services funds are distributed using the same formula that is used for Older Americans Act Supplementary Services. Additional small adjustments in the allocations result from the implementation of the new formula approved by the Administration for Community Living for distributing Older Americans Act funds, updated as part of Wisconsin's State Aging Plan for 2023-25. Further small changes result from regular annual updates to demographic information from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, reflecting small changes in the distribution of the target populations across Wisconsin counties.

Coordinated Services Teams (515)

No changes.

Community Mental Health (516)

No changes.

TANF (535)

Updated -

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment County (535)

These additional funds will be used by the county only for the following purposes and under the following service conditions: In accordance with your application submitted under statewide solicitation of grant applications for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and community-based

substance use disorder treatment programs. All of these additional GPR funds must be used by the county for substance use disorder services for TANF-eligible individuals and their families, parents with minor child(ren) who reside in the household, pregnant women, and non-custodial parents of minor children, involved in multiple systems and in need of treatment for substance use disorder.

Methamphetamine Treatment Grant (544)

No changes.

Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUPTRS BG) Primary Prevention Activities (570)

Starting in 2019, the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Block Services Grant (SUPTRS BG) previously known as the Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Block Grant (SAPTBG) Community Aids program was split into three profiles. Profile 570 provides primary prevention services. A minimum of 20 percent (20%) of the SUPTRS BG community allocation funds must be set aside on primary prevention programs for individuals who do not require treatment for substance use disorder. Primary prevention programs are for individuals who do not require treatment for a substance use disorder. Such programs and activities may include education, mentoring, and other activities designed to reduce the risk of substance misuse by individuals. Note: Early intervention activities and SBIRT (screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment) are not eligible “primary prevention” programs or activities. The appendix clarifies the county responsibilities and includes contact information to assure counties and their subcontractors comply with the federal law.

Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUPTRS BG) (545)

The SUPTRS BG Community Aids program has been split into three profiles. Profile 545 provides treatment and other services. SUPTRS BG Community Aids funds may be expended for substance use disorder treatment, and general (non-primary) prevention, early intervention, recovery support and training/system improvement programs and activities that are designed for or target persons with substance use disorders. This category does not include programs and services that fall within the 20 percent Primary Prevention set aside category (Profile #570) or fall within the 10 percent Women’s Treatment set aside category (Profile 546). The appendix clarifies the county’s responsibilities and includes contact information to assure counties and their subcontractors comply with the federal law. Note: Treatment and Other Services (Profile 545) may be reduced for additional spending in Primary Prevention (Profile 570) and/or Women’s Treatment (Profile 546), but Primary Prevention (Profile 570) and Women’s Treatment (Profile 546) may not be reduced for additional spending in Treatment and Other Services (Profile 545). This ensures the minimum set asides for Primary Prevention (Profile 570) and Women’s Treatment (Profile 546) are met.

Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUPTRS BG) Women’s Treatment Services (546)

The SUPTRS BG Community Aids program has been split into three profiles. Profile 546 provides women’s treatment services. A minimum of 10 percent of the SUPTRS BG Community Aids funds must be set aside to provide comprehensive substance use disorder treatment, and general (non-primary) prevention and recovery support programs and services targeting women and their dependent children, including pregnant and postpartum women and their dependent children. This includes programs and

services targeting pregnant women who inject drugs. This category does not include primary prevention programs or services targeting men or children. The appendix clarifies the county responsibilities and includes contact information to assure counties and their subcontractors comply with the federal law.

Birth to Three Program (550)

The CARS system was officially sunset in CY 2023, and all contract language now refers to its replacement, GEARS.

In CY 2024, total county/consortium agency Birth to 3 allocations have increased to \$13,414,888. For counties/consortium agencies operating via Profile 550, allocations have increased to \$13,190,387. CY 2024 allocations were determined using three primary data elements:

- 1) A base rate per county/consortium agency
- 2) An agency-specific percent make-up rate that is calculated (using the average of the most recent three years of available data) by combining:
 - a. The IFSP rate (enrolled population) and
 - b. The 0-3 population rate (census data)
- 3) A historical minimum allocation (CY 2019 threshold)

15% of total annual funding is distributed evenly across each agency as a base allocation. The state then applies a percent make-up for each Birth to 3 county/consortium agency in relation to the Birth to 3 Program as a whole and distributes the individual agency allocations according to the percent make-up. The agency-specific percent make-up is calculated by combining the IFSP rate (enrolled population) and the 0-3 population rate (census data) using an average of the most recent three years of data available. Finally, allocations are adjusted so that no local program allocation will be reduced below the CY 2019 allocation.

Intoxicated Driver Program (567)

No changes.

Community Mental Health Services Block-Grant (569)

No changes.

Urban Youth Primary Substance Use Prevention (589)

No changes.

Children's Long Term Support Waiver Program (877, 878)

The CARS system was officially sunset in CY 2023, and all contract language now refers to its replacement, GEARS.

Beginning with the reconciliation of CY2024 CLTS Program expenditures, which the County will conduct in CY2025, the Children's Long Term Support Reconciliation Packet (F-00963) will be replaced by the CLTS Waiver Administrative Reimbursement Process (WARP) Tool. The CLTS WARP Tool is a web-based cost report with similar functionality as the existing F-00963.

County CLTS administrative allocations (GEARS profiles 877/878) remain at the same levels that were established for CY 2023.

Non-Resident Emergency Detention 977 (931)

No changes.

PROFILES REMOVED:

Opioid Settlement Funds (548)

QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions, please contact [DHS Area Administration](#).