

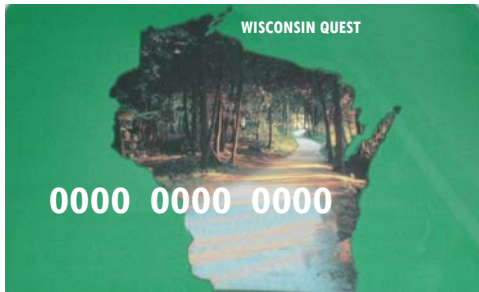
Mission Statement
Economic Support
of La Crosse County

Administering public assistance programs timely and accurately, assisting individuals in the eligibility process as necessary, assisting individuals in moving toward self-sufficiency and treating all customers with dignity and respect.

Lorie Graff, Manager

Economic
Support





Jim and Donna came to Economic Support seeking assistance after both lost employment. Jim had just been laid off from his manufacturing job, while Donna had been out of work for the last several months. The couple had six children, ranging in age from 17 to 5 years old.

The Financial and Employment Planner (FEP) that Jim and Donna met with suggested that they apply for the Wisconsin Works (W-2) program. Under W-2, Jim and Donna could receive assistance with finding new employment. In addition to receiving help from the Financial and Employment Planner, the agency's Job Developer would also provide individualized services to Jim and Donna.

The FEP determined there were few opportunities for Jim in the same career field he had been working in. The FEP guided Jim through several skill assessments and a career assessment. The assessments helped identify a field Jim was interested in, and that he had previously taken classes in. Jim hadn't pursued a change in careers after receiving the education, but now the education led the Job Developer to find a Skills Site where Jim could gain current experience related to his education. The employer participating as a Skills Site also expressed interest in hiring Jim directly if he worked out.

Donna was very motivated to find employment and became very actively involved in workshops and other W-2 activities to advance her job search skills. Donna was especially interested in working with children. The FEP was able to assist Donna with transportation funding, and the Job Developer assisted Donna with focusing her job search on daycare centers. It wasn't long before Donna was offered a full-time position as a daycare teacher, with a large daycare center. Both Jim and Donna continue to do well in their employment positions.

Income Maintenance

The Income Maintenance (IM) Unit performs responsibilities related to the administration of Wisconsin's IM programs which are defined as: the FoodShare Program and Medicaid. The IM Unit also administers W-2, Emergency Assistance, the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program and the Child Care Subsidy Program. All of these programs are funded with federal and state dollars.

FoodShare

FoodShare Wisconsin is a federal program for families and single people with little or no income. FoodShare benefits are received monthly and used to buy food at stores using a debit card called the Wisconsin QUEST card. FoodShare Wisconsin is a food and nutrition program designed to help create a healthier Wisconsin.



Medicaid

Medicaid is a federal/state program that pays health care providers to deliver essential health care and long-term care services to elderly individuals, people with disabilities, low-income families with dependent children, and certain other children and pregnant women. The Medicaid programs in Wisconsin include Elderly/Disabilities Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus and Family Care.



W-2

W-2 began in 1997 as a replacement program for Aid to Families with Dependent Children. The goal of the W-2 program is to provide necessary and appropriate services to prepare individuals to work. Individuals eligible to receive W-2 may receive cash assistance for a maximum of five years. Case management provides services to assist the individual in obtaining and maintaining self-sustaining employment.



Wisconsin Energy Assistance Program

This is a federally funded program that provides low income households with an annual payment to assist with their energy bills. In addition, the program provides for emergency furnace repair and replacement, emergency fuel assistance, counseling for energy conservation and energy budgets and pro-active co-payment plans.



Emergency Assistance

Emergency Assistance (EA) is designed to meet the immediate needs of eligible persons facing a current emergency. The emergency must be due to fire, flood, natural disaster, energy crisis, homelessness or impending homelessness. EA is intended to avoid destitution of a child and provide living arrangements for the child in a home.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM AREAS

FOODSHARE

MEDICAID

WISCONSIN SHARES
CHILD CARE SUBSIDY
PROGRAM

W-2

WI ENERGY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE

Visit the Economic Support's WEB site at:
[http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/
HumanServices/ES/index.htm](http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/HumanServices/ES/index.htm)