

Mission Statement
Economic Support
of La Crosse County

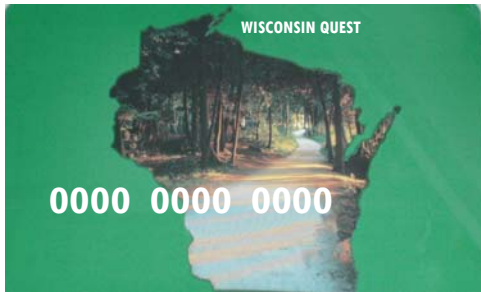
Administering public assistance programs timely and accurately, assisting individuals in the eligibility process as necessary, assisting individuals in moving toward self-sufficiency and treating all customers with dignity and respect.

Lorie Graff, Manager

Economic
Support



300 fourth street north . La Crosse WI 54601



Michelle, a young mother, came in to seek assistance from Economic Support when she abruptly lost her full-time job. While she needed to replace her income quickly so that she could support her child, Michelle couldn't help but express her discouragement over her circumstances. She thought her job was secure and her boss had consistently praised her work. It was hard for Michelle to understand how things could change so quickly. With her recent layoff - and the slow down in the economy - Michelle not only needed assistance in finding another job, but she also needed support and motivation as she searched for another position.

The Financial and Employment Planner that Michelle met with in Economic Support offered Michelle assistance under the Wisconsin Works (W-2) program. In addition to meeting with her weekly, the worker also assisted Michelle in connecting with other community resources that could help with some of her immediate needs.

During one of the first weekly meetings, Michelle was provided financial assistance for transportation costs. It was suggested that she try the Temporary Agencies to see if they had any connections with the employer Michelle really wanted to work for. As it turned out, they did. Michelle was placed at the company where she had expressed a desire to work. She is now in a long term assignment with a good chance of being hired permanently. Michelle is very happy with her position and making a good hourly wage.

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.



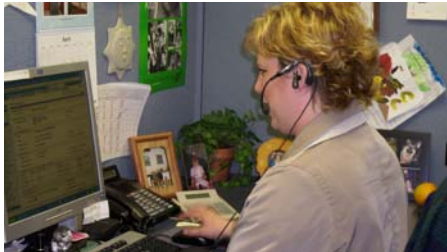
Medicaid

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)