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W-2 Systems Planning
Fiscal Year 2016

Biennial Budget Projects

1. Reducing the Wisconsin Works (W-2) Lifetime Eligibility Limit to 48 Months

This Biennial Budget proposal reduces the number of months an individual may participate in a W-2 employment position or a TANF program in another state from a lifetime limit of 60 months to 48 months. The proposal gives the W-2 agency the authority to extend the time limit by reason of hardship, or if the family includes an individual who has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty.

Business Need: The automation of this policy would require changes to how time limits are tracked and extensions are approved in CARES. This would also require changes to the CARES 54 month notice and alert.

2. Drug Testing and Treatment

This Biennial Budget proposal requires a drug screening for every individual who applies for the Transform Milwaukee Jobs program, Transitional Jobs program, or W-2 services and benefits for non-custodial parents. The requirement would also apply to individuals who are court ordered to participate in Children First. If the drug screen indicates potential drug abuse, a drug test is required. If the drug test is positive, substance abuse treatment and random drug testing are required.

Business Need: The needed automation would be similar to the Drug Felon page in CWW. However, since eligibility for these programs is not determined in CWW, logic may need to be added to the CARES Work Programs or other web application.

3. Automate the Refusal to Participate Policy

Under the new policy, if a participant in a W-2 employment position refuses to participate, he or she will be ineligible for W-2 for three months. This includes a second parent in a two-parent family. These policies do not apply to the Custodial Parent of an Infant (CMC), At-Risk Pregnancy (ARP) placements, or any of the other case management placements. The administrative rule must be promulgated prior to automating this policy.

Business Need: The automation of this policy would require data collection changes as well as eligibility and notice changes.

4. Transitional Jobs and Transform Milwaukee Automation Enhancements

- a. *Transitional Jobs:* The automation of this program would be similar to process used for Transform Milwaukee and Children First and would include a client registration process and use of existing case management screens in Work Programs (e.g., assessment, employability plan, activity assignment).

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- b. *Transform Milwaukee Automation Enhancements*: The needed automation would allow for multiple updates on the subsidized and post subsidized phases within an episode on CARES screen WPTM. This addresses the agencies need to end a subsidized phase due to a participant being fired, finding a job or other situation, then after a period of time within an episode, finding a new subsidized employment opportunity and entering the new begin and expected end dates. This also then creates the need for ability to update new post-subsidized periods.

5. Automate Trial Employment Match Program (TEMP) including Noncustodial parent (NCP) TEMP and Stipend

This subsidized employment position replaces the Trial Jobs employment position. While similar in concept, the TEMP program removes the wage subsidy limitation and allows the W-2 agency to negotiate with the employer the wage subsidy amount and to reimburse the employer for all or a portion of hiring costs. In return, the proposed law requires that an employer agree to make a good faith effort to retain the participant as a permanent unsubsidized employee.

Business Need: This project will utilize existing CARES functionality, to the extent possible, e.g., using CARES Work Program screen WPSS to track wage subsidy information, creating new activity codes to track assigned activities, etc.

6. Expansion of Learnfare

This Biennial Budget proposal requires a child subject to the school attendance requirement and whose W-2 group includes an individual who has been unable to participate in W-2 activities due to the child's school-related problems to participate in the Learnfare program case management.

Business Need: The needed automation would include a process to identify the new group of children who are mandatory for Learnfare and a mechanism for referring these children to Learnfare.

System Enhancements

1. Transitioning Case Based Eligibility Screens from Mainframe to CWW (Currently in Process)

The project entails moving information currently gathered on 12 mainframe screens to CWW.

- WP Screens WPTP, WPVP, WPHB, WPET and WPHP capture participant information similar to what is collected in CWW during intake or at review. Redefining where we capture this information will streamline case processing by collecting similar information at the same time and reduce redundancy for workers and participants.
- The WP referral screens AIWP, AIJR and AILW are scheduled or available as a result of the eligibility that is being determined in CWW. Bringing the referral process into CWW will allow workers to leave the eligibility driver flow at any point to process the referral without navigating away from CWW.
- Transfer of the W-2 placement related screens WPFR, WPPA, WPWW and WPPS to CWW will support BWF's larger goal of modernizing how it collects work program- related information. As BWF moves forward with the separate WP modernization project, the placement screens would be unlikely to

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be modernized as part of the first phase of the project. Without the transfer of these screens to CWW, caseworkers would have to continue to navigate between a mainframe system and a web system to process each W-2 case.

- Project expected to be complete March 2016

2. Temporary Absence of a Child

Currently, CWW denies eligibility if a custodial parent does not have a dependent child residing in the home. The problem with this is that the federal law allows eligibility for W-2 when a dependent child is temporarily residing out of the home. In addition, this causes workers to get incorrect alerts, the participant to get incorrect notices, and auxiliary payments are needed to generate payments to eligible participants.

3. Error Prone Profiling for W-2

Similar to the logic currently in place for FS, MA and CTS, automate CWW to identify at intake and renewal the following three Error Prone Profiles (EPP):

Questionable Income and/or Expenses:

These are cases that may have questionable income based on either of the following conditions:

- Expenses exceed income.
- Total income has remained the same for an extended period of time.

Unresolved Discrepancies:

These cases may have inaccurate or unreported income based on the presence of unresolved State Wage Information Collection Agency (SWICA), Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB), State Online Query Internet (SOLQI) or Prisoner Match discrepancies.

IPV/Overpayment History:

CARES will identify cases that include members who have a history of Intentional Program Violations (IPV) or overpayments.

4. ACCESS Enhancements

- a. Lift Restriction for Paperless Indicator for W-2 only cases

Scope:

- Remove the restriction in CWW that prevents a FEP worker from enrolling a W-2 household into paperless correspondence for a W-2 only case
- Update system-generated mailed letters and e-mails so that they display the correct contact information for W-2 only cases (including Spanish versions)

- b. Add W-2 to ACCESS Check My Benefits (CMB)

Scope:

1. Modify logic to pull information from CWW about a household's W-2 eligibility and W-2 agency contact information
2. Modify the paperless election functionality to consider W-2 when checking for open programs.
3. Modify the CMB Refresh process such that it considers when W-2 eligibility information has changed

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4. Modify the CMB Landing Page to include W-2 eligibility information
5. Modify the Contact Information page to provide W-2 agency contact information
6. Review and assess impact to RMC / RMB / Program Add modules
7. Perform one-time conversion to update all ACCESS accounts with W-2 information in CWW
8. Perform Spanish translation of ACCESS CMB enhancements for W-2

5. 2016 Contract Changes

TBD

DHS Projects

1. National New Hire Database, Phase 2
2. Add Renewals to CWW Dashboard
3. CARES Data Archival/Purge Process
4. CWW Internet Explorer Browser Compatibility Changes, Phases 1 and 2
5. Residency Verification Automation
6. Efficiency for Discrepancies
7. State Verification Exchange System (SVES) into Verification Account Management System (VAMS) Project
8. Asset Verification Automation
9. Transition Benefit Issuance Mainframe Screens to CWW
10. ACCESS Mobile, Phase 1