

Chapter DWD 17

W-2 WORKER TRAINING

DWD 17.01	Introduction.
DWD 17.02	Definitions.
DWD 17.03	Initial W-2 worker training.
DWD 17.04	Ongoing training for experienced W-2 workers.

DWD 17.05	Trainer qualifications.
DWD 17.06	Local responsibility for implementing updates.
DWD 17.07	Reports and records.

Note: Chapter HSS 217 as it existed on October 31, 1999 was repealed and a new chapter DWD 17 was created effective November 1, 1999.

DWD 17.01 Introduction. (1) AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE. This chapter is promulgated under authority set forth in ss. 49.143 (2) (c) and 103.005 (17), Stats., to ensure that each financial and employment planner and resource specialist employed by a W-2 agency has successfully completed a training program to achieve acceptable W-2 worker job performance. Successful completion of prescribed training is required for all new W-2 workers. The department shall make ongoing training available for experienced W-2 workers.

(2) APPLICABILITY. This chapter applies to W-2 agencies and the financial and employment planners and resource specialists employed by those agencies.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1999, No. 526, eff. 11-1-99; CR 02-050: am. Register January 2003 No. 565, eff. 2-1-03.

DWD 17.02 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "Automated system" means a computer-supported process used by the department, including CARES.

(2) "CARES" means the department's automated client assistance for re-employment and economic support.

Note: CARES is the automated system used by DWD to determine eligibility, calculate benefits, and retain data for W-2.

(3) "Case management" means the family-centered and goal-oriented process for assessing the needs of a W-2 group member and his or her family for employment, training, and supportive services and assisting the W-2 group member in obtaining services to achieve self-sufficiency.

(4) "Department" means the Wisconsin department of workforce development.

(5) "Experienced FEP" means a FEP who has completed initial FEP training.

(6) "Experienced resource specialist" means a resource specialist employed by a W-2 agency before February 1, 2003 or a resource specialist who has completed initial resource specialist training.

(7) "Financial and employment planner" or "FEP" means a case manager employed by a Wisconsin works agency who determines eligibility, assists in the process of determining eligibility, or performs case management functions.

(8) "New resource specialist" means a person who is employed by a W-2 agency as a resource specialist on or after February 1, 2003, including a permanent employee who transfers into a resource specialist position and who has not completed initial resource specialist training.

(9) "Resource specialist" means a worker employed by a Wisconsin works agency who performs application entry, provides an initial assessment of a potential W-2 applicant's needs, makes referrals to service providers, or evaluates an individual's need for W-2. "Resource specialist" may also include a worker employed by an agency contracted with the department to provide access services.

(10) "Wisconsin works" or "W-2" has the meaning given in s. DWD 12.03 (37).

Note: "Wisconsin works" or "W-2" is defined in s. DWD 12.03 (37), Wis. Adm. Code, as "the assistance program for families with dependent children, administered under ss. 49.141 to 49.161, Stats."

(11) "Wisconsin works agency" or "W-2 agency" has the meaning given in s. DWD 12.03 (38).

Note: "Wisconsin works agency" is defined in s. DWD 12.03 (38), Wis. Adm. Code, as "a person, county agency, tribal governing body, or a private agency contracted under s. 49.143, Stats., by the department to administer the Wisconsin works program under ss. 49.141 to 49.161, Stats., and DWD 12. If no contract is awarded under s. 49.143, Stats., 'Wisconsin works agency' means the department."

(12) "W-2 handbooks, manuals, and instructional materials" means department-issued handbooks, manuals, and memos that are addressed to W-2 agencies and set forth eligibility and benefit criteria and case maintenance and case processing information for Wisconsin works.

(13) "W-2 worker" means a resource specialist and a financial and employment planner.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1999, No. 526, eff. 11-1-99; CR 02-050: r. (4) and (6) to (15), renum. (5), (16) and (17) to be (4), (10) and (11), cr. (5) to (9), (12) and (13) Register January 2003 No. 565, eff. 2-1-03.

DWD 17.03 Initial W-2 worker training. (1) FEPS AND RESOURCE SPECIALISTS. The department shall make initial W-2 worker training available to new FEPs and resource specialists directly or through contractors. The W-2 agency shall ensure that each FEP and resource specialist completes the department's initial training during the first 6 months of employment.

(2) FINANCIAL AND EMPLOYMENT PLANNERS. (a) The department shall develop a standardized curriculum for training new FEPs. The approved curriculum shall include courses, independent study, and closely supervised practical experience and shall ensure that learning objectives support an acceptable standard of competency at completion. The curriculum may vary depending on job function and may include the following:

1. Program philosophy.
2. Policy and procedure in W-2 handbooks, manuals, and instructional materials.
3. Eligibility determination.
4. Automated systems used the W-2 program.
5. Interpersonal skills needed to perform W-2 functions.
6. Case management information and skills, including:
 - a. Employment and training information for W-2 participants, including job readiness assessment, training opportunities, job search activities, labor market information, and job retention skills.
 - b. Special needs of the W-2 participant or a family member that affect the W-2 participant's employability, including substance abuse, domestic abuse, and physical or mental disabilities.
 - c. Community resources and supportive services available to assist W-2 participants.

(b) No FEP may make independent decisions related to eligibility or perform case management functions until the initial W-2 training is successfully completed. To successfully complete the initial W-2 training, a FEP shall attend all class hours and shall participate in all instructional activities. The W-2 agency shall

develop evaluation strategies to ensure that the new FEP achieves a minimum standard of competence.

(c) Within the first year of employment, a FEP shall complete 12 hours of training in domestic abuse awareness, including case management strategies and the department's comprehensive screening tool.

(3) RESOURCE SPECIALIST. (a) The department shall develop a standardized curriculum for training new resource specialists. The approved curriculum shall include courses, independent study, and closely supervised practical experience and shall ensure that learning objectives support an acceptable standard of competency at completion. The curriculum may vary depending on job function and may include the following:

1. Program philosophy.
2. Policy and procedure in W-2 handbooks, manuals, and instructional materials.
3. Eligibility determination.
4. Automated systems used the W-2 program.
5. Interpersonal skills needed to perform W-2 functions.
6. Case management information and skills, including:
 - a. Employment and training information for W-2 participants, including job readiness assessment, training opportunities, job search activities, labor market information, and job retention skills.
 - b. Special needs of the W-2 participant or a family member that affect the W-2 participant's employability, including substance abuse, domestic abuse, and physical or mental disabilities.
 - c. Community resources and supportive services available to assist W-2 participants.

(b) No new resource specialist may make independent decisions related to providing an initial assessment of a potential W-2 applicant's needs, making referrals to service providers, or evaluating an individual's need for W-2 until the initial W-2 training is successfully completed. To successfully complete the initial W-2 training, a new resource specialist shall attend all class hours and shall participate in all instructional activities. The W-2 agency shall develop evaluation strategies to ensure that the new resource specialist achieves a minimum standard of competence.

(c) Within the first year of employment, a resource specialist shall complete 6 hours of training on domestic abuse awareness.

(4) COMPARABLE TRAINING. A W-2 agency may develop its own training to implement the standardized curriculum under sub. (2) or (3), with approval by the department. A W-2 agency that chooses not to participate in the initial training for new W-2 workers offered by the department or its contractors shall submit a training implementation plan to the department for approval at least 45 days before the planned start date of the training. Training plans shall be submitted to the department on an annual basis. The plan shall do all of the following:

- (a) Specify the number of hours of classroom training, independent study, planned exercises, and activities.
- (b) State how W-2 handbooks, manuals, and instructional materials will be used.
- (c) Explain how training will address the interpersonal and case management skills needed to perform the W-2 function.
- (d) Specify the number of hours of supervised practical experience, including the use of automated systems, W-2 program policy and procedure application, and case management techniques.
- (e) Indicate the length of the training program.
- (f) Describe how learning will be evaluated.
- (g) Include the name, address, position title, and qualifications of each trainer.

Note: Send the proposed W-2 training implementation plan to: Training Section, DWD Division of Workforce Solutions, P.O. Box 7972, Madison, WI 53707-7972.

A copy of the department's training schedule for new and experienced workers may be obtained by writing the above address.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1999, No. 526, eff. 11-1-99; **CR 02-050: r. and recr. Register January 2003 No. 565, eff. 2-1-03.**

DWD 17.04 Ongoing training for experienced W-2 workers. **(1) STANDARD CURRICULUM.** The department shall develop an ongoing course or courses for experienced resource specialists and FEPs and shall make the course or courses available each year directly or through contractors. The department shall annually define required training courses and develop a standardized curriculum for each job function as needed. The curriculum shall include the following:

(a) Policy and procedure in W-2 handbooks, manuals, and instructional materials.

(b) Automated systems used in the W-2 program.

(c) Interpersonal skills needed to perform W-2 functions.

(d) Enhanced case management information and skills, including:

1. Employment and training information for W-2 participants, including job readiness assessment, training opportunities, job search activities, labor market information, and job retention skills.
2. Special needs of the W-2 participant or a family member that affect the W-2 participant's employability, including substance abuse, domestic abuse, and physical or mental disabilities.
3. Community resources and supportive services available to assist W-2 participants.

(2) DOMESTIC ABUSE TRAINING. An experienced FEP who has not completed the department's 12 hour training in domestic abuse awareness including case management strategies and the department's comprehensive screening tool by February 1, 2003 shall complete this training before February 1, 2004.

(3) COMPARABLE TRAINING. A W-2 agency may develop its own training to implement the standardized curriculum under sub. (1), with approval by the department. A W-2 agency that chooses not to participate in training offered by the department or its contractors shall submit a training implementation plan to the department for approval at least 45 days before the planned start date of training. Training plans shall be submitted to the department on an annual basis. The plan shall:

- (a) Specify the number of hours of classroom training, independent study, planned exercises, and activities.
- (b) Indicate the length of the training program.
- (c) Describe how learning will be evaluated.
- (d) Include the name, address, position title, and qualifications of each trainer.

Note: Send the proposed W-2 training implementation plan to: Training Section, DWD Division of Workforce Solutions, P.O. Box 7972, Madison, WI 53707-7972.

A copy of the department's training schedule for new and experienced workers may be obtained by writing the above address.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1999, No. 526, eff. 11-1-99; **CR 02-050: am. (1) (intro.) to (c), renum. (2) to be (3) and am. (3) (intro.), cr. (2) Register January 2003 No. 565, eff. 2-1-03.**

DWD 17.05 Trainer qualifications. The department shall ensure that the person doing the training has:

- (1)** Knowledge of the programs and procedures in which the person will conduct training as evidenced by prior experience or education.
- (2)** Experience or education in training techniques or adult education.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1999, No. 526, eff. 11-1-99.

DWD 17.06 Local responsibility for implementing updates. [Each] W-2 agency shall ensure that all W-2 workers are trained in a timely manner on all W-2 policy and procedure and automated system updates that are issued by the department.

Note: These updates include Handbook and Manual releases, DWS Administrator's Memos, and Operations Memos.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1999, No. 526, eff. 11-1-99; **CR 02-050: am. Register January 2003 No. 565, eff. 2-1-03.**

DWD 17.07 Reports and records. (1) ANNUAL REPORT OF ALL W-2 WORKER TRAINING. Each W-2 agency shall submit to the department by the second Friday in January of each calendar year a report that documents training completed by all new and experienced FEPs and resource specialists during the previous calendar year.

(2) REPORT OF INITIAL W-2 WORKER TRAINING. Each W-2 agency shall submit to the department by the first day of each

month a list of FEPs and resource specialists who are required to complete initial W-2 worker training.

(3) PERSONNEL FILE. Each W-2 agency shall include in the personnel file of all new and experienced W-2 workers information needed to document successful completion of training, including the title of the training program, dates of training, trainer's or sponsoring organization's name, number of hours of training, and location of training. The W-2 agency shall make the training records available to the department upon request.

Note: Send the monthly list of W-2 workers who are required to complete initial W-2 worker training and the annual report on training to: Training Section, Division of Workforce Solutions, P.O. Box 7972, Madison, WI 53707-7972.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1999, No. 526, eff. 11-1-99; **CR 02-050: am. Register January 2003 No. 565, eff. 2-1-03.**