

May 21, 2001

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #1040

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

TANF Overview (DWD -- Economic Support and Child Care)

Papers Regarding the Use of TANF Funding

The federal temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program provides an annual block grant to Wisconsin of \$317.5 million, which is the primary funding source for the Wisconsin Works (W-2) program, the child care program and a number of other public assistance expenditures. This office has prepared 18 papers regarding the use of TANF funds in the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and other agencies. The first paper (#1041) reestimates the 2000-01 ending TANF balance under the bill as recommended by the Governor. The remaining papers are grouped as follows:

W-2 Agency Contracts. The next three papers discuss funding for W-2 agency contracts, community reinvestment, performance bonuses, a contingency fund, the contracting process used by DWD and financial oversight of the W-2 program.

Child Care. Five papers have been prepared on the child care subsidy program, programs to improve child care quality and availability, the local pass-through program, child care licensing in the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) and program reduction options to address the anticipated deficit in child care funding under the bill.

Other Current Programs in DWD and DHFS. Four papers have been prepared on other current programs in DWD and DHFS. Reestimates have been done of the amount needed to fully fund the kinship care program the food stamp program for qualified immigrants. In addition, papers have been prepared on proposed increases for the fatherhood initiative and the public assistance collections unit.

DWD Appropriations Structure. Two papers have been prepared on legislative oversight of DWD's TANF appropriations. One paper discusses the Governor's proposal to convert two appropriations from annual to continuing appropriations. The second discusses options for oversight by the Joint Committee on Finance over transfers between TANF allocations.

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