

**WISCONSIN WORKS  
COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, May 25, 2011  
3:30 - 5:00 P.M.**

**Rock County Job Center  
1900 Center Avenue  
Janesville, WI 53546  
(608) 741-3400  
ROOM D/E  
AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome to Guests and Members
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of April Meeting Minutes
5. Current Business:
  - a. Brief current status of W-2
  - b. Brief current status of First Call
6. Continuing Business:
  - a. Committee Responsibilities
    - i. Review attachment 2-W2 Steering Committee Info Sheet
  - b. Committee Member Recommendations
  - c. Continuing Roll of the W-2 Steering Committee
    - i. Review attachment 1-W2 Background, Philosophy & Goals
7. Comments
  - a. Committee Members
  - b. Community Members
8. Next Meeting --

DATE:	<b>To be set</b>
TIME:	<b>3:30pm – 5:00pm</b>
PLACE:	<b>Rock County Job Center, Janesville, WI</b>
9. Adjourn

*Attachment 1 – W2 Background, Philosophy & Goals (Fact Sheet)*  
*Attachment 2 – W2 Steering Committee info sheet*

**Committee Members**  
**Please contact Merry Evans at (608) 741-3456 if you are unable to attend.**

# Wisconsin Works (W-2)

## Community Steering Committee

Community Steering Committees (CSCs) are required by state statute and are public/private partnerships established by each Wisconsin Works (W-2) agency to provide ties to local communities with strong leadership from the business sector. It is important to note that a W-2 agency may be a single W-2 public or private organization or a consortium of W-2 public and/or private organizations.

The W-2 agency shall recommend committee members to the chief executive officer (CEO) of each county that is provided service. The CEO of each county shall appoint CSC members by proportion of that county's population to each other county served by the W-2 agency.

A CSC includes representatives of local business interests, the director/designee of each county served, plus one other county department representative when the county is not the W-2 agency. However, CSC membership should be held between 12 to 15 members and meet no less than on a quarterly basis. Also, the CSC chairperson appointed by the CSC members must be a person who represents business interests. Wisconsin Statute 49.143 (2) provides more detailed requirements and information for establishing CSCs.

The CSC will help the W-2 agency identify unsubsidized employment opportunities, as well as create wage-subsidized and community service jobs for those individuals who are not ready for private employment. CSCs reinforce the role employers have in providing employment opportunities for W-2 participants.

### Major Responsibilities of the Community Steering Committees:

- Establish strong ties to local employers.
- Create and identify job opportunities.
- Develop employment strategies.
- Promote entrepreneurship.
- Provide mentoring.
- Help Identify Child Care Needs

Community Steering Committees (CSCs) also serve in improving access to and expanding availability of child care, collaborating with the Children's Services Network, and ensuring that training and education programs are relevant to the community's business needs.

CSCs help to promote the understanding and use of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) among both employers and their employees. The EITC is specifically designed to help low-income working families with children achieve an income above the poverty level.

CSCs collaborate with other local/regional boards charged with employment-related responsibilities such as Workforce Investment Councils, Workforce Development Boards (WDB), the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) and others to ensure compatibility of purpose and prevent duplication of effort.

CSCs are a key element in demonstrating that community involvement is a major key to success in moving low-income individuals from public assistance to self-sufficiency.

# **Wisconsin Works (W-2) Background, Philosophy and Goals**

## **Background**

Wisconsin Works (W-2) was implemented statewide in 1997, the result of 10 years of successful innovation in welfare reform and a tradition of leadership in social policy. W-2 builds and strengthens the connection between work and self-sufficiency, helping families become productive members of their communities.

W-2 offers a wide array of supportive services provided by community resources, the business community, advocate groups and government. This collaborative environment translates into jobs and positive community involvement for low-income workers statewide.

There are 48 W-2 agencies in Wisconsin, consisting of a mix of private (for-profit or non-profit) and public (county government) agencies. All W-2 agencies are either co-located or electronically linked to Wisconsin Job Centers for access to career planning, job placement and advancement and training at the local level. The Rock County W-2 agency is located in the Rock County Job Center at 1900 Center Avenue, Janesville, Wisconsin.

W-2 is also part of a larger effort in Wisconsin: to help all citizens share in the employment goals of self-sufficiency for families and to create a world class workforce in Wisconsin.

## **Philosophy and Goals**

Wisconsin's residents are its most valuable resource. Some residents are unemployed due to poor education, poor job skills and other barriers to employment. These problems not only limit individual achievement, but they also hold back the state's economic growth.

The goal of Wisconsin Works (W-2) is to provide necessary and appropriate services to prepare individuals to work, and to obtain and maintain viable, self-sustaining employment, which will promote economic growth. W-2 is one of several work-based programs designed to ensure that everyone in Wisconsin shares in our economic opportunities.

W-2 accomplishes this goal by providing needed services in a comprehensive fashion. Services include job readiness motivation, job retention and advancement skill training as well as childcare. W-2 employment and training services are available to any eligible Wisconsin resident unable to sustain employment or advance in the job market. W-2 services are not limited to recipients of cash assistance.

W-2 policies are guided by the consistent application of the following philosophical principles:

1. Substantially all citizens want to be able to support their families, want to be economically self-sufficient and want to be employable members of the workforce.
2. W-2 shall be participant friendly. Each W-2 agency shall explain the full spectrum of employment, education, and training and supportive services available to assist individuals and families to transition into the workforce. When individuals and families are given adequate information about employment services, they will make an informed choice about whether or not to pursue those services.

## Attachment 1

3. Individuals determined to be eligible for participation in W-2 are obligated to cooperate with their employability plans or face sanctions. W-2 agencies rendering the services are obliged to properly and carefully assess each individual's specific needs in order to promote success in transitioning into the workforce.
4. Families are the foundation of society and are the vehicle through which children are nurtured and protected. W-2 programs and policies designed to assist participants in family formation will be evaluated in light of how well they strengthen and promote healthy, nurturing, and economically secure families where both parents are responsible.
5. W-2 agencies will assist families with multiple barriers to employment, ensure that all participants have equal access to the full spectrum of resources, and avoid arbitrary and inappropriate sanctions.
6. All programs and services shall be rendered in a fair and just manner, including adverse actions such as denials and sanctions, and participants will be informed of their appeal rights.
7. Individuals are part of various communities of people and places. W-2 operates in ways that enhance the manner in which communities support individual efforts to achieve self-sufficiency.
8. W-2 goals are best achieved by working with providers, who are committed to customer-friendly service, who partner with employers and other service providers, who are innovative, and who strive to continuously improve the provision of service.

The Department holds these philosophical principles as guidelines as it administers the W-2 and Related Programs. In addition, the Department requires that its W-2 agency providers be leaders in assuring effective planning and coordination with other work, training, income maintenance and related service providers on behalf of W-2 participants.