

# Children's Community Options Program

## What's Happening to Wisconsin's Family Support Program?

Starting January 1, 2016, Wisconsin's Family Support Program merged with the Community Options Program to become the **Children's Community Option Program (CCOP)**. Children who were on the Family Support Program were moved to CCOP and families should not experience many changes.

For county agencies that manage the program, this change means funds for both the current Community Options Program (COP) and Family Support Program (FSP) will be combined into one amount with one set of requirements for the use of these funds.

## Why is this Change Happening?

As part of the current state budget the Department Health Services (DHS) was charged with creating CCOP. The Bureau of Children's Services within DHS made a workgroup of both government and non-government partners that will help develop program guidelines and a transition plan.

**CCOP** is the Children's Community Options Program

**FSP** is the Family Support Program

## Will There be Changes in How my Family Uses our Funds in 2016?

There should not be any changes to what families who are currently enrolled in the Family Support Program can use their funds for in 2016. This includes being directly reimbursed for the cost of goods or services that have been approved by your plan.

## **Enrolling in the Children's Community Options Program**

- To enroll contact your **County Human Services Department** ([dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/contact.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/contact.htm)) and let them know you are interested in children's long-term support programs. A service coordinator will talk to you about the program and will meet with your family.
- Families who live in Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Marquette, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha counties can go directly to **CompassWisconsin: Threshold** ([compasswisconsin.org](http://compasswisconsin.org)). Threshold helps with intake, application and eligibility determination for children needing long-term supports and services.

### Are There Any Funding Rule Differences?

DHS reported in November that there are **two exceptions** to what can be paid for under CCOP compared to the Family Support Program. These include:

- No use of funds for those over age 22. The Family Support Program currently has a few exceptions to allow funds to be used for those up to age 24;
- No use of funds for room and board. In most cases the Family Support Program does not currently allow this.

### Who Should I Contact if I Have Questions?

If your child is currently enrolled in the Family Support Program talk to your child's service coordinator for specific questions including what can be covered starting in 2016. For more general questions about CCOP contact the Alyssa Zirk, CCOP Project Coordinator, at the Department of Health Services, at [Alyssa.Zirk@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Zirk@wisconsin.gov)

To learn more about the program go to the DHS website for the **Bureau of Children's Services** ([dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/index.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/index.htm)) and click on the link to the **Family Support Program**. *(Please note this program name will change in 2016.)*

### What if My Child is on a Waiting List, Will Anything Change?

Families who have a child eligible for the Family Support Program will likely continue to wait for services through CCOP. The current state budget does provide some additional funding for children's long-term supports to help decrease the waiting times over the next few years.

### Can Families Have a Voice in How the New Program is Implemented and Run?

**YES!** Each county will have a CCOP advisory committee and the parents of children with disabilities must be included. Counties may choose to create a new committee or they may have a current advisory committee become this new group. The advisory committee will help in making a program plan and monitor the program at the county level. If you are interested in being part of a CCOP Advisory Committee, contact your county's Human Services Department or talk to your child's service coordinator.

#### **If you have questions or need help finding services contact the following organizations:**

- **Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs** is a network of 5 centers dedicated to supporting families who have children with special needs at [dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm)
- **Wisconsin First Step**, a statewide information and referral hotline, can assist families with finding mental health providers and other supports at **1-800-642-STEP (7837)** or [www.mch-hotlines.org/wisconsin-first-step](http://www.mch-hotlines.org/wisconsin-first-step)