

LAFAYETTE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES



Resource Guide 2011 - 2012

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INTRODUCTION

The Lafayette County Resource Guide contains information about agencies and organizations in the area that can assist you with a wide variety of services. The guide divides services into categories for ease of use.

This guide is not exhaustive – no one document can list every organization and service that may be helpful. However, it is a starting point for you to access the local service network.

It should also be noted that the names and contact numbers for the organizations may change from time to time. While every effort has been made to provide you with the most current information, changes may occur without notice.

Listing a resource or service in this document does not imply an endorsement of that particular organization. Rather, this guide is intended to identify those services that may be helpful to you and your family. Like any service that you may seek out and utilize, you should thoroughly check the credentials and qualifications of the organization before accessing services and make an informed decision that the service(s) provided fit your needs.

Lafayette County Human Services is not responsible if, for any reason, you are not satisfied with the services received by an organization listed in this guide.

It is hoped that you will find this guide beneficial and you will use it to access services available to everyone in Lafayette County.

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Chapter 1

Food Resources

S.H.A.R.E.

S.H.A.R.E. is a food buying club that can provide significant discounts on food, saving customers 30-50% compared to retail food prices.

ELIGIBILITY

THERE IS one buying club in Lafayette County, SHARE, and it is available at two locations. It is open to all, regardless of income or assets.

S.H.A.R.E. PACKAGES - S.H.A.R.E PROGRAM (SELF-HELP AND RESOURCE EXCHANGE)

- The **Big Value Package** is the largest and has more produce in the Deluxe Produce Assortment and more items overall including a bonus item. The SHARE cost is \$30.00. This package contains \$40 to \$50 worth of pre-selected items. The food items offered vary each month, but typically include 4-8 lbs. of meat, poultry and/or fish, a variety of fresh produce, dry goods and more.
- The **Mini Package** has a smaller assortment of produce and fewer total items. It will not include the bonus item. The price for this package is \$17.00. This package contains \$40 to \$50 worth of pre-selected items. The food items offered vary each month, but typically include 4-5 frozen meats and 5 different fresh fruits or vegetables).

To join the SHARE Program, call the coordinator nearest to you. This program is open to anyone, regardless of age or income.

S.H.A.R.E. SCHEDULE

- For Darlington, call Betty Williams at 608-776-2948. Distribution site is the Darlington Town Hall on Ames Road south of Darlington. Delivery time is 7:30 a.m.
- For Argyle, call Colleen Rear at 608-543-3747. Distribution site is the EMS Building, 106 N Broad Street, Argyle, WI 53504

www.sharewi.org

Lafayette County Food Pantries

- Argyle:** Argyle Lutheran Church (Argyle School District)*
1st & 3rd Thursday of each month
4:00 to 5:30 pm
Clients are allowed 1 visit per month
Contact: Nancy Dammen, (608) 543-3451
Diane Martin, First National Bank & Trust, (608) 543-3321
- Belmont:** Peace Lutheran Church (Belmont School District)*
2nd Thursday of each month
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Clients are allowed to visit monthly
Contact: Rita Weigel, (608) 588-5445
Village, (608) 762-5142
- Benton:** Benton Bible Church (Benton School District)*
Open by Appt. Only
Contact: Kathy Schroeder; (608) 759-6936
Church, (608) 759-2001
- Blanchardville:** Blanchardville Lutheran Church (Pecatonica School District -
Blanchardville/Hollandale)*
1st & 3rd Saturday
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Clients are allowed to visit monthly
Contact: Jean Christen, (608) 967-2349
- Darlington:** Lafayette County Food Pantry (Lafayette County Area)*
1033 Main Street, Darlington, WI (Next to Images Hair Salon)
T/Thursday Weekly, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Open to Lafayette County Residents
Contact: (608) 776-3500
- Darlington Community of Churches (Lafayette County Area)*
First Baptist Church
15691 County K, Darlington
Open Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Call: (608) 776-3566

Monthly Manna
Holy Rosary Church, 104 E Harriet Street, Darlington, WI
Open every 3rd Friday of the month – Year Round
Contact: Marge Carr, 608-776-4059

Shullsburg: Centenary United Methodist Church (Shullsburg School District)*
3rd Thursday of each month, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Clients are allowed to visit monthly
Contact: Tina Cruse, (608) 354-5182

South Wayne: Village Hall (Woodford & Gratiot - Black Hawk School District)*
3rd Thursday of each month, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Clients are allowed to visit monthly
Contact: Chris Obert, (608) 558-8118;
Donna Larse, (608) 214-5317

Catholic Charities: *Holy Rosary parking lot in Darlington (organized by Holy Rosary Parish)*
3rd Friday of each month
2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Open to anyone
Contact: Marge Carr, (608) 776-4059

St. Vincent DePaul Building in Monroe (organized by St. Victors Parish)
3rd Thursday of each month
3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Open to Green County Residents Only W/Photo ID
Contact: Sue McGowan, (608) 329-7837

FoodShare Wisconsin Program

The FoodShare program provides food assistance to eligible households by means of a plastic debit card that you can use like cash to buy food at grocery stores. You can quickly find out if you may be eligible by visiting the new ACCESS website at <http://www.access.wisconsin.gov>.

ELIGIBILITY

LOW-INCOME individuals and families of all ages are eligible. You do NOT have to receive W-2 assistance to qualify, but must meet the following criteria:

- You are a U.S. citizen or eligible alien (ineligible aliens can apply because others in the households, such as U.S.-born children, may still qualify).
- You meet the income limits of the program. There are NO asset limits.

GROSS INCOME (your income BEFORE deductions). Most households must have GROSS income below the limits listed in the chart.

NET INCOME (your income AFTER deductions). Most households must also have NET income below the NET income limits in the chart. Your NET income is the amount left after subtracting from your GROSS income some of your costs for shelter, child care, child support and certain other expenses. An eligibility worker will calculate your NET income. Most one and two person households that meet the GROSS income limit can qualify for \$16 in benefits even if their NET income is above the limit.

BENEFITS

THE AMOUNT you receive depends on your family size and your NET income. As your NET income decreases, the amount of your benefit increases.

YOU CAN buy food items at most grocery stores, as well as seeds and seedlings for home gardens. You may not buy non-food items like soap, paper products, alcohol, tobacco or pet food.

YOU WILL be given an electronic debit card resembling a plastic credit card. Your benefits are put into your account electronically once a month. At the checkout counter, you use the card like a debit card. After your purchase you'll get a printed receipt showing the amount left in your account. Other customers will not know you are paying with FoodShare.

APPLICATION

Visit the ACCESS website using any computer that connects to the internet. If you don't have internet access at home or work, you may be able to use a computer at your public library or at a community organization. Call them first. When you visit the website you (or someone helping you) simply type in information about your household, income and bills. ACCESS then quickly tells you if it looks like you may be able to get FoodShare. ACCESS also quickly checks if you might qualify for a variety of other assistance programs such as health insurance, school meals and more. Just go to <http://www.access.wisconsin.gov>

(CONTINUED)

FOODSHARE is administered by the Lafayette County Department of Human Services. Their phone number is 608-776-4902. More information is available on-line at www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/
You will be able to apply for FoodShare using the ACCESS website described in the paragraph above.

MOST HOUSEHOLDS can be certified to get FoodShare for up to 12 months at a time with only one face-to-face or phone interview a year. Many households are required to complete a mail-in change report form after 6 months to update their household information and continue receiving benefits.

School Lunch and Breakfast, Free or Reduced Priced Meals

The National School Lunch Program is available in nearly every public school and in many private schools in Wisconsin. The School Breakfast Program is available in about one-third of public schools and some private schools. While both programs serve students at all income levels, children in low to moderate income households can qualify for free or reduced price meals.

ELIGIBILITY

IF YOUR school offers School Lunch and Breakfast and your family income is within program limits your children can receive free or reduced-price meals. If you receive food stamps, your school age children automatically qualify for free meals. There are no asset limits.

BENEFITS

ALL SCHOOL meals meet strict USDA nutritional standards. Lunches provide 1/3 of your child's daily nutritional needs of protein, Vitamin A and C, iron, calcium and calories; breakfasts provide 1/4 of these same nutrients. Meals may include servings of milk, juice, fruit, vegetables, bread/grains and meat or meat alternates.

BESIDES THE nutritional and economic benefits, school meals can improve your child's attention and test scores, and reduce their illnesses and absences.

APPLICATION

COMPLETE AND return the short application form your school district provides to each family at the beginning of the school year. If you receive FoodShare be sure to indicate your case number on the application. If you didn't receive a form, or didn't return it, you can still apply even after classes have started. Contact your local school for more information or to find out which meal programs they offer. More information is available online at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch>. You can find out if you may be eligible by contacting the ACCESS website on the internet at: <http://www.access.wisconsin.gov>

WIC —Women, Infants and Children

Nutrition Program

ELIGIBILITY

WIC provides food and nutrition services to pregnant women, new mothers, infants and young children. Over one third of all pregnant women in Wisconsin and nearly one quarter of infants and preschool children participate.

The WIC program is available to many low and moderate income mothers, infants and children. You (or your children) may be eligible if you are one of the following:

- a pregnant woman;
- a mother who is breastfeeding;
- a mother who has had a baby in the last 6 months;
- an infant or child under age 5.
- You meet WIC income limits. There are no asset limits.

BENEFITS

WIC PROVIDES checks for specific foods that can be used at participating grocery stores, pharmacies, and farmer's markets. Food packages are tailored to individual needs, and may include milk, cheese, eggs, peanut butter, infant formula, cereal, juice, dried or canned beans and peas, tuna, salmon, whole grain bread, tortillas, or rice; a variety of fruit and vegetables and baby food.

CHILDREN ON WIC eat more nutritious foods. Infants born to mothers who receive WIC weigh more and grow better. WIC participation may improve infant memory as well as test scores of pre-school children.

WIC staff also conduct health screenings, provide nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, and will check your child's immunizations. Staff may also refer you to other health services.

APPLICATION

Lafayette County residents can contact WIC at 608-935-2326 or 800-704-8555 or at Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program (SWCAP), 149 N Iowa Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533. More information is also available online at: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wic/index.htm>

You can find out if you may be eligible by contacting the ACCESS website on the internet at: <http://www.access.wisconsin.gov>

Chapter 2:

Housing and Energy Assistance

Energy & Weatherization Program

ELIGIBILITY

Apartments and homes for renters & homeowners.

- If you received Wisconsin Home Energy Program ([WHEAP](#)) benefits during the current heating season, you are automatically eligible for weatherization services. Persons with high heating costs who receive WHEAP benefits will be given priority for weatherization service.
- Residents of Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland counties.

BENEFITS

- Insulate attic and sidewalls to reduce air leakage.
- Insulate or, as needed, replace water heater.
- Repair or replace furnace.
- As needed, replace refrigerator.
- Install energy efficient lighting.
- Health and safety inspection.

APPLICATION

To get more information about eligibility and the application process, contact the program representative at 608-943-6909 or at the office of Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program - Housing Program, 206 Hwy 18, Montfort 53569. You can also get additional information at www.swcap.org

Home Buyer Assistance Program

The Home Buyer Assistance Program helps low-income families buy affordable and adequate homes. The program provides deferred, no-interest loans for initial costs related to the purchase of a single-family home.

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible for a deferred, no-interest loan if:

- Your family's gross annual income meets program guidelines;
- You have good credit and can obtain a first mortgage from another lender;
- You can provide a minimum of \$1,000.00 of your own funds towards the down payment costs; and
- The single-family house you intend to buy and occupy is within property value limits, sits on one acre of land or less, and meets Federal Housing Quality Standards [renter-occupied properties, unless occupied by the buyer, and mobile homes aren't eligible under this program].

BENEFITS

You can use the program loan to pay the down payment and/or closing costs, mortgage insurance, property insurance, and utility hook-up fees related to your purchase of a single-family home.

Maximum loan amounts range from \$5,000 to \$10,000, depending on your income.

You can use the program loan to pay the down payment and/or closing costs, mortgage insurance, property insurance, and utility hook-up fees related to your purchase of a single-family home.

The no-interest loan from the program is secured by a second mortgage on your home. Repayment is deferred for as long as the place remains your principal residence. Payment becomes due when you sell or transfer ownership of the home or convert it to another use, such as rental property.

APPLICATION

For more information about eligibility and the application process, contact Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program at 608--935-2326 or at their office, 149 N Iowa St, Dodgeville, WI 53533 or visit www.swcap.org

Home Energy Plus Program

Wisconsin has two programs to help qualifying households pay their energy bills and reduce the amount of energy they use. These programs—Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), and Weatherization Assistance—can pay some of your energy costs, weatherize your home, and provide help in a heating or energy crisis.

ELIGIBILITY

HOME ENERGY assistance is available to many low-income renters and homeowners in Wisconsin. You may be eligible if your 3-month household income (based on your household size) is below the income limits.

BENEFITS

THERE ARE several ways to get help. WHEAP can...

- help pay part of your heating bills.
- help pay part of your non-heating electrical bills too.

The amount you receive depends on the size of your energy bills, household income and family size. Payment is usually made directly to your utility company or fuel supplier. If you rent but don't pay your utilities separately, payment may be sent directly to you to apply to your rent.

THERE ARE several ways to get help. Weatherization Assistance can...

- help insulate your dwelling, repair your furnace, and control air leaks;
- help pay for energy efficient refrigerators and some air conditioning upgrades in most areas.

If you rent, weatherization services must be coordinated with your landlord. Your landlord may be asked to pay a portion of weatherization costs.

CRISIS assistance is available if your furnace is broken, if you are running out of heating fuel, or if your heat is about to be disconnected.

APPLICATION

Energy Assistance applications are available at Lafayette County Human Services, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530, phone 608-776-4902. For Weatherization Assistance, contact Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program 206 Hwy 18, Montfort, 53569, phone 608-943-6909. More information is available on-line at:

<http://www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov/>

Home Rehabilitation Assistance Program

ELIGIBILITY

- You may be eligible for a deferred, no-interest loan if:
- Your family's gross annual income meets program guidelines
- Your home is located in Grant, Iowa or Lafayette County;
- You are not in default on your mortgage or taxes;
- The home that requires repair is your principal residence, is not a mobile home, and does not include commercial or rental property;
- You are requesting funds to rehabilitate one or more major housing systems [cosmetic and luxury improvements and "remodeling" are not allowed].

The Home Rehabilitation Assistance Program can help a low-income family to repair major defects in their recently-purchased home. The program offers a deferred, no-interest loans for the rehabilitation of a home that an applicant family occupies as their principal residence.

BENEFITS

The no-interest loans range from a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$24,999, depending on your family's income, the work to be funded, and availability and distribution of funds.

You can borrow from the program to fund work on the following: exterior and interior surfaces, plumbing and heating systems, abatement of lead-based hazards, handicap modifications and repairs, and health and safety repairs necessary to meet HUD Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and local codes. In addition, any major housing system that is in danger of failure will be eligible for repair even though the house may pass HQS.

Upon acceptance into the program, you will be asked to sign a mortgage. Repayment is deferred for as long as the rehabilitated home remains your principal residence. Payment becomes due when you sell or transfer ownership of the place or convert it to another use [such as rental property].

APPLICATION

For more information about eligibility and the application process, contact Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program at 608-935-2326, Click 0 for an operator, or at their office, 149 N Iowa St, Dodgeville, WI 53533 or visit: www.swcap.org

Home Repair Loans

ELIGIBILITY

Income Limits Apply—check the website or call for more information

BENEFITS

Loans

- 1% Interest Rate
- 20 year term (in most cases)
- Limit of \$20,000 at any given time
- Weatherization
- Furnace, electrical, plumbing
- Roofing, siding, windows, foundation

Grants

- To correct health and safety hazards
- To make a home more accessible for individuals with disabilities
- Must be 62 or older to qualify

Please note: (income limits apply)

MORE INFORMATION

For more information and your FREE Pre-qualification contact USDA Rural Development, 138 S. Iowa Street, Suite 2, Dodgeville 53533, 608-935-2791 ext. 4, email RD.Dodgeville@wi.usda.gov or visit: www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi

Homeless Shelter of Iowa County

The Homeless shelter of Iowa County is to help address singles or families who are experiencing homelessness and need transitional housing for 30-60 days. This shelter will be provided at no cost; however, the people are expected to work with community agencies/organizations to improve their situation and also find permanent housing.

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible if you are adults, with or without children who lack a fixed regular and adequate night-time residence. This includes:

- Share the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing
- Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Are living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Are abandoned in hospitals
- Are awaiting foster care placement
- Have a primary night-time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

BENEFITS

A safe, home situation to stay 30-60 days. Access to program that may help you to improve your situation. If available, the apartment may be available to you. Also, you will be counseled regarding issues that are important to you, i.e. stable housing, health care, food, transportation, help at school if students are part of family.

APPLICATION

Call SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (SWCAP) at 608-935-2326 click 0 for an operator or www.swcap.org or if a student contact your school counselor.

No Down Payment Loans

ELIGIBILITY

Income Limits Apply—Check the website or call for more information.

BENEFITS

Direct Rural Housing Program

- No Down Payments Required
- Applications are made directly to the local USDA Rural Development Office
- Mortgages are 33-38 years at a fixed interest rate
- Payment assistance can reduce the monthly payment down to as low as 1% interest rate payment
- Loans can be made on wither new or existing homes

MORE INFORMATION

For more information and your FREE Pre-qualification, contact USDA Rural Development. 138 S Iowa Street, Suite 2, Dodgeville 53533, 608-935-2791 ext. 4, email RD.Dodgeville@wi.usda.gov or visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi

Tenant Resources

Two resources help renters find and enjoy a place to live. WIFrontDoor Housing maintains a website available to Lafayette County residents in need of an affordable unit. The website provides detailed, user-friendly information about rental properties. The Tenant Resource Center (TRC) is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes positive relations between tenants and landlords throughout Wisconsin. TRC offers information and referrals, education about rental rights and responsibilities, and access to conflict resolution.

ELIGIBILITY

The WIFrontDoor Housing website is available at www.wifrontdoorhousing.org to everyone who has access to the internet. Prospective tenants can get on the internet at their local library or at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Lafayette County.

BENEFITS

The rental housing site allows you to search for both private market and subsidized housing by location (city, county or region), monthly rent, unit size, accessibility and other features. The site provides property descriptions, photos and floor plans, and location maps. You can also search for special amenities such as laundry facilities, pet acceptance, Section 8 vouchers and more.

MORE INFORMATION

Access the WIFrontDoor Housing website at www.wifrontdoorhousing.org.

Chapter 3: Clothing

Clothing and Household Supplies for All Ages

We Care/Winter Wear is located in Dodgeville offers free new or gently-used clothing for adults and children of all ages. The We Care/Winter Wear Center also stocks supplies for feeding, bathing, diapering, bedding for little ones, and winter wear items.

ELIGIBILITY

- WE CARE/WINTER WEAR is open to everyone without regard to age, race, gender or creed.
- CLOTHING, bedding and many supplies are available on a walk-in basis.
- TO GET DIAPERS or laundry detergent, you must first show a valid driver's license or ID.

BENEFITS

Items that may be available are:

- Maternity clothes
- Adult and Children clothing for all ages and winter clothing.
- New formula, new baby bottles, breast feeding supplies, new breast pumps, burp cloths and bibs
- Diapers (all sizes) and laundry detergent
- Baby wipes
- Baby lotion, oil and shampoo
- Crib sheets and blankets
- Children's books
- Other Baby items as available
- Household Items as available

We Care/Winter Wear is located at Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program, 149 N Iowa St, Dodgeville. You are welcome to choose items on Monday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday evenings from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION

We Care/Winter Wear is located at Southwest CAP, 149 N Iowa St, Dodgeville. For more information, please contact Southwester Wisconsin Community Action Program at 935-2326.

Community Clothes Closet - Mount Horeb

The Community Clothes Closet offers free clothing (including new underwear and socks) for both children and adults. When possible, the Clothes Closet also provides bedding. All items are clean and in good condition.

ELIGIBILITY

The Clothes Closet is open to everyone in need without regard to age, race, gender or creed.

BENEFITS

You can choose in-season outfits for every member of your family. You may also be able to get bedding.

PARTICIPATION

The Clothes Closet is located at 102 E Lincoln St in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. You are welcome to walk in from 10:00 a.m. to noon on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month. In case of emergency, you can contact one of the local churches or call the Clothes Closet Coordinator at 608-437-5902. The Closet is a volunteer project supported by 13 area churches.

Thrift Stores - The Bargain Nooks

The Bargain Nooks offer top-quality resale clothing at great prices. A large part of the stock in these thrift stores comes from name-brand manufacturers, and everything is priced at a fraction of its original cost. For example, a shopper can find near-perfect men's and women's winter coats for under \$40; casual tops and pants for \$5 or less; and shoes, some in like-new condition, for under \$10. In addition, the stores offer resale kids' clothes – especially coats - in somewhat lesser quantities at excellent prices. The stock also includes some new clothing and accessories. The stores are open 7 days a week.

LOCATIONS

Bargain Nook I

242 High Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565
608-987-3774

Bargain Nook II

242 Main Street
Darlington, WI 53530
608-776-4665

Bargain Nook III

167 S Lexington Street
Spring Green, WI 53588
608-588-7661

Bargain Nook IV

120 W Main Street
Platteville, WI 53818
608-348-4933

Bargain Nook VI

126 E Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

HOURS

All stores are open Mon - Sat, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The nonprofit Hodan Center, Inc. of Mineral Point, Wisconsin operates the Bargain Nooks for the benefit of persons with disabilities in southwestern Wisconsin.

THRIFT STORES

Community Closet Thrift Store

148 3rd Avenue
Benton, WI 53803
Benton Bible Church
608-759-2001

Chapter 4: Financial Assistance

Emergency Financial Assistance for Veterans and Their Families

Through the Lafayette County Veterans Service Office, veterans or their qualified family members who are experiencing an extreme financial crisis may be eligible for emergency grants to pay for heating fuel, utilities, groceries, and other basic needs, including limited medical care.

ELIGIBILITY

Am I Eligible?

To find out whether you meet the eligibility requirements for a given aid program, you should consult with the staff at the VA office. In general, you may be eligible for help if you are:

- A veteran who is a resident of Wisconsin, or
- The unremarried Wisconsin-based surviving spouse or dependent child of a veteran who died in the line of duty, or while training on inactive duty, and you are:
 1. Ineligible for all other aid programs;
 2. Without financial resources; and
 3. Unable to work due to illness, disability or natural disaster [subsistence grant only].

BENEFITS

A **subsistence aid grant** can be used for your basic expenses, such as housing, food, utilities, basic transportation, health insurance premiums, prescribed medications, etc., for a 30-day period. If you continue to be incapacitated, you may receive up to three grants during any consecutive 12-month period. Grants cannot exceed \$3,000 during any consecutive 12-month period. (April 2009)

A **health care aid grant** will pay up to a \$7,500 lifetime limit. Stipends in specified amounts may be applied to the cost of dental, vision and hearing care. (April 2009)

Lifetime grant limit: In addition to the grant limits established for each of the individual programs described above, there is a lifetime cumulative limit per veteran of \$7,500. (April 2009)

APPLICATION

For more information about eligibility and applications, contact the Lafayette County Veterans Service Office at 608-776-4886 or at their office located at: 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530. Visit www.co.lafayette.wi.gov, click on Department, then click Veterans. More detailed information is also available on the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs web site: www.dva.state.wi.us

Family Care Program

The Family Care Program provides funding, care management and services for elderly and disabled adults who are in need of assistance with the activities of daily living. The Family Care Program is available to residents of Lafayette County and over the next five years, is designed to eliminate waiting lists for long term care services. There is currently a waitlist for the family care program, but if this is something you or a family member may be interested in, in the near future, contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Southwest Wisconsin – South Lafayette County for more information.

ELIGIBILITY

The Family Care Program is available to adults who meet functional and financial eligibility and include frail older adults (65 years or older), people with physical disabilities, and people with Developmental Disabilities (17 years, 9 months or older).

BENEFITS

- In-home services
- Group home or nursing home placement
- Case management
- Improved access to services available

ENROLLMENT

Contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin-Lafayette County. ADRC staff will gather information regarding the needs of the individual and also financial information. This process may include a home visit and completion of a Functional Screen. Individuals who are eligible will be placed on a waiting list for Family Care.

INFORMATION

Call 608-776-4960 or stop at the office of the Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin — South Lafayette County, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530. Visit www.lchsd.org, click Departments, and then click ADRC.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income provides cash assistance to low-income persons who are elderly, or persons of any age who are blind or disabled.

ELIGIBILITY

To receive SSI, you must have low income and be age 65 or older, blind, or disabled.

- Have little or no income or resources
- Be a U.S. citizen or meet the requirement for non-citizens.
- Be considered medically disabled.
- Be a resident of the 50 states, District of Columbia, or Northern Mariana Islands.
- Must file an application
- Must file for any and all other benefits for which you are eligible
- Must accept vocational rehabilitation services, if referred
- If your impairment is other than blindness, when you apply, you must not be working or working less than the SGA level. Once you are on the rolls, your eligibility will continue until you medically recover or no longer meet a disability-related requirement.

You may be eligible for SSI payment if you have little or no income and if your assets are \$2,000 or less for a single person or \$3,000 or less for a married couple. Certain assets do not count, such as your home or car.

SOCIAL SECURITY considers you “disabled” if they determine your condition prevents you from working and is expected to last at least a year or result in death. A child is “disabled” if an adult with the same condition would be found disabled. It can take up to 6 months for Social Security to decide if you are disabled, however some people can begin getting benefits right away.

BENEFITS

THE SIZE of your SSI payment depends on your NET monthly income—the smaller your NET income, the larger the SSI payment. The amount you get also depends on whether your spouse is eligible, and whether you live alone or with someone else. The maximum monthly SSI payment for one person living independently is \$674, and for a couple living independently is \$1,011 if both are eligible. These amounts include both federal and state payments.

(CONTINUED)

- **If you received SSI payments, you automatically qualify for Medical Assistance (Medicaid/Title 19). A separate Medicaid application is not necessary. As long as you receive SSI, the state will give you a Medicaid card, called a Forward card, with the information about its use. If you receive SSI payments and also have Medicare, the state will automatically pay your out-of pocket Medicare costs, such as Medicare premiums, deductibles, and copayments.**
- When you receive SSI, you also may qualify for FoodShare. People who live in a household where everyone is applying for or receiving SSI may apply for food stamps at the Social Security Office.
- SSI recipients whose expenses are greater than the SSI-E payment level and live in one of the following licensed or certified facilities:
 - Foster home for children
 - Group home for children
 - Adult family/foster home
 - Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF) of 20 beds or less
 - Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC)
- SSI recipients who live in their own household or another's household who pay their share of household expenses and who need at least 40 hours of primary long term support services each month.

IF YOU are a single parent receiving SSI (or a couple who both receive SSI) your nondisabled children may qualify for a Caretaker Supplement payment. If eligible, you can get \$250/month for the first child and \$150/month for each additional child. The program is not part of SSI, so you must apply through your county social services department.

APPLICATION

CONTACT THE Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 and they will direct you to your nearest Social Security Office. More information is available on-line at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ssi>

Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment Insurance provides temporary cash assistance to qualified unemployed workers who are looking for a job. Benefits are based on past earnings, not on current income.

ELIGIBILITY

YOU MAY be eligible to receive Unemployment Insurance if:

- You are unemployed through no fault of your own;
- You have earned enough wages to qualify for benefits; and
- You are available and actively looking for full-time work.

QUITTING A job does not necessarily make you ineligible. Some reasons for quitting that may allow you to receive benefits include:

- Quitting with ‘good cause’ because an action of your employer leaves you no reasonable alternative. Examples are sexual harassment and directives to break the law.
- Quitting due to your health (or a family member’s) when you have no reasonable alternative.
- Quitting due to a lack of child care after your employer transfers you to a different shift.
- Quitting after being transferred to a position paying less than 2/3 of your prior wage.

There are many other kinds of job loss that do not disqualify you. UI can give you more information.

ELIGIBILITY DEPENDS on your earnings during a ‘base period’ - which is a one-year period ending shortly before the date you file your claim. To qualify, you must have earned at least \$1,325, as of April 2009, during a single quarter (three-month period) of your base period, at least four times your weekly benefit rate during the other three quarters, and have total base period wages equal to at least 30 times your weekly benefit rate.

BENEFITS

BENEFITS ARE based on your earnings during your base period. In general, your weekly **benefit rate** will be about half of your average weekly earnings during the highest earning quarter of your base period. The maximum weekly benefit rate is \$363 as of April 2009.

IN MOST CASES, you can get benefits for six months, as long as you are involuntarily unemployed. During periods of high employment, this may be extended. Some people with limited work history are only eligible for a shorter period.

APPLICATION

CALL UNEMPLOYMENT Insurance at 800-822-5246. In Madison, call 608- 232-0678; in Milwaukee, call 414-438-7700. Deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech-impaired persons can call 888-393-8914. More information is available online at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/ui> or www.ucclaim-wi.org

Chapter 5: Health Care and Insurance

Darlington Regional Dental Clinic

The Clinic is located at 435 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530 and will be open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information you can call the Darlington Regional Dental Clinic at 608-776-2082, fax 608-776-4070 with questions.

ELIGIBILITY

You must have or be on the following:

- Medical Assistance/Forward Health
- BadgerCare
- Have No Dental Insurance

The dental clinic will use a sliding fee scale for payment.

BENEFITS

The clinic can become a dental home for people on Medical Assistance, BadgerCare and people without dental insurance. This clinic can also see dental emergencies.

APPLICATIONS

For more information you can call the Darlington Regional Clinic at 608-776-2082, fax 608-776-4070 with questions.

Community Connection Dental Clinic

ELIGIBILITY

You must have or be on the following:

- Medical Assistance
- BadgerCare
- Have No Insurance

The dental clinic will use a sliding fee scale for payment.

BENEFITS

The program can become a dental home for people on Medical Assistance, BadgerCare and people without dental insurance. This clinic can also see patients with dental emergencies.

APPLICATIONS

For more information call Community Connections Free Clinic at 608-930-2232 or visit www.communityconnectionsfreeclinic.org

Community Connections is located at 101 E. Fountain St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 in the lower level of the Metropolitan Building, at the corner of Iowa and Fountain streets. Clinic hours are 5:30-8:00 every Tuesday and Thursday, except on holidays. Patient registration begins at 4:30. There are no appointments. Patients are seen on a first come/first serve basis and each patient is given a call number when they register.

Free or Low-Cost Clinics

- Beaver Dam:** Church Health Services, 920-887-1766 or www.churchclinic.org
- Boscobel:** InHealth Community Wellness Clinic, 608-375-4324 or email pertranso@mchsi.com
- Cashton:** Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers, 608-654-5100 or www.scenicbluffs.org
- Dodgeville:** Community Connections Free Clinic, 608-930-2232 or www.communityconnectionsfreeclinic.org
- Janesville:** HealthNet of Janesville, 608-756-4638 or www.healthnetofjanesville.org
- Jefferson:** Rock River Free Clinic, 920-674-7275 or www.co.jefferson.wi.us
- Lacrosse:** St. Clare Health Mission, 608-791-9544 or www.stclarehealthmission.org
- Madison:** Access Community Health Centers, 608-443-5500 or www.accesscommunityhealthcenters.org
Medic Clinics, 608-265-4972 or www.medic.uwmedstudents.com
Our Lady of Hope Clinic, 608-819-8544 or www.ourladyofhopeclinic.org
- Middleton:** Benevolent Specialist Project (BSP-Free Clinic), 608-827-2308 or www.rcfreeclinic.com
- Prairie du Sac:** Good Neighbor Clinic, 608-643-4749 or www.goodneighborclinic.org
- Richland Center:** Richland Community Free Clinic, 608-647-6161 or www.rcfreeclinic.com
- Stoughton:** Shalom Holistic Health Services, 608-205-0505 or www.shalomholistichealth.org
- Watertown:** Watertown Area Cares Clinic, 920-206-7797 or www.watertownfreeclinic.org
- Wautoma:** Family Health/La Clinica, 920-787-5514

For more information: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/clinics.htm

Community Connections Free Clinic

The Community Connections Free Clinic (CCFC) in Dodgeville offers free basic health care on a walk-in basis to those who are unable to afford or access medical services elsewhere.

ELIGIBILITY

CCFC is open to children and adults who are uninsured without regard to age, race, gender or creed.

BENEFITS

CCFC offers free, basic medical services such as:

- Medical exams for acute and chronic illnesses;
- Some diagnostic lab and x-rays;
- Follow-up care;
- Referrals to specialists, if needed;
- Assistance with fees for prescriptions ordered by clinic physicians;
- Health education; and
- Referral services to community resources.

CCFC does not provide:

- Prenatal and obstetrical services;
- Pregnancy and abortion counseling;
- Emergency care such as broken bones and heart attacks;
- Surgery; and
- Payment of prescriptions ordered by physicians outside of the clinic.

CCFC is located in the lower level of the Metropolitan Building, 201 S. Iowa Street in Dodgeville. The entrance is on Fountain Street directly across from the library and City Hall. The clinic is open every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

NO APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY OR SCHEDULED. This is a walk-in clinic. Patients are seen on a first come/first served basis.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, contact the clinic at 608-930-2232, see the CCFC web page at www.communityconnectionsfreeclinic.org, or email theresehess@charter.net

Community Support Program (Adult Mental Illness)

The Community Support Program provides intensive treatment, support and rehabilitation for persons who have a serious mental illness. The program's goals include improving psychiatric stability, reducing the need for hospitalizations, reducing the stigmatizing effects of mental illness and promoting independence and community integration.

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible if you have a serious and persistent mental illness that is treatable.

BENEFITS

The Community Support Program offers:

- Crisis stabilization;
- Overall case management;
- Individual psychotherapy and medication management;
- Assistance with substance abuse and general medical needs;
- Advocacy, linkage and referral;
- Assistance with applying for entitlements and vocational training;
- Assistance with finding affordable housing;
- Social/recreational opportunities; and
- Support and education for family, friends and community members.

If you fit the eligibility criteria, the program is open to you regardless of your ability to pay.

APPLICATION

For more information regarding eligibility and services, contact Lafayette County Human Services at 608-776-4902 or their office at 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530.

Eye Care Programs

Three programs provide free eye-care services to eligible residents of Wisconsin. Under Sight for Students and Vision USA volunteer optometrists offer free eye examinations for children in need. These programs may also provide free glasses. Under Eyecare America, volunteer ophthalmologists offer free medical examinations and treatment for eligible seniors, including diabetics, and those at risk for glaucoma.

ELIGIBILITY

Sight for Students: To be eligible, your children must: be under 18 and not have graduated from high school; have neither Medicaid nor other vision insurance; belong to a family with an income no more than 200% of the Federal poverty level be a U.S. citizen or have a parent who is a citizen or a documented immigrant with a social security number; and not have used Sight for Students in the last 12 months.

Vision USA: To be eligible, your children must: be 18 years of age or under; have at least one parent who works at least part-time; have no insurance that covers eye care; belong to a family with an income no more than 200% of the Federal poverty level and not have had an eye examination by an optometrist in the last 12 months.

Eyecare America: You are eligible for the Seniors Program if you are a U.S. citizen or legal resident, over 65, do not belong to an HMO or the VA, and it has been more than three years since your last medical eye examination. Income is not a factor in eligibility. Medicare recipients are eligible. If you qualify for the Seniors Program and also have diabetes, you are eligible for the Diabetes Program. The Glaucoma Program is for those at high risk of glaucoma, irrespective of age. If Glaucoma participants have no insurance, the examination and initial treatment are free. If insured, participants are responsible for co-payments.

BENEFITS

Both Sight for Students and Vision USA offer free eye examinations for eligible children. Sight for Students also provides free glasses, and Vision USA may also do so, depending on available resources.

Under the Seniors and Diabetes Programs, eligible seniors receive a complete medical examination and treatment for up to one year. Glasses are not included. Under the Glaucoma Program, participants receive a free test for glaucoma and initial treatment, if necessary.

APPLICATION

Sight for Students: For further information about eligibility and to get an application, contact Kim Trumm at 608-935-3379, or at the Head Start Center in Dodgeville, 212 E Chapel St, Dodgeville, WI 53533. You can also get more information at www.sightforstudents.org. If your child is found eligible, you will receive a gift certificate good for care from the participating eye doctor of your choice. You set up the appointment. You can also call 1-877-435-2020.

(CONTINUED)

Vision USA: For further information about eligibility and to get an application, call 800-678-5357 or contact the Wisconsin Optometric Association at 608-824-2200. The WOA office is located at 6510 Grand Teton Plaza, Madison, WI 53719. You can also get more information at www.woa-eyes.org. If your child is found eligible, you will be given information on contacting a local doctor, if available, to set up an eye exam. You can also call 1-877-887-6327.

Eyecare America: For more information or to initiate an application, call 800-222-3937 or go on line at www.eyecareamerica.org. If you are found eligible, about three weeks after your call, you will receive a letter giving you the name of the doctor assigned to you and asking you to call the doctor's office for an appointment. Most of the participating ophthalmologists practice in Madison. You do need to be driven to your appointment because you will be getting eye drops. Consequently, you should take your driver's availability into account when making your appointment.

HealthCheck (Children)

The HealthCheck program provides preventive health check-ups for children under 21 who are currently eligible for Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare. Based on the outcome of the examination, the program can authorize payment for medically necessary treatments not covered by a child's insurance plan.

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to all children under 21 who are eligible for Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare.

BENEFITS

HealthCheck offers a thorough physical examination, including a dental checkup and vision and hearing tests. If the examination discloses a need for a treatment that falls outside the scope of existing coverage, HealthCheck can authorize payment for it. HealthCheck meets the physical examination requirements for programs such as Head Start, WIC and school physicals.

APPLICATION

Most medical clinics in Lafayette County accept Medicaid and BadgerCare and use the HealthCheck program.

For information about the availability of HealthCheck in Lafayette County, call 800-722-2295 or visit our website at www.healthcheck.org.

Home Health Items - Loan Closet

The Lafayette County Health Department maintains a supply of crutches, walkers, wheelchairs and canes that may be rented by any Lafayette County resident for a period of up to six months.

ELIGIBILITY

Everyone who lives in Lafayette County is eligible.

BENEFITS

You and members of your family can avoid the cost of buying crutches, walkers, wheelchairs or canes that are temporarily necessary during recovery from illness or injury. You can rent items for up to 6 months.

PARTICIPATION

Contact the Lafayette County Health Department at 608-776-4895 or in person at 729 Clay Street, Darlington, WI 53530 or visit the website at <http://www.lafayettecountyhealthdepartment.org/loancloset.htm>

Mental Health Therapy

Lafayette County Human Services offers a wide range of out-patient mental health services, including individual, family, marital, group therapies, and crisis intervention. The program also maintains an emergency line: **608-776-4848**.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible if you live in Lafayette County.

BENEFITS

The program offers preventive education, crisis intervention, support, treatment and rehabilitation for you and members of your family. Upon admission, you will receive an assessment and diagnosis, followed by treatment planning. Your treatment plan may include individual or family therapy, and (when appropriate) medication.

In an emergency, you can call the 24/7 help line: **608-776-4848**.

Fees for most services are on a sliding scale, based on your ability to pay. In many cases, health insurance, Medical Assistance, or Medicare will cover some or all of the bill. If you live in Lafayette County, service will not be denied if you are unable to pay.

APPOINTMENTS

To get more information or make an appointment, contact Lafayette County Human Services at 608-776-4902 or their office at 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You can also visit the website at: www.lchsd.org

Reproductive Health Care Center

The Reproductive Health Care Center provides high-quality, affordable, confidential services to residents of Grant, Iowa and Lafayette Counties. The clinic offers low-cost physical exams, birth control, pregnancy testing, and STD testing and treatment. Parental involvement for minors is encouraged but not required for treatment. The Center also offers community education on such topics as sexuality, pregnancy prevention, sexually-transmitted diseases, and abstinence in relationships.

ELIGIBILITY

To receive services, you must be a resident of Grant, Iowa, or Lafayette County.

BENEFITS

The clinic offers the following primary and preventative health care including:

- Physical exams including sports physicals for athletic participation
- Pap smears and breast exams
- Testing and treatment for sexually-transmitted infections including confidential HIV testing and counseling
- Contraceptive services and supplies including emergency contraception
- Pregnancy testing, planning, counseling, and First Trimester Prenatal Care
- Care for women's health concerns of all ages and common minor health problems
- Colposcopy for abnormal pap smear follow up

Fees for service are based on income and family size. The clinic accepts all forms of Medicaid and participates in the Wisconsin Well Woman Program and Family Planning Programs. Many private insurances are accepted. No one is refused services because of inability to pay.

PARTICIPATION

Full services are offered at our three clinic locations:

Platteville - 275 West Main - 608-348-9766

Dodgeville - 101 East Fountain - 608-930-7720

Monroe - N3150 Hwy 81 - 608-328-9500

Toll free at 1-877-449-7422

www.reproductivehealthcarecenter.org

Wisconsin Well Woman Program

For financially eligible women 45-64 years of age who have little or no health insurance, the Wisconsin Well Woman Program provides free screenings for breast and cervical cancer. The screenings are performed at local clinics and hospitals. The program is administered by the Lafayette County Health Department.

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible for free screenings if:

- You are a woman, age 45 to 64;
- You do not have health insurance, your insurance does not cover screening exams, or you cannot pay deductibles or co-payments; and
- Your income meets program guidelines. As of February 2011, for a single-person household, you must have a gross annual income at or below \$27,225. With each additional family member, the qualifying income is higher. Farm and other self-employed families use adjusted figures.

BENEFITS

The Well Woman Program offers you the chance to get a free health check, a valuable opportunity especially if you haven't had a physical in a while. Even if you feel perfectly well, it's worthwhile to confirm that you are in good health. Also, the screenings could identify a potential problem that is in an early stage. Generally, the earlier a problem is discovered, the better the chances for effective treatment.

If your screening results in the discovery of breast or cervical cancer, the Well Woman Program provides financial help for treatment. You must be screened under the program to get treatment coverage.

ENROLLMENT

For easy enrollment, contact the program coordinator at 608-776-4895, or at the office of the Lafayette County Health Department or visit their website: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/womenshealth

Advocacy & Benefit Counseling for Health, Inc. — Benefits Counseling for Special Needs Children

ABC for Health provides statewide benefits counseling and legal services for families with special needs children who are having problems financing health care. ABC provides services in both English and Spanish.

ELIGIBILITY

Every family with a special needs child is eligible to receive services from ABC.

BENEFITS

An ABC counselor will work with you on the telephone to identify health insurance programs for which your child may be eligible. The counselor can then take your application for certain insurance benefits over the phone.

If you are wrongly denied benefits by an insurance program, an ABC staff attorney may represent you in an appeal.

If your family income is at or below 125% of the poverty level ABC's services are free. If your income is higher, ABC has a sliding fee scale.

PARTICIPATION

For more information or to speak with a counselor, call 800-585-4222 or 608-261-6939 or email info@safetyweb.org. You can also visit our website at www.safetyweb.org. The offices of ABC for Health, Inc. are located at 32 N Bassett St, Madison, WI 53703. Hours are Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

BadgerCare

BadgerCare provides free or low-cost health coverage to uninsured working families with children. You may be eligible if you meet income limits, have no health insurance, and don't have access to insurance through your or your spouse's job. Even if your employer has a health plan you could still qualify if it does not meet the state's standard.

ELIGIBILITY

YOU MAY qualify for BadgerCare coverage if:

- You are a U.S. citizen or an eligible alien and you live in Wisconsin;
- You have children under age 19 living with you;
- You meet income limits. There is no asset limit;
- You are not covered by health insurance AND you don't have access to an employer's health plan where the employer pays 80% of the family premium.

BADGERCARE ELIGIBILITY is based on your income AFTER subtracting certain income deductions and disregards from your GROSS (pre-tax) income. These deductions depend on your circumstances, but may include some dependent care costs, work-related expenses, court-ordered child support and/or other deductions. An economic support worker will help you with these calculations.

BENEFITS

BADGERCARE provides the same health care coverage as Medical Assistance. Covered services include doctor visits, immunizations, pre-natal care, hospital care, preventive care, emergency services, dental and vision services, prescription drugs, and more.

IF YOUR income is above certain limits you may have to pay a premium but it won't be more than 5% of your monthly income after deductions. Most families do NOT pay a premium.

APPLICATION

CONTACT Lafayette County Human Services at 608-776-4902. Their office is located at 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530. Visit <http://www.lchsd.org>. A short, simple application is used for family Medicaid and people can now apply by phone or mail. Information is available online at: <http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/em/impubs/pubs/p-00079.pdf>

You can find out if you may be eligible by visiting the ACCESS website at: <http://www.access.wisconsin.gov>

Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan (HIRSP)

HIRSP makes health insurance available both to people who can't find adequate coverage in the private market because of their medical conditions and to those who have lost their employer-sponsored group health insurance. Two plans are available to eligible persons under the HIRSP major medical policy.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible if either:

- You have a medical condition that prevents you from getting adequate insurance coverage in the private market, as evidenced by a letter from a private insurer denying coverage; or
- You have lost your employer-sponsored group health insurance, including COBRA coverage.

If you have a verified annual income of under \$34,000, as of December 2010, you may pay lower premiums and deductibles. If your annual income is above \$34,000, as of December 2010, your premium and deductible vary depending on factors such as your age, gender and zip code.

BENEFITS

Through HIRSP, you can obtain coverage for major medical expenses and prescription drugs. There are two plans available: Health Insurance Risk-Sharing Plan (HIRSP) or the HIRSP Federal Plan. If you have recently lost your insurance coverage and do not qualify for the HIRSP Federal Plan, you may still qualify for HIRSP. Reductions are effective for one year, and **members are required to reapply each year to continue to receive them.**

APPLICATION

For more information about eligibility and benefits, call HIRSP Customer Service at 800-828-4777 or 608-221-4551. The HIRSP office is located at 1751 W Broadway, Madison, WI 53708-8961 or visit our website at: <http://www.hirsp.org>

Medical Assistance

Wisconsin Medicaid guarantees health care coverage to elderly and disabled persons, pregnant women, children and adult caretakers of children who qualify for services. Income and asset limits vary.

ELIGIBILITY

YOU MAY qualify for Medicaid coverage if:

- You are a U.S. citizen or qualified alien;
- You are in ONE of the following groups:
 - age 65 or older;
 - blind OR disabled;
 - under age 19;
 - pregnant;
 - a relative caretaker of a deprived child.
- You meet income limits. Some people must meet asset limits.

THERE ARE a number of different Medicaid categories with different income limits. Your local Human Services office can explain the income limits that apply to you. Refer to the summaries on Healthy Start and BadgerCare for details on the income limits that apply to these two Medicaid categories.

YOU SHOULD still apply because...

- You may qualify if you have recent medical bills or if you pay a deductible;
- A child at home with long-term disabilities may qualify for Medicaid coverage through the Katie Beckett program.

Information is available on-line at <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/bdds/kbp/index.htm>

THERE IS no asset test for Family Medicaid categories (children, pregnant women and relative caretakers of deprived children). Only elderly, blind or disabled persons must meet asset limits. Their assets cannot exceed \$2,000 for a single person, or \$3,000 for a couple. Higher asset limits may be set for married persons if institutionalized. Some things are NOT counted, like a home and the land it's on, most personal goods, some life insurance policies, some cars, family members' burial plots, and some burial funds.

BENEFITS

MEDICAID COVERS many health care services. Some limitations apply. Medicaid pays for doctor visits and hospital costs, prenatal care and delivery services, check-ups, immunizations, vision and hearing services, dental care (where Medicaid providers are available), mental health counseling, prescription drugs, family planning, lab and x-ray services, and much more.

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APPLICATION

Contact Lafayette County Human Services at 608-776-4902, or 800-208-4011. Their office is located at 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530. A short, simple application is used for family Medicaid and people can now apply by phone or mail, including the elderly and the disabled. Verification requirements have also been greatly reduced.

Information is available online at [http:// www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/) You can find out if you may be eligible by visiting the ACCESS website on the internet at <http://www.access.wisconsin.gov>

Medicare

Medicare is the nation's health insurance program for people age 65 or older. Medicare provides coverage for inpatient and outpatient care, doctors' services, diagnostic tests, medical transportation and other services.

ELIGIBILITY

YOU MAY be eligible for Medicare health coverage if:

- You are a U.S. citizen or qualified alien;
- You are age 65 or older, OR disabled, OR suffer from permanent kidney failure.

There are four different parts to Medicare—Parts A, B, C and D.

BENEFITS

TRADITIONAL MEDICARE includes two related insurance programs. Part A covers hospital expenses, and Part B covers other medical expenses. Most Medicare participants are also eligible for a Medicare-approved drug discount card. Beginning in 2006, discount cards will be replaced by a prescription drug benefit for all beneficiaries.

- Hospital Coverage (Part A) helps pay for medical care and services provide by Medicare-certified hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, and hospices.
- Medical Coverage (Part B) pays 80% of other approved medical cost, including doctor's services, outpatient hospital services, ambulance transportation, diagnostic tests, lab tests, and other health services. It also pays for some home health care services.

Some services Medicare DOES NOT pay for include prescription drugs (although drug discount cards are available), most routine physical exams, foot care, dental care, hearing aids, eye exams or glasses.

THERE ARE several costs you may have to pay: While most people do NOT pay a premium for Hospital Coverage (Part A), they DO pay a monthly premium for Medical Coverage (Part B).

Most people also pay a portion of the actual costs of their care—known as deductibles and coinsurance. You may be able to get private insurance—called “Medigap” insurance—to cover some or all of these costs. Medicare can tell you more about available “Medigap” policies. For additional information about “Medigap” policies in Wisconsin you can also call the Medigap Helpline at 1-800-242-1060.

Medicare Part C (or “Advantage”) consists of private companies providing Part A and Part B coverage. If you enroll in an Advantage plan, you will receive A +B coverage through that company and NOT through Medicare.

YOU MAY qualify for the state to pay some or all of your Medicare premiums, deductibles and coinsurance if you have Part A coverage, limited income, and your assets do not exceed \$6,000 for a single person or \$10,020 for a couple Ask Medicare if you qualify for assistance with Medicare costs.

(CONTINUED)

APPLICATION

IF YOU already receive Social Security retirement or disability benefits (or Railroad Retirement) then Social Security will contact you several months before you become eligible for Medicare. If you aren't receiving retirement benefits you should contact Social Security three months before you turn age 65 (you can receive Medicare even if you don't retire). You also should call Medicare if you, your spouse or your child becomes disabled or has kidney disease. Medicare's toll free number is 800-633-4227. You can get more information on Medicare online at <http://www.medicare.gov>

YOU CAN sign up for Part B anytime during a 7-month period that begins 3 months before the month you turn 65. This is called your Initial Enrollment Period. If you do not choose to sign up for Part B during this period, you may sign up during a General Enrollment Period that runs from January 1 through March 31 of each year. However, the premium for Part B will usually increase for each year that you could have had coverage but did not choose to take it.

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

As of January 1, 2006, Medicare added optional prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries. Under Medicare Part D, coverage is available through private drug plans approved by the federal government. A Medicare recipient signs up for Part D by selecting a Part D plan and enrolling directly with the plan's private provider. Plans vary in cost and scope of coverage. Benefit specialists at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Southwest Wisconsin—Lafayette County are well-versed in the complexities of this new program and are available to assist prospective participants in choosing the most suitable plan.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible for prescription drug coverage when you first become eligible for Medicare.

You may sign up three months before the month you turn age 65 until three months after you turn 65. If you don't sign up when you are first eligible, you may pay a penalty. If you didn't join when you were first eligible, your next opportunity will be during the annual enrollment period from (October 15, 2011 through December 7, 2011.)

If you already have prescription drug insurance that the federal government has determined is as good as or better than the private plans available to you under Part D, you may remain with your present plan. Wisconsin SeniorCare is an example of such an approved plan. Your plan should notify you whether it has received federal approval.

BENEFITS

Your out-of-pocket costs will depend, in part, on which of your particular medications are covered by the private plan you select. Your costs will also be affected by a complex formula linked to the total price of your medicines over the course of each year. You should contact an Aging and Disability Resource Center of Southwest Wisconsin—South Lafayette County benefits specialist - or Medicare directly - to get complete information about the factors that will affect your outlay.

INFORMATION

For more information about eligibility and benefits, contact a benefit specialist at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Southwest Wisconsin—Lafayette County, 608-776-4960 or 877-794-2372 or at 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530 or visit: www.lchsd.org, click on Department, then click on ADRC. You can also call Medicare directly at 1-800-633-4227; the Wisconsin Prescription Drug Helpline at 1-866-456-8211; or the Disability Drug Benefit Helpline at 1-800-926-4862.

Wisconsin SeniorCare

SeniorCare is a prescription drug assistance program for Wisconsin residents who are 65 years of age or older and who meet eligibility requirements. By reducing the cost of prescription drugs, SeniorCare makes it easier for seniors to afford the medicines they need to get the most out of life.

ELIGIBILITY

There is no asset test for SeniorCare; only income is measured. You may be eligible for SeniorCare if:

- You are a Wisconsin resident;
- You are 65 years of age or older;
- You pay a \$30 annual enrollment fee; and
- You pay certain out-of-pocket expenses, depending on your annual income.

BENEFITS

Benefits and expenses vary depending on your income. The list below describes the benefits available at each income level. During a “deductible” period, you pay a discounted SeniorCare rate for your prescriptions, typically 10 or 15% lower than the retail price.

Level 1 [at or below \$17,424 per individual; \$23,536 per couple]:

\$30 membership per person; no deductible or spend down; \$15 per name-brand prescription; \$5 per generic for covered drugs.

Level 2a [\$17,425 – \$21,780 per individual; \$23,537 - \$29,420 per couple]:

\$30 membership per person; \$500 deductible per person; thereafter, \$15 per name-brand prescription; \$5 per generic for covered drugs.

Level 2b [\$21,781 - \$26,136 per individual; \$29,421 - \$35,304 per couple]:

\$30 membership per person; \$850 deductible per person; thereafter, \$15 per name-brand prescription; \$5 per generic for covered drugs.

Level 3 [\$26,137 or higher per individual; \$35,305 or higher per couple]:

\$30 membership per person; full retail cost of drugs until drug expenditures reduce income to 240% of poverty level; then \$850 deductible per person; thereafter, \$15 per name-brand prescription; \$5 per generic for covered drugs.

NOTE all income levels are as of November 22, 2011.

APPLICATION

For more information about eligibility, benefits and changes, contact a benefits specialist at the Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin– South Lafayette County, 608-776-4960 or 877-794-2372, or in person at 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530. Visit www.lchsd.org click on Services, then click on ADRC.

Chapter 6: Children and Families

Child Protective Services

The Lafayette County Human Services Department promptly investigates reports of child maltreatment, including alleged physical neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and/or emotional abuse. The Department also investigates threats of neglect and abuse. Reports that suggest a child is in current or imminent danger receive an immediate response. People who make reports in good faith are immune from civil or criminal liability. You can report anonymously.

ELIGIBILITY

Anyone who suspects a child is being mistreated may make a report to the Access Worker at Human Services at 608-776-4902 or to any Law Enforcement.

BENEFITS

The focus of a protective services investigation is to assure the safety of an allegedly maltreated child and to determine whether the child and family are in need of any services. In most cases, the parties involved are family members and solutions involve interventions with the family. In some instances, removal and/or court intervention is required to assure a child's safety and to order services for the family.

A report of child abuse may protect a child from further harm, whether at the hands of a family member or someone outside the family. If mistreatment has occurred, alerting the Department may also lead to treatment for both the injured child and the abuser.

Law enforcement involvement through the criminal system may be necessary to intervene with the person who harmed the child.

REPORT

For further information or to file a report, contact Lafayette County Human Services at 800-208-4011 or 608-776-4902 or at their office, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530 or visit www.lchsd.org click on Services then Family Services.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault – Victim Services

Family Advocates provides services for victims of domestic abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and sexual assault. Services include crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, support groups, advocacy, and a 24-hour crisis line: **800-924-2624**.

ELIGIBILITY

All residents of Lafayette County are eligible. Services are free and confidential.

BENEFITS

Family Advocates assists adults who have been physically, emotionally or psychologically injured by another adult member of their household. It also assists victims of rape, incest, child sexual assault, date and acquaintance rape, marital rape, sexual harassment, exposure and voyeurism. In addition, it provides assistance to children who witness domestic abuse at home.

Provides crisis intervention. Provides emergency shelter to women and children in domestic abuse and sexual - assault situations. Family Advocates also helps people work through difficult situations. Counselors listen to victims when they need someone to hear them. Counselors also suggest options to assist victims in deciding what they need to do. The goal is to help people who have been abused feel better about themselves and more confident in the decisions they are making about the future.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Family Advocates: 1-800-924-2624 or www.familyadv.org

Riverview Center: Manchester, IA, Hotline: 888-557-0310, Main line: 563-927-1524
 Galena, IL, Hotline: 888-707-8155, Main line: 815-777-8155
 Manchester, IA, Hotline: 888-557-0310, Main line: 563-927-1524
 Mt. Carroll, IL, Hotline: 877-273-7772, Main line: 815-244-7772
 Dubuque, IA, Hotline: 888-557-0310, Main line: 563-557-0310
 www.riverviewcenter.org/

Sexual Assault Recovery Program, 608-776-2803. The 24 hour line is 1-866-666-4576

Family Connections of Southwest Wisconsin

Family Connections of Southwest Wisconsin aims to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care. It provides information, and education for child care consumers; recruitment and training for child care professionals; technical assistance and support to those in the child care business; employer assistance in addressing work/family issues; and Respite service are also available to families who qualify.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to use the resource and referral service if you live in Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland or Vernon County.

BENEFITS

Especially if you are a first-time parent or new to Lafayette County; the agency can give you general information on how to choose safe, affordable and appropriate child care and Respite Care services. All child care referrals are done out of Family Connection's partner agency in La Crosse, the number is 1-800-873-1768.

The La Crosse agency also maintains a database of up-to-date information on regulated child care programs in Lafayette County. Consequently, it can refer you to specific care providers in your locale. Referrals may include a variety of care options such as group child care centers, family day care homes, and before- and after-school care programs. You can then choose the setting that best suits your family's needs.

For more information about resources available to child care professionals, (including the Child Care Food Program) employers and community planners, call Family Connection's at **1-800-267-1018**.

Head Start

Head Start is a free, comprehensive preschool program that provides a variety of health, educational, and family services to young children and their families. The program aims to promote school readiness, positive parent interactions, self-sufficiency and healthy lifestyles. Head Start serves families in Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland Counties.

ELIGIBILITY

If your child is between the ages of 3 and 5 as of September 1, and you live in the four-county area, your family is eligible to apply. Children are selected on the basis of their learning, social and emotional need, and family income. Ninety percent of the families enrolled must have incomes at or below the federal poverty level. Families receiving Wisconsin Shares Child Care Assistance are considered income eligible.

BENEFITS

Through health, educational and family services, the Head Start program:

- Identifies children who have special health or developmental concerns;
- Prepares your child for school;
- Promotes your child's social and emotional growth;
- Promotes your child's literacy and pre-math development;
- Increases your knowledge of child development and effective child management; and
- Links your family with community resources.

All children enrolled must have a physical examination, vision and hearing screening, immunizations, and a dental exam. The children participate in a combination of home- and center-based activities or in exclusively home-based-activities, as appropriate.

APPLICATION

For more information or to get an application, call Head Start at 800-494-8899 or send an e-mail to swcaphs@mhtc.net. The Head Start administrative office is at 212 E Chapel St, Dodgeville, WI 53533 or visit www.swcap.org for more information.

Transitional Services for Youth with Disabilities

The Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin—South Lafayette County provides young adults with disabilities, and their families or guardians, with information about the resources available when they reach adulthood, help them think through available options, and assist in accessing programs and services, as appropriate.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible for services if you are age 17 years 6 months or older.

BENEFITS

- Young adults with disabilities and their families or guardians may obtain information about the resources available when the youth reaches adulthood.
- They may also receive assistance thinking through the available options, and obtain assistance accessing programs and services, as appropriate.
- Transitional Services for Youth with Disabilities is offered free of charge to young adults age 17 years 6 months or older with disabilities, who are seeking guidance and/or assistance in choosing the best options for their individual needs.

PARTICIPATION

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 877-794-2372 or 608-776-4960 or stop at the office of the Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin—South Lafayette County, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530 or visit www.lchsd.org, click on Services, then click on ADRC.

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program

The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) helps low income families and individuals choose healthful diets, prepare food safely, and become more food secure. There are currently WNEP projects in 67 Wisconsin counties.

ELIGIBILITY

Families or individuals who receive Wisconsin Food Share or are eligible to receive Wisconsin Food Share can learn through WNEP.

WNEP projects exist in all counties EXCEPT: Green, Jefferson, Manitowoc, Monroe, and Ozaukee.

BENEFITS

WNEP provides lessons that can help you:

- Stretch your food dollars;
- Make healthier food choices;
- Plan low cost meals;
- Keep food safe to eat;
- Become aware of local food resources.

WNEP educators live in the community and understand the needs of families. They teach about nutrition in a variety of ways: small and large group settings, and at displays and exhibits. Lessons are offered in a variety of settings: schools, senior meal sites, senior housing units, WIC clinics, Head Start, Immunization Clinics farmers markets, and the Hodan Center.

APPLICATION

Contact the Lafayette County University of Wisconsin Extension Office at 608-776-4820.

See the WNEP website for additional information: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wnep/index.cfm>, or visit the

Lafayette County WNEP website at: <http://www.lafayette.uwex.edu>

Wisconsin Shares Child Care

Wisconsin Shares pays a portion of child care costs for working families with limited income. Families choose their own providers.

ELIGIBILITY

WISCONSIN SHARES is available to low and moderate income parents who are employed, or in education or training. You may be eligible if:

- Your family's income is below the limits;
- You have a child under age 13, or a child age 13 to 18 with special needs;
- There is no one in your home who can provide child care while you work;
- At least ONE of these situations applies to you:
 - You work;
 - You are under age 20 and in high school or an equivalency program;
 - You have been in an unsubsidized job for at least 9 months and are in job skills training;
 - You are a W-2 applicant in job search, training or orientation activities.

BENEFITS

YOU CAN receive financial help to pay for child care if you use any of the following types of providers:

- A licensed day care center or a licensed family day care home;
- A neighbor, relative or friend who becomes certified for health and safety standards;
- A child care program run by a public school.

YOUR SHARE of costs is determined by a sliding fee based on your income, family size, number of children in subsidized care, and the type of provider you choose. You could pay as little as 2% of your gross income, but usually not more than 12%. If you work part-time your share of costs is lowered. Some persons do not have any co-pay.

APPLICATION

Contact Lafayette County Human Services at 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530 or you can call 608-776-4902 or 800-208-4011 to get names of qualified providers in your area.

More information is available online at <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/wishares>

Family Connections of Southwest Wisconsin

Mission Statement: “Family Connections is a trusted resource that helps to prepare, educate, and support families, childcare providers, and the public.”

The Family Center of Grant County and Southwestern Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral joined forces to serve families in Grant, Crawford, Vernon, Richland, Iowa and Lafayette Counties on July 1, 2007. Family Connections is a non-profit organization funded through local and state grants local fundraising and donations.

Family Connections is an organization that works for the betterment of children and families. We provide a number of services to families, child care providers and local communities in and around Southwestern Wisconsin.

Key Services:

- Parent Education
- Support Groups
- Parents as Teachers Home Visiting
- New Baby Visits
- Fun Family Events
- Weekly Playgroups
- Respite Care
- Parent and Provider Lending Library
- Parent and Provider Workshops
- Child Care Provider Professional Development
- Child Care Provider Start-up Classes
- Parent and Professional Membership Opportunities
- 4C Food Program
- Pre-licensing Services

Family Connections’ main office is located in Lancaster, Wisconsin. A satellite site is located in Platteville, Wisconsin.

<https://supportingfamilies.together.org/FamilyConnectionsSWWI.html>

Chapter 7: Elder Programs

Coffee Hour for Caregivers Support Group

The Lafayette County Coffee Hour for Caregivers Support Group includes anyone caring for a loved one with a chronic illness. The group meets once a month at the Darlington Municipal Building.

ELIGIBILITY

Participation in the support group is free and open to everyone.

BENEFITS

The group offers you the opportunity for frank, confidential discussions, and for the exchange of ideas, information, strategies and understanding. Ask questions and get answers from people who have been there.

PARTICIPATION

The Coffee Hour for Caregivers support group is sponsored by Lafayette County Human Services – Aging Unit, in affiliation with the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance and meets there every fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Job Center Conference Room (2nd Floor), Municipal Building, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530. For further information, call 608-843-3402.

Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin

The Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin provides information, education and support for people with memory loss and families of those diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or other related disorders. The Alliance provides information about the disease and local resources and services, care consultations, education programs, support groups and public policy advocacy.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible if you or someone you know have concerns about memory loss, dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

BENEFITS

You can choose some or all of the following:

- **Information and Assistance: 608-232-3400 or 888-308-6251.** Provide families with support, resources and information. Families can also get information on the Alliance website, www.alzwisc.org or by e-mail, support@alzwisc.org
- **Family Care Consultation.** Family support specialists provide short-term consultation either in person or by telephone to assist families with accessing resources, working with challenging behaviors, and planning for future care needs.
- **Library.** The Alliance maintains a loan library of books and videos on a wide variety of issues related to Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, and caregiving.
- **Support Groups.** Support groups are held throughout south central Wisconsin, including Lafayette County. These groups provide information to participants and offer family caregivers the opportunity to share experiences and offer support.
- **Education.** The Alliance offers a memory enhancement program for people with mild memory loss, early stage support and introductory and in-depth education programs on topics such as medical aspects of dementia, effects of dementia on the person, positive communication, legal and financial planning and personal care tasks. See education calendar at www.alzwisc.org for more information.

PARTICIPATION

To contact the Alliance, call 888-308-6251, go to the Alliance office at 517 N Segoe Rd, Ste. 301, Madison, WI 53705, or send an e-mail to support@alzwisc.org. **The number for the 24-hour helpline is 888-308-6251.** More information is available on-line at www.alzwisc.org

Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP)

The Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) assists families who are caring at home for someone with irreversible dementia. The program can fund a wide range of goods and services that are necessary to maintain an income-eligible person with Alzheimer's disease in the community.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility depends on the medical and financial status of the person being cared for by the family. Your family may qualify if:

- You have a doctor's statement that your affected family member has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or any of the other irreversible dementias; and
- Your affected family member's net income is below \$40,000, after deducting the costs related to Alzheimer's care.

BENEFITS

Subject to the availability of funds, AFCSP pays for goods and services necessary to allow an affected person to continue living with family. Goods provided have included nutritional supplements, security systems, specialized clothing, home-delivered meals, hobby equipment and chair lifts. Typical services have included in-home help, respite care, adult day care and transportation.

Your affected family member is expected to contribute to the cost of services based on his or her ability to pay.

Is there A Maximum Amount of Funding Allowed?

Each person eligible for AFCSP is allowed a maximum of \$4,000 per year, if funding is available.

APPLICATION

To get more information or apply, contact Lafayette County Human Services – Aging Disability Resource Center at 608-776-4960 or at their office at 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530. Hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Elder Abuse and Neglect - Investigation

The Access Worker of Lafayette County Human Services investigates reports of elder abuse and/or neglect. The agency will investigate allegations of physical abuse, financial abuse, neglect and/or self-neglect.

ELIGIBILITY

The alleged victim must be 60 years of age or older and a resident of Lafayette County.

BENEFITS

By requesting an investigation of a possible problem, you may save an elderly person from physical harm and/or an unauthorized depletion of assets.

You can report possible abuse without giving your name. If you do choose to identify yourself, your name will be kept confidential.

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

To get further information or to request an investigation, contact the Access Worker of Lafayette County Human Services at 608-776-4902; after hours call Law Enforcement at 608-776-4848; or at their office, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530. Visit <http://www.lchsd.org> click on Services and then ADRC.

Elderly Benefits Counseling

The Elderly Benefit Specialists at Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin—Lafayette County offers information, assistance, and representation to Wisconsin residents age 60 and over with benefit and entitlement programs, such as Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicare, Medical Assistance, FoodShare, and Family Care.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible for Elderly Benefits Counseling if you are age 60 or older.

BENEFITS

You will receive:

- Accurate information on public and private benefits and programs;
- Help determining which benefits and programs you may be entitled to;
- Help filling out applications for benefits, programs and services;
- Options about programs or services that might best meet your needs;
- Assistance with obtaining or retaining benefits and services;
- Referrals, assistance, and support on other matters including the impact of earnings on financial eligibility for public benefits;
- In some cases, you may receive representation in formal appeals related to denials of eligibility, termination of benefits or overpayment of public and private benefits.

- Elderly Benefits Counseling is offered free of charge to anyone 60 or older who is seeking guidance and/or assistance in choosing the best options for their individual needs.

PARTICIPATION

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 608-776-4960 or 877-794-2372 or stop at the office of the Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin—South Lafayette County at 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530 or visit www.lchsd.org, click on Services, then click on ADRC.

Guardianship/Protective Placement Services

Lafayette County Human Services assists in proceedings on guardianships, protective placements and protective services.

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible for assistance if:

- You have a present inability and/or incapacity to care for yourself; and

BENEFITS

Guardianships and protective placements are designed to assure that people who can't take care of themselves receive the help necessary to avoid unsafe or unhealthy living conditions. Both protections are established by court order.

In a guardianship proceeding, a competent adult is appointed to take responsibility for the physical well-being of an incapacitated person and/or for management of the person's finances. In a protective placement proceeding, a care facility is designated to take custody of an incapacitated person and provide him or her with day-to-day care. The Human Services Department will facilitate either kind of proceeding for financially eligible individuals.

APPLICATION

For further information about guardianships, protective placements and financial-eligibility criteria, contact Lafayette County Human Services at 608-776-4902 or at their office, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530. Visit <http://www.lchsd.org>

Guardianship Support Center

The Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center is a statewide resource for information about guardianship related issues. Staffed by attorneys, the Center offers information, referral, case consultation, and training. It does not, however, provide legal representation or legal advice, or find or provide guardians.

ELIGIBILITY

The Center serves everyone - members of the public and professionals – interested in guardianship issues.

BENEFITS

The Center offers the following services:

- **A toll-free “Guardianship Hotline” [800-488-2596 or e-mail guardian@cwag.org]** that operates on a “call-back” basis. You will be asked to leave a message and your call or e-mail will be returned as soon as possible.
- **A free quarterly newsletter, The Guardian**, on legal issues pertaining to guardianship. Call the hotline to subscribe.
- **Training** on guardianship-related issues.

The Center can answer questions such as:

- When does a person need a guardian?
- What are the duties of a guardian?
- What are the court procedures to obtain a guardianship?
- What are the alternatives to a guardianship?
- How does someone execute a Power of Attorney for Finances?
- What is a financial agent’s authority?
- How does someone execute a Power of Attorney for Health Care?
- What is a health care agent’s authority?
- What steps should one take to report physical or financial abuse?

Home Care Services

At least three organizations offer home health care services for residents of Lafayette County. While the full extent of services offered by each may vary, all three provide skilled nursing care, therapies, personal care and light housekeeping. All three accept Medicare and Medical Assistance, as well as other forms of insurance.

ELIGIBILITY

Everyone who wishes to remain at home but needs some skilled medical services to do so may be eligible for home health care. Patients typically include frail elderly, people recovering from surgery, seniors just released from the hospital, infants with jaundice or problems from premature birth, people recovering from severe accidents or injuries, and people with chronic progressive illnesses.

BENEFITS

Where appropriate to a person's needs, home health care agencies can provide medical and support services in a comfortably familiar setting, rather than in a hospital or nursing facility. Also, home health care is generally less expensive than institutional care.

Contact the following organizations for a full description of eligibility, services, and billing options:

- **Serenity Haven**, N3907 Klondike Road, Monroe, WI 53566, or call 608-329-4574
- **Homeward Bound, Inc., 130 W Elm St, Lancaster, WI 53813.** An independent home care provider, the agency serves all of Lafayette County. For more information, call 608-723-6601 or visit www.homewardboundinc.org
- **Lafayette County Health Department**, 729 Clay Street, Darlington, WI 53530, 608-776-4895. A registered nurse is on call 24/7

Lafayette County Health Department

HOME CARE

“Our goal is to provide professional health services in the comfort and security of your own home to help you to return to good health and independence as quickly as possible.”

Please ask your physician if you or a loved one could benefit from Home Care Services.

****No One is Denied Home Care Services Because Of Inability to Pay****

Services under Home Care are typically paid for by:

- Medicare
- Medical Assistance (i.e. BadgerCare)
- Private Insurance or HMO
- Income-based sliding scale

Some Of Our Services Include:

- Blood drawing
- Wound Care
- Ostomy and catheter instruction & care
- IV Medication care & instruction
- Medication set-up
- Injections
- Diabetes diet & insulin instructions
- Tube Feedings
- Skilled nursing care & assessment
- Instructions & support for our patients, family & caregivers
- Direction to other appropriate Services
- Speech therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Skilled Evaluation & Observation

A Registered Nurse is on-call for emergencies 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Questions? Please Call Rebecca Steffes, Home Care Coordinator, at the Lafayette County Health Department (608) 776-4895 or e-mail healthdepartment@lafayettecountywi.org

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PERSONAL CARE

Home Health Aides are available for assistance with managing your home. Some services provided by the Aides include

- Baths
- Shampoo
- Dressing
- Toileting
- Walking

Sometimes Medical Assistance, Medicare and Private Insurance will pay for Personal Care Services. Otherwise, a sliding fee scale based on your income may be used to determine the price of Personal Care Services. In addition, help from the Lafayette County Human Services Aging Department is available for eligible patients. To find out if Personal Care is right for you, call the Lafayette County Health Department at (608) 776-4895.

LIFT Transportation Service

Leadership through Innovative Flexible Transportation (LIFT) coordinates existing transportation services throughout Southwest Wisconsin. We are a community-based initiative serving the commuting, aging, disabled and low income populations in the region. LIFT facilitates access to available transportation services, minimizes duplication of those services, and seeks cost-effective transport utilizing available resources.

LIFT is able to look at transportation needs from a broad perspective and can match all populations with the transportation services that meet their needs.

ELIGIBILITY

Anyone can use LIFT.

BENEFITS

We have partnerships throughout Southwestern Wisconsin, including Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland counties. We offer ride referrals, set up transportation for events, and coordinate Southwest Wisconsin's transportation resources.

INFORMATION

The LIFT website has complete information about the program - <http://www.swt-lift.org> or call toll free: 1-877-SWT-LIFT (1-877-798-5438), Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Southwest Wisconsin LIFT, 201 S. Iowa St., Dodgeville, WI 53533

Long-Term Care Options Counseling

Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin—Lafayette County provides counseling about the options available to meet long term care needs, and factors to consider in making long term care decisions. The full range of long-term care options available to individuals include, but are not limited to: home care, community services, residential care, nursing home care, and case management services.

ELIGIBILITY

Regardless of your age, income, or assets, you are eligible for Long-Term Care Options Counseling.

BENEFITS

- Information & Assistance Specialists can help by offering consistent information regarding long-term care options, with individual needs and preferences in mind. The information provided to you in long term-care options counseling will be timely, accurate, thorough, unbiased, and appropriate to your individual situation. Long-term care options counseling will not attempt to persuade the you to choose to participate in any particular long-term care setting, program, or service.
- Information & Assistance Specialists are also available to assist individuals, and their caregivers, who may be considering out-of-home care, and facilitate access to publicly-funded long term care.
- Long-Term Care Options Counseling is offered free of charge to anyone seeking guidance in choosing the best options for their individual needs.

PARTICIPATION

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 608-776-4960 or stop at the office of the Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin—South Lafayette County, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530 or visit www.lchsd.org, click on Services, then click on ADRC.

Seniors Unified for Nutrition Programs, Inc. (SUN)

Senior Nutrition Programs provide seniors with nutritious meals as well as opportunities to socialize with others. There are two programs to meet the different needs of elderly persons—Congregate Meals and Home Delivered Meals. An estimated 70,000 seniors in Wisconsin participate in Elderly Nutrition Programs each year.

ELIGIBILITY

YOU MAY be eligible to participate if...

- You are age 60 or over. Spouses of eligible seniors can participate regardless of age;
- there are no income or asset limits;
- Disabled residents may participate regardless of age when they live in a housing unit that also houses a meal site.

BENEFITS

THERE ARE two meal programs:

- **Congregate Meals** serve ready-to-eat meals to seniors at over 600 community locations around the state. Lafayette County sites are located in: Belmont, Benton, Blanchardville, Darlington, Shullsburg and South Wayne. Newcomers are always welcome. A meal reservation is necessary one day in advance. Diabetic dessert exchanges are available with a medical recommendation.
- **Home Delivered Meals—or “Meals on Wheels”** - brings meals to homebound seniors who can't prepare daily meals and who can't get to congregate meal sites because of frailty, illness or disability. Meals are brought by caring, sensitive persons, who are often volunteers. Home delivered meals are available in the Lafayette County communities that have congregate dining sites.

WHILE THERE is no set charge for meals, there is a suggested donation. Currently this is \$4.00 for congregates and \$4.25 for home delivery. You are encouraged to contribute what you can afford.

- Argyle – Home Delivered Meal Only – 608-214-3407
- Belmont – At the Community Building – 608-762-5114
- Benton – At the VFW Building – 608-753-6671
- Blanchardville – At the American Legion Building – 608-214-3407
- Darlington – At the Municipal Building – 608-776-4969
- Shullsburg – At the Shullsburg Community Townsend Center – 608-965-4424, ext. 226
- South Wayne – At Hillside Apartments – 608-426-4858

SUN PROGRAM Meal Sites provide a noon meal. Most meal sites serve meals Monday through Friday. Extra meals are available for evenings and weekends.

Contact Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin—South Lafayette County for availability of transportation to sites; 608-776-4902.

(CONTINUED)

Other Services

SOME LOCATIONS may also provide you with health screenings, nutrition education

APPLICATION

ELDERLY NUTRITION programs in Lafayette County are administered by Seniors United for Nutrition (SUN). If you're home-bound they will arrange a visit to see if you are eligible for Home Delivery.

You can contact the **SUN Program** at 608-930-9845, fax – 608-930-1208, 303 W Chapel Street, Suite 140, Dodgeville, WI 53533. You can also visit www.iowacounty.org then click on the Senior Nutrition tab.

Home Chore

The Home Chore program provides services that enable financially and medically eligible people to remain in their homes. These services include interior home maintenance such as light housekeeping, laundry and shopping. The program does not provide personal care.

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible for supportive care if:

- Your income and liquid assets are below the level set by current block-grant criteria [for details about financial eligibility, **and**
- Your physician states that you cannot perform certain housekeeping and home maintenance tasks.

APPLICATION

To apply, contact Lafayette County Human Services – Aging Unit at 608-776-4888 or at their office, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530.

Transportation for Seniors/Disabled Persons

Lafayette County Human Services - Aging Unit offers two options to meet the differing transportation needs of elderly and disabled people: a Volunteer Driver Escort Service that provides individualized door-to-door medical transportation, and a bus which provides a door-to-door transportation service between the communities in Lafayette County.

ELIGIBILITY

Regardless of your income and assets, you are eligible for both the bus and the Driver Escort Service if you are 60+ or disabled.

BENEFITS

The Bus is a wheelchair-lift equipped bus that transports senior and/or disabled passengers on a fixed schedule for a variety of purposes such as shopping, nutrition, social outings, medical appointments and business transactions. Also, the general public can ride the bus on a cost for service basis. The bus picks up riders at designated locations throughout the county on a rotating basis. Destinations include Dubuque, Madison, Monroe and Platteville. The Bus schedule is published monthly in the “Upper Horizon” Newsletter.

- **Riders should make reservations 48 hours in advance.**
- If you are 60+ or disabled, the van is free, with an opportunity for you to make a donation. If you are not eligible to ride free, your fare will be figured on a cost for service basis.

The Driver Escort Service provides individuals with door-to-door medical transportation and important business appointments. It is coordinated by the Lafayette County Human Services, which recruits, trains and schedules the volunteer drivers. **Passengers should make reservations 72 hours in advance.**

- Passengers of the **Driver Escort Service** pay a fee based on round-trip mileage. The cost is \$0.30 per mile with a minimum charge of \$3.00.

PARTICIPATION

For scheduling information or to make a reservation, call 608-776-4902 or stop at Lafayette County Human Services, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530.

Chapter 8: Disability Assistance

Basic Education for Adults with Disabilities

The Hodan Center, Inc., a community rehabilitation program for persons with disabilities, operates the Adult Basic Education Program (ABE) for clients of the Center. The program offers educational opportunities that enhance and enrich the students' lives. Classes include reading, computers, social skills, current events, and health and nutrition.

ELIGIBILITY

All client-employees of the Hodan Center are eligible to participate in the ABE Program. Enrollment is determined by client interest and input from parents, caregivers, guardians and staff.

BENEFITS

ABE challenges and stimulates cognitive skills through verbal, written and/or computer activities. By keeping participants actively engaged and interested in something outside of their ordinary realm of experience, ABE builds self-esteem and self-confidence.

ENROLLMENT

For further information, contact the Hodan Center at 608-987-3336 or at 941 W Fountain St, Mineral Point, WI 53565. Visit www.hodancenter.org for more information or email them at hodanctr@mhtc.net.

Birth to 3 Program

The Birth to 3 Program is a family-centered early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities. Because the first three years build a lifetime, the goal of the program is to enhance the young child's development and to support the family's knowledge, skills, and abilities as they interact with and raise their child. Each child (and his or her family) receives services and support based on individual needs. Participation is voluntary, and records are kept confidential.

ELIGIBILITY

The program is for children ages birth to 36 months. Eligibility is based on a diagnosed disability or significant delay in one or more areas of development. Upon request, a diagnostic team will evaluate your child's ability to learn; move, see and hear; communicate and understand others' communications; respond to and relate with others; and eat, dress and care for daily living needs. A Birth to 3 service coordinator will help your family to understand and participate in the evaluation process.

Your child's eligibility is not affected by your family income; however, you may need to contribute to the cost of services. Your family's share of the cost will range from \$0 to \$150 per month, depending on your income and expenses.

More information is available at www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/birthto3/index.htm

BENEFITS

- The program assists children to reach their full potential. The earlier a child's developmental delays are discovered, the more opportunities there are for that child to increase skills and abilities. The goal is to help children participate in their communities.
- The program affirms the importance of parents, family and friends in a young child's life. The early intervention team will provide ideas and techniques to help a family enhance their child's development and learning potential.
- Services are provided in the child's natural environments. These are unique to each family and might include the home, childcare and other community settings.
- Specific rights for children and families are built into the program. Some of these include: parents must give written consent for – and are free to refuse - any evaluations, assessments or services; records will be kept confidential; parents can disagree with decisions regarding eligibility and appropriate services.

APPLICATION

For information about how to initiate the evaluation process, call the coordinator of the Lafayette County Birth to 3 Program at 608-776-4902 or visit the Lafayette County Human Services Office at 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530.

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Center (CYSHCN) – Southern Region

The regional CYSHCN Center provides free and confidential assistance to parents of children with special health care needs. Specialists provide callers with information and referrals on a full range of services and programs for children with special needs, birth to 21. The network also includes the Wisconsin First Step Hotline, **800-642-7837**, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

ELIGIBILITY

The services of the Southern Regional Center for CYSHCN and the Hotline are available free to all residents of Lafayette County (as well as residents of Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Juneau, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk and Vernon Counties).

BENEFITS

The specialists at the CYSHCN Center can direct parents to books and articles, videos and websites pertaining to a child's special needs. The specialists can also supply information about parent support groups and training, as well as resources and services available in Lafayette County. In addition, the network includes the 24-hour Wisconsin First Step Hotline: **800-642-7837**.

PARTICIPATION

For more information call 800-532-3321 or 608-265-8610. The Center's office is located in the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Visit www.waisman.wisc.edu for more information. Those in need of information can also contact the Lafayette County Health Department at 608-776-4895 or at their office, 729 Clay Street, Darlington, WI 53530. **The number for the First Step Hotline is: 800-642-7837.**

Disability Benefits Counseling

The Disability Benefit Specialist at Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin—Lafayette County offers benefits counseling for adults ages 18 to 59 with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible for Disability Benefits Counseling if you are ages 18 to 59 with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, and mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

BENEFITS

Provides:

- Accurate information on public and private benefits and programs;
- Help determining which benefits and programs you may be entitled to;
- Help filling out applications for benefits, programs and services;
- Options about programs or services that might best meet your needs;
- Assistance with obtaining or retaining benefits and services;
- Referrals, assistance, and support on other matters including disability rights and the impact of earnings on financial eligibility for public benefits;
- In some cases, you may receive representation in formal appeals related to denials of eligibility, termination of benefits or overpayment of public and private benefits.

A Disability Benefit Specialist Help With:

- Medicaid (Medical Assistance)
- FoodShare
- Medicare
- Insurance Issues
- Prescription Drug Assistance
- Housing and Utility Issues
- Low-Income Tax Credits
- Veteran's Benefits
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

PARTICIPATION

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 608-776-4960 or 877-794-2372 or the Aging and Disability Resource Center Southwest Wisconsin—Lafayette County, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530.

Family Support Program

The Family Support Program recognizes that meeting the needs of children who have severe disabilities may cause families emotional, physical and financial hardship. The Program provides goods and services to help families meet the extraordinary care needs of severely disabled children.

ELIGIBILITY

Your child is eligible for the Support Program if he or she is under the age of 21, lives at home and has a severe disability. A “severe disability” is a physical, mental or emotional limitation that seriously restricts the child’s ability to carry out basic daily living activities such as self-care, learning, communication, mobility and self-direction. Because of limited funding, there may be a waiting list. The Program encourages families to apply despite the waiting list.

The Family Support Program serves as funding of last resort. The family must first explore all private insurance, Medical Assistance and other program options. Some families may have a cost share based on their annual income.

BENEFITS

The Program offers information and help in finding programs and resources, limited funding to buy needed goods and services, and help in linking families with other families to strengthen natural supports. Examples of purchases include but are not limited to:

- Specialized equipment;
- Specialized day care and camps;
- Architectural or vehicle modifications;
- Parent education; and
- Respite care.

Job Services for Adults with Disabilities

The Hodan Center, Inc. is a community rehabilitation program for persons with developmental disabilities who live in Iowa or Lafayette County. Among many services, the Center offers its clients job training and employment opportunities.

ELIGIBILITY

Job training and employment services are available to adults with developmental disabilities who live in Iowa or Lafayette County.

BENEFITS

- The Hodan Center offers training and work opportunities to its client-employees in the areas of food service, machine shop, packaging and assembly.
- It also offers integrated employment opportunities at the Bargain Nook stores in Darlington, Mineral Point, New Glarus, Platteville and Spring Green.
- In addition, the Center subcontracts work for industries around the state, which creates a wide variety of employment opportunities.
- Besides placing clients in community/supported employment, the Center provides employer advocacy, counseling, family support, and follow along services.

APPLICATION

For more information about the job training and employment opportunities, contact the Hodan Center at 608-987-3336 or go to the Center, 941 W Fountain St, Mineral Point, WI 53565. Visit www.hodancenter.org for more information or email them at hodanctr@mhtc.net.

Telephone Assistance for Hearing and Speech Impaired Users

The Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay System (WTRS) is a state-funded telephone system that enables people with a hearing or speech impairment to communicate effectively by telephone. One option is a teletypewriter (TTY) that allows users who can operate a keyboard to communicate by phone with standard telephone users. Also available is a Voice Carry Over (VCO) telephone that allows users to speak into the phone and receive typed replies. Relays are available in both English and Spanish.

ELIGIBILITY

All telephone users are welcome to use the WI Relay, 7-1-1, free of charge. Long distance charges apply on any long-distance relay calls.

BENEFITS

The relay system accessed by dialing 7-1-1 enables a deaf person using a TTY phone to communicate smoothly with a person who does not have a TTY phone. If the TTY user types on a keyboard, a Communication Assistant will voice everything typed by the TTY user and type every spoken reply. A Voice Carry Over (VCO) phone allows the user to speak, rather than type, his or her side of the conversation and receive typed replies. All Wisconsin relay calls are completely confidential.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about 7-1-1 or WTRS, contact Sprint customer service at 800-676-3777 TTY or 800-395-9877 Voice, or go to www.wisconsinrelay.com.

DIAL 7-1-1 to use Hamilton Relay in Wisconsin, or call one of the toll free numbers below:

TTY: 1.800.947.3529

VOICE: 1.800.947.6644

ASCII: 1.800.272.1773

Speech-to Speech: 1.800.833.7637

Spanish-to-Spanish: 1.800.833.7813 (includes Spanish to Spanish and translation from English to Spanish)

English-to-Spanish: 1.877.490.3723

Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Services

The Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) assists individuals with disabilities who wish to obtain, maintain, or improve their employment.

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible for the DVR program if you have a disability, and you have problems getting or keeping a job specifically because of the disability. Due to limited funds, DVR cannot assist every disabled worker. People with the most severe limitations to work are served first. DVR maintains a waiting list for services.

BENEFITS

DVR has many services. Upon admission to the program, you and your counselor will decide which are appropriate for you. Some of the services available are:

- Guidance and counseling;
- Assistance with finding and keeping a job;
- Assistive technology that may enable you to meet certain job requirements; and
- Training for employment opportunities commensurate with your abilities.

APPLICATION

For further information about eligibility and services, call the Lafayette County DVR office at 608-935-0806; toll free 800-228-2648; fax: 608-935-5072, or visit: https://www.dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/scripts/Application_I.asp or call 608-935-0806.

Chapter 9: Legal and Tax Assistance

Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC)

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) lowers taxes and provides cash back to low and moderate income workers. There are two related programs—the federal EITC and the Wisconsin EITC. In tax year 2001 over 189,000 tax filers claimed both credits.

ELIGIBILITY

THE FEDERAL EITC is available to low/ moderate income workers. You may be eligible in tax year 2010 if:

Preview of 2011 Tax Year

Earned Income and Gross income (AGI) must be less than:

- \$43,998 (\$49,078 married filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children
- \$40,964 (\$46,044 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children
- \$36,052 (\$41,132 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child
- \$13,660 (\$18,740 married filing jointly) with no qualifying child

Tax Year 2011 Maximum Credit:

- \$5,751 with three or more qualifying children
- \$5,112 with two qualifying children
- \$3,094 with one qualifying child
- \$464 with no qualifying children

WISCONSIN'S EITC is available to most people who claim the federal EITC. You may be eligible in the current tax year if you meet ALL the following:

- You claimed the federal EITC;
- You have one or more qualifying children;
- You lived in Wisconsin for all of the current tax year.

A **“QUALIFYING CHILD”** must be under 19 years old, or under 24 if a full-time student, or any age if disabled. The child does NOT have to be your dependent, but must be one of the following:

- A son, daughter, stepchild, grandchild or adopted child who has lived with you in the United States for at least 6 months of the tax year; OR
- A brother, sister, stepbrother or stepsister—or a descendant of these relatives—who lived with you in the United States for at least 6 months of the tax year; OR
- A foster child placed with you who lived in your household in the United States for at least 6 months of the tax year.

(CONTINUED)

BENEFITS

THE AVERAGE federal credit in Lafayette County in tax year 2008 was over \$1,600/household. The average state credit for Lafayette County was about \$200/household. The amount you receive depends on your income and the number of qualifying children you have.

- If you have no qualifying children, you could receive up to \$457;
- If you have 1 qualifying child, you could receive up to \$3,043;
- If you have 2 qualifying children, you could receive up to \$5,028;
- If you have 3 or more qualifying children, you could receive up to \$5,657.

(Please note: These dollars amounts may be adjusted each year.)

Remember—you can qualify for the credit whether you owe taxes, or are owed a refund. You can even apply if you worked but did not earn enough to pay taxes.

IF YOU think you qualified for the EITC in past years but did not claim it, you can file an amended return up to 3 years after the due date for federal returns and up to 4 years after the due date for state returns. Call the IRS and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue at the phone number below or help.

IF YOU have children and think you may qualify for the federal EITC, you may be able to receive a portion of the credit in each paycheck. This is called the Advance EITC. To apply just complete a W-5 form and give it to your employer. You cannot receive the state EITC in advance.

APPLICATION

TO RECEIVE the federal credit you must file a federal tax return. If you have qualifying children, file form 1040 or 1040A and Schedule EIC. If you have no children you may file form 1040EZ. To receive the state credit, you must file a state income tax return using Form 1 or 1A.

FOR INFORMATION on the federal EITC or to obtain forms call the IRS at 800-829-1040. For information on Wisconsin EITC call the Department of Revenue in Madison at 608-266-2772 or check the state government listings in the blue pages of your phone book for the nearest Department of Revenue office. Lafayette County has a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site that provides free tax preparation. Information is available on-line on the federal and state EITC at <http://www.irs.gov> or <http://www.dor.state.wi.us>. You can find out if you may be eligible by contacting the ACCESS website on the internet at <http://www.access.wisconsin.gov>

Homestead Credit

The Homestead Credit Program is a Wisconsin tax benefit for low and moderate income renters and homeowners. It can lower your state income taxes, and provides cash back if your income is too low to pay taxes.

ELIGIBILITY

THE HOMESTEAD CREDIT is available to low and moderate income Wisconsin residents. You may be eligible if you meet **ALL** of the following guidelines:

- You have been a Wisconsin resident for the entire year;
- You are at least 18 years old on the last day of the calendar year;
- Your income in 2010 is less than \$24,680 **AFTER** subtracting \$500 for each dependent;
- You own or rent your Wisconsin homestead, and your homestead is not exempt from property taxes (if you live in public housing ask your rental manager):
- You are not claimed as a dependent on someone else's federal income tax return (unless you were 62 or older by the last day of the calendar year)
- You are not claiming the farmland preservation credit; and
- You are not living in a nursing home while getting Medicaid when you file.
- You must not have received Wisconsin Works (W2) payments of any amount or county relief payments of \$400 or more for **each month** of 2010. (If you received Wisconsin Works (W2) or county relief payments in 2010, your property taxes and rent have to be reduced by one-twelfth for **each** month you received any of these.

BENEFITS

THE MAXIMUM credit is \$1,168. The amount you receive depends on how much income you have and how much you paid in property taxes or rent during the tax year.

(Please note: These income amounts may be adjusted each year)

APPLICATION

YOU MUST complete Homestead Credit Schedule H or H-EZ, which can be filed electronically or by paper. If filing by paper, staple Schedule H or H-EZ to your state income tax return Form 1, 1A or 1NPR. (If using Form 1 or 1NPR remember to include a complete copy of your federal income tax return and all supporting schedules.) You cannot attach a Homestead Credit claim to a Form WI-Z.

- If you are a homeowner, include a copy of your property tax bill.
- If you rent, include the completed rent certificate signed by your landlord.

Mail your homestead credit claim and income tax return to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, PO Box 34, Madison, WI 53786-0001. Only one claim per household. If you are not required to file an income tax return, you can still apply—just send your completed Homestead Credit Schedule H or H-EZ to the address above.

(CONTINUED)

IF YOU rent and your landlord won't sign the rent certificate, you should complete lines 1 through 13c on the certificate. If your landlord provided food or services, indicate what items were provided and fill in your estimate of the value of these items on line 12. If no items were provided, fill in "0" on line 12. Write "Landlord Refuses to Sign" at the top of the certificate. Attach the rent certificate with copies of all of your canceled checks or money order receipts to verify your rent paid during 2010.

WRITE AT the top of Schedule H or H-EZ: "Income Tax Return Separately Filed". Then attach a copy of your Wisconsin income tax return (Form 1, 1A, WI-Z, 1NPR, Telefile or NetFile Worksheet) including copies of wage statements. (If filing Form 1 or 1NPR attach a complete copy of your federal income tax return and all supporting scheduled.) Write "Duplicate" at the top of the Wisconsin tax return copy. Mail Schedule H or H-EZ and the duplicate income tax return to the address above. If you think you were eligible in previous years, but did not file, you can amend your state income tax return for up to 4 years after the date it was due.

CALL THE Department of Revenue in Madison at 608-266-2772 or check the state government listings in the blue pages of your phone book for the nearest Department of Revenue office. You can obtain a Wisconsin Homestead Credit booklet from any Department of Revenue office. Schedule H or H-EZ forms are also available at many banks and libraries. You may request or download forms and instructions online at <http://www.dor.state.wi.us> or <http://www.revenue.wi.gov/taxpro/fact/hc.pdf>

Legal Action of Wisconsin

Legal Action of Wisconsin (LAW) provides free legal services to low-income Lafayette County residents on civil matters such as housing, public benefits, education problems, migrant issues and family law. LAW also maintains an informational website, <http://www.BadgerLaw.net>

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible for representation if your income is at or below 110% of the Federal poverty level and your assets are few. Because LAW's resources are limited, however, it must set limits on the number of cases it accepts. Generally, LAW gives priority to cases that may make an impact in developing areas of the law. So, if you are eligible and your case warrants a high priority, LAW may represent you.

BENEFITS

Attempting to represent yourself in a legal dispute, perhaps with a landlord or a spouse, can be overwhelming, even if you believe all the facts are on your side. A LAW attorney knows your rights and knows how past cases similar to yours have been decided in the courts. Consequently, the attorney can advise you about the strength of your case and suggest ways to resolve the dispute short of a complex in-court proceeding.

Should it be necessary to take the matter to court, the LAW attorney knows court rules and procedures and can present your case effectively. Also, depending on the issues, the court could ask both sides to submit "briefs," formal legal essays that explain the case from each party's point of view and argue for a favorable ruling by the court. A LAW attorney knows how to write a strong brief on your behalf.

Finally, if you win your case, you may have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped to establish a "precedent" that will smooth the way for others who have similar disputes in the future. Given the great benefits of free legal representation, it is definitely worth making an appointment with a LAW attorney to find out if LAW can take your case.

Whether or not you qualify for representation by LAW, BadgerLaw.net provides information and access to resources that may help you with your problem.

APPLICATION

For more information about eligibility and to request representation, contact LAW at 800-362-3904 or 608-256-3304, or at their office, 31 S Mills St, Madison, WI 53715. Visit www.BadgerLaw.net/Home/PublicWeb/LAW

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) provides free preparation of federal and state tax returns for limited-income taxpayers. IRS-trained volunteers prepare returns in confidence and then file them electronically to obtain the fastest possible refunds for program participants.

ELIGIBILITY

If your annual income is \$40,000 or less, VITA will prepare and e-file your returns for free.

BENEFITS

You could save money or get a larger refund. VITA volunteers are trained to prepare federal and state tax returns, as well as Earned Income Credit and Wisconsin Homestead Credit forms. If you have been using a tax service, VITA will save you the fee. If you have been doing your own returns, a VITA volunteer could notice ways to lower your taxes or increase your refund that you might have overlooked.

E-filing assures the fastest possible refunds. If you are owed a refund, VITA's e-filing of your return will prompt quick payment. You can ask to receive your refund either by direct deposit or in the form of a check. E-filing lets you avoid paying interest charges associated with Refund Anticipation Loans.

For prompt completion of your return, you need to bring the following to your VITA meeting:

- Your photo ID, and Social Security cards and birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents. (please note that social security cards are required)
- Wage and earnings statements [W-2, W-2G, 1099-R] from all employers;
- All interest and dividend statements [1099];
- Other relevant information about income and expenses, such as: rent certificate or property tax bill for Homestead Credit; total daycare charges and daycare provider's ID number;
- Bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit, if desired;
- Current year's tax package, if you received one.
- Last year's tax return, if possible

LOCATIONS AND TIMES

During tax season, VITA is located in Darlington. For more information about hours, eligibility or the tax preparation process, contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Lafayette County at 608-776-4960.

Chapter 10: Substance Abuse Programs

Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Program

The AODA program provides confidential, caring treatment to adults and adolescents suffering from chemical dependency. The program offers assessments of drug and alcohol abuse; individual and group therapy for substance abusers and their families; and specialized treatment for adult children of alcoholics and codependents. The program also facilitates in-patient treatment and offers aftercare for persons coming out of treatment centers. In addition, the program maintains a 24-hour crisis line, **800-362-5717**, and is a liaison for AA, NA and Ala-Non

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to all Lafayette County residents, including the elderly.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Have my drinking or drug habits caused problems at home?
- Have my drinking or drug habits caused problems at work?
- Have I ever promised myself I'd stop drinking or taking drugs and found myself wanting a "quick one" a couple of days later?
- Do my family and friends keep complaining about my drinking or drug use?

BENEFITS

The AODA program can help you decide if you (or a family member) may have a problem with chemical dependency. If so, the program can help you or your family member recover from the disease of addiction, and it can assist other family members in recovering from the effects of living with a substance abuser.

If you have an alcohol or drug-related emergency, you can call the 24-hour crisis line: 800-362-5717.

Fees are set on a sliding scale depending on your income and may be waived under appropriate circumstances. Any fees covered by insurance will be billed to your insurance company.

APPLICATION

Contact the Access Worker at 608-776-4902 or visit in person at Lafayette County Human Services, 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530. Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **The number for the 24-hour crisis line is 608-776-4848.**

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous helps people who have a desire to stop drinking and improve their lives without alcohol. Members support each other in their recovery. Group meetings are confidential.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible if you have a desire to stop drinking.

BENEFITS

AA can help you to have a better quality of life. Through AA, you can restore your life to “normal” again.

PARTICIPATION

The following organizations are available for help:

Alcoholics Anonymous in Darlington; Tuesday evenings at 8:00 PM at the Darlington Municipal Building, 2nd Floor. You can call Lafayette County Human Services at 608-776-4800.

Chapter 11:

Education, Training and Job Assistance

Adult Basic Education

Adult Basic Education classes provide skill remediation in reading, writing, and math. Students can upgrade their employment opportunities, prepare for post-secondary education, or satisfy a personal goal. Free classes are offered by Southwest Wisconsin Technical College at sites throughout southwest Wisconsin, including Lafayette County Human Services in Darlington.

ELIGIBILITY

Anyone 18 years of age or older is welcome to attend Adult Basic Education. All of the classes are free. The five tests necessary to obtain a GED cost approximately \$20.00 each, retests are \$7.00 each. Scholarships are available.

BENEFITS

Basic education courses include:

- **Preparation for a General Education Development (GED) Certificate or a High School Education Diploma (HSED).** Designed to enhance the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain a certificate or diploma. Testing for a GED certificate is offered once a month at Southwest Tech in Fennimore.
- **Employability Skills.** Assists students with exploring, seeking, obtaining and keeping employment.
- **Financial Literacy.** A course for individuals in need of basic financial awareness and skills.
- **English as a Second Language.** A series of courses for non-English speakers designed to help them learn English or improve their command of the language. Courses include speaking, reading, writing and listening in English at six levels.

Literacy Volunteers are available in each county to provide students with individual attention as they remedy gaps in their knowledge and skills. Each student chooses a convenient time and place for tutoring.

Post-Secondary Support assists students enrolled in a post-secondary course or program with their homework or with obtaining a specific skill needed to enhance their grade or program outcome.

On-Line Remediation is available for those who are time and place bound but need to improve their reading, writing or math skills.

APPLICATION

For more information regarding class schedules and locations, call Southwest Tech at 800-362-3322 and ask for ext. 2354. For GED test information, ask for ext. 2340, or call 608-348-9228, or email rnoble@swtc.edu. Class schedules and locations are also available at www.swtc.edu or on the Southwest Tech cable channel. Southwest Tech is located at 1800 Bronson, Blvd, Fennimore, WI 53809.

Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program is a national program that enables limited-income persons aged 60 (* 55 starting 10-01-2009) or over to provide tutoring and/or mentoring for children who have exceptional, special needs, at risk or challenged to keep pace with classroom peers. The “grandchildren” may be educationally challenged, hearing impaired, visually impaired, physically challenged, emotionally or physically abused, or neglected. After training, foster grandparents work under professional supervision in educational settings, family enhancement programs, Head Start programs, not-for-profit day care centers and special institutions. Participants volunteer 15 – 40 hours per week and receive a modest, tax-free hourly stipend.

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible if:

- You are 55 years of age or older.
- Willing to volunteer a minimum 15 hours/week during school year (may volunteer up to 40 hours)
- Your income is at or below 200% of the poverty level, plus 50% for medical expenses (\$32, 490).
- New income guideline as of Oct. 1, 2010.
 - * 200% of the poverty level at or below \$21,660 for 1 plus an additional 50% for medical expenses.
 - * Married living with spouse at or below \$29,140 plus additional 50% for medical expenses (\$43, 710).

BENEFITS

After your orientation, you receive monthly in-service training;

You earn a tax-free hourly stipend of \$2.65, holiday “pay,” and paid time off;

You also receive meal allowances, travel reimbursement and assistance with the cost of your annual physical;

You work in a stimulating social setting;

You receive recognition for your services; and

You have the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a valuable contribution to your community.

APPLICATION

To request an application for the Foster Grandparent Program, contact Southwest CAP at 608-935-2326 ext. 209 or stop by their office, 149 N Iowa St, Dodgeville. Outside the Dodgeville area call 800-704-8555. You can also contact the program by e-mail at c.deckert@swcap.org. Additional information at www.nationalservice.org or www.swcap.org

Job Center of Wisconsin

The Job Center provides “one-stop” service for employers who need workers, and job seekers who need assistance with career planning, job training and placement. Veterans receive priority access to the Center’s services.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible if you are a job seeker looking for resources, information and/or tools to help you explore career options or find a job.

BENEFITS

The Job Center has many services for job seekers:

- **View Job Listings.** You can view job listings throughout Wisconsin on the statewide website jobcenterofwisconsin.com. If you have internet capability, you can also access JobcenterofWisconsin.com at home. In addition by calling 1-888-258-9966, option 2, you can speak to a Job Service Staff Person.
- **Self-help Resource Room.** The Center has books, pamphlets and computer software that will assist you with everything from improving your interviewing skills to creating an effective resume.
- **Special Programs.** The Center offers many free services to individuals who meet certain eligibility guidelines. Services can include funds for training (books, tuition, childcare, transportation), and job search assistance, job referrals and hands-on work experience.
- **Assessment and Testing.** The Center offers a variety of standardized assessment and testing services, including proficiency, aptitude and interest testing.

APPLICATION

For further information, contact the Job Center at 888-258-9966 or at their Rock County Location at 1900 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI 53546, 608-741-3400. Visit www.jobcenter.org for more information.

Skills Enhancement Program

The Skills Enhancement Program pays education-related expenses, including travel and child care costs, for eligible working individuals who are interested in improving their earning potential through education and training.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for the program, you must:

1. Be interested in beginning (or be currently enrolled in) an education/training program in a career area of your choice;
2. Anticipate an increase in your current salary when your program is completed;
3. Continue to work at least 20 hours a week while enrolled in the training program; and
4. Meet program income guidelines at the time of enrollment.

BENEFITS

The program provides information about a wide range of career opportunities. Once you know all of your options, you can choose to train for work that best suits your interests and abilities. When you have identified your goal, program staff will help you find the resources necessary to achieve it.

You may be eligible to receive payment for:

- Education-related expenses such as tuition, books and fees; and
- Training-related transportation and child care costs.

APPLICATION

For further information or to apply, contact the Southwest CAP Skills Enhancement Program at 608-935-2326. The program office is located at 149 N Iowa St, Dodgeville, WI 53533 or visit www.swcap.org

Wisconsin Works (W-2)

W-2 provides a wide range of employment and training services to help limited income parents find and keep jobs. W-2 provides monthly cash payments to eligible custodial parents for participating in subsidized work-experience positions that prepare them for regular employment. W-2 can also provide case management services to any eligible parents, including non-custodial and minor parents, and can help families access many other types of assistance.

ELIGIBILITY

YOU MAY be eligible to receive W-2 services if:

- You are a U.S. citizen or eligible alien who resides in Wisconsin;
- You cooperate with the Child Support Agency;
- You meet income and asset limits;
- You are **ONE** of the following:
 1. a custodial parent with dependent children
 2. a non-custodial parent (case management services only)
 3. a pregnant woman with no children (case management services only)
 4. a minor parent (case management services only)

YOUR ASSETS cannot exceed \$2,500. Your house and the land it is on are not count-ed. The value of all your vehicles—after subtracting what you still owe on them—cannot total more than \$10,000. Income and asset limits don't apply to minor parents who receive case management services.

BENEFITS

W-2 PROVIDES cash payments only to custodial parents with dependent children who participate in any of three “subsidized” work positions. These positions are designed to build the work skills needed to get and keep regular “unsubsidized” jobs. The work position you are placed in depends on your level of readiness for work. Your monthly income increases as you move to higher paying work positions.

- **W-2 Transition (W-2T).** If you have a limited ability to work due to a disability, drug or alcohol problem, or because you are caring for a disabled family member, you could be offered a W-2T position. You will receive a monthly grant of \$608 for up to 28 hours/week of work and 12 hours/week of education or training to improve your work readiness. The grant is reduced if you miss work or other activities without good reason.
- **Community Service Job (CSJ).** If you have little or no work experience or need to strengthen your basic skills you may be offered a CSJ position to better prepare you for work. You will receive a monthly grant of \$653 for up to 30 hours/week of work activities and up to 10 hours/week of attending education or training classes. Your grant is reduced if you miss work or other activities without a good reason.
- **Trial Job (Subsidized Employment).** If you have basic skills but limited work experience you could be placed in a Trial Job. You will receive at least the minimum wage (currently \$5.15/hour) for each hour worked as well as job training. Your employer receives up to \$300 per month to cover your training and supervision.

(CONTINUED)

W-2 offers many other services to help you toward self-sufficiency:

- **Case Management Services.** W-2 staff will tailor other assistance to your individual needs to help you find work, stay employed, or gain more skills.
- **Educational Opportunities.** You may be able to receive education or training, including GED, job skills training, life skills, literacy education, and English As a Second Language.
- **Job Access Loans.** Short-term, no-interest loans can help you get or keep a job. Loans are used for car repairs, uniforms, rent, or personal emergencies.
- **Transportation.** Your W-2 agency can provide gas vouchers.

YOU ARE limited to 60 months of W-2 cash assistance in your lifetime and cannot be in any one work position for more than 24 months. Extensions may be possible.

IF YOU are caring for an infant under 12 weeks old, you may qualify to receive a monthly cash payment of \$673 without being required to work.

You may be able to receive up to \$150 per family member for emergencies caused by fire, flood, natural disaster, energy crisis or homelessness.

YOUR W-2 agency has information on assistance programs to help you meet many other needs, like food, health care, child care, housing, utilities and child support. They also have information on battered women's shelters and alcohol and drug treatment programs. You **DO NOT** have to be a W-2 participant to qualify for these services. Your W-2 Agency can take your application or tell you who to contact.

APPLICATION

Contact Lafayette County Human Services at their office at 627 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530, or by phone at 608-776-4902. More information is available online at www.access.wi.gov or <http://dfc.wi.gov/w2/wisworks.htm>

Work-n-Wheels Program - Car Loans

The Work-n-Wheels Program makes no-interest car loans of up to \$4,500 to income-eligible and otherwise qualified individuals or families. The program charges a 5% administration fee up front, and the loan must be repaid in installments over a period of not more than two and a half years.

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible for a no-interest Work-n-Wheels loan if:

- You are employed or receive assistance such as Supplemental Security Income, and your income is at or below: 21,660 for a single, non-custodial parent; \$29,140 for a family of two; \$36,620 for a family of three, etc.;
- You need a car for work-related activities;
- You pay some up-front costs and provide evidence of insurance; and
- You can repay the total amount of the loan within two and a half years.

BENEFITS

If you have a steady income but do not qualify for a conventional car loan, you may be able to get interest-free financing from Work-n-Wheels for the purchase of a very drivable car. The program has a list of reliable used-car dealers. In addition, the program recommends that you get the car evaluated by your own mechanic prior to making an offer on it.

Assuming you are eligible, there are several parts to the application process. First, you must complete an application and budget, which will be reviewed to assure that you have the financial ability to make the proposed loan and insurance payments. Then, you must have the money in hand to pay the 5% administration fee, tax, title-transfer and license fees. (For the maximum loan of \$4,500, you would need \$400 up front, and your monthly payments would be \$150.) Finally, you must provide proof of full coverage insurance.

APPLICATION

For further information and to get an application, contact the program manager at 608-935-2326, ext. 207, or go to Southwest CAP, 149 N Iowa St, Dodgeville, WI 53533 or visit www.swcap.org