Wisconsin Works or W-2 - (TANF) (apply at one of the five W-2 regional offices in Milwaukee County)

- custodial parents at least 18 years old
- parent must be a citizen or qualifying alien
- parent must make a “good faith” effort to find employment by completing “up-front” job search requirements or be excused because he/she is unable to work
- family’s assets must be $2500 or less; vehicles with equity value of $10,000 or less and the home the family lives in are not counted
- income limit is 115% of poverty (child support and EITC is not counted)
- qualifying parents are placed in one of three work placements:
  (1) trial jobs which are jobs with private employers and pay a regular wage,
  (2) community service jobs which pay a monthly grant of $673 and require 40 hours of participation in work experience, training and/or educational activities, and
  (3) W-2-transitional placements which pay a monthly grant of $628 and require 40 hours a week of training, education and/or treatment activities
- participants can be sanctioned $5.15 an hour for missed activities unless they have good cause for not participating
- participation is time limited, 24 months in each category and 60 months total, extensions are available to participants who have barriers and disabilities which affect their ability to work and
participants who have fully participated and are unable to secure employment

- parents of newborns are eligible for monthly benefits of $673 a month and are not required to participate in work or other activities

- parents who are employed can request training and education services

Kinship Care (apply at a Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare office or call 273-1262)

- benefits are available to caretaker relatives to care for children placed through Children’s Court or voluntarily by the parent

- the relative must be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, stepparent, brother, sister, cousin, nephew/niece or a spouse of any of the above

- there must be a need for the placement and it must be in the child’s best interests

- the child must be a child in need of protection or services or at risk of abuse or neglect if he/she were to remain at home

- the relative must pass a criminal background check

- payment is $215 per child monthly

Job Access Loans (apply at W-2 office)

- available to parents who are eligible for W-2 who need the loan to obtain or continue employment (i.e. to purchase a car, obtain a driver’s license, avoid eviction)

- provides no interest loans up to $1600 in a 12 month period
Emergency Assistance (for pending evictions apply at a W-2 office, all other emergencies apply at the Red Cross)

- available to W-2 custodial parents and caretaker relatives who satisfy the W-2 asset and income limits

- family must be experiencing an emergency, defined as fire, flood, natural disaster, energy crisis, homelessness or facing homelessness as demonstrated by an eviction notice or foreclosure and a financial crisis that makes it difficult or impossible to pay the rent, mortgage or property tax payment

- benefit amount is $150 per family member available once every 12 months

Disability Benefits (apply at any Social Security office, online, or by phone)

- individual must meet definition of disabled as set forth in the Social Security Act which is defined as the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity because of a severe medical impairment that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or longer

- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is a monthly cash benefit for disabled workers who have a recent employment history, benefit amount is based on the amount of time worked and the amount of earnings

- dependent benefits are available to certain family members of the individual receiving SSDI

- SSI is a need based program for disabled persons who lack sufficient work quarters, payment is set nationally and increases each year (for 2008 the benefits level is $637 a month from Social Security and $83 from the state of Wisconsin)
IDAP (apply at the Milwaukee County welfare office)

- monthly benefits of $205 available to individuals who meet the Social Security disability definition and who have a SSI application pending

SSI caretaker benefits (apply at the Milwaukee County welfare office)

- provides parents who receive SSI monthly benefits for their children of $250 for the first child and $150 for each subsequent child, if there are two parents in the home both must receive SSI

Child Care (apply at the Milwaukee County welfare office or, for W-2 participants, at the W-2 office)

- available to custodial parents, kinship care relatives, guardians, foster parents, legal custodians and other persons acting in the place of a parent of a child

- the child must be under the age of 13 or a child 13 to 18 years old with a disability (defined as a child who requires more than the usual care and supervision for the child’s age)

- the caretaker must need child care to work, participate in W-2, participate in the food stamp work program, attend training or post secondary education (if they are also working), or to attend high school if they are a teen parent

- the parent does not have to be a citizen or qualifying alien but the children receiving the care must be citizens or legal residents

- the family’s income must be at or below 180% of poverty to qualify, they can continue to receive assistance until income exceeds 200%

- no asset limit

- most families pay a portion of the cost (co-payment)
the parent or relative is free to choose the child care provider so long as the provider is certified or regulated by the county or state

**Food Stamps** (apply on line at Access.gov, by mail or at the Milwaukee County welfare office)

- eligibility is based on household concept, persons residing together who purchase and prepare meals together
- certain persons such as children under 22 living with their parents are considered a single household whether or not they purchase and prepare meals together
- recipients must be citizens or qualifying aliens
- income must be at or below nationally set levels, there is no asset limit
- monthly allotment is based on family’s size, income, shelter costs and child care costs (for elderly and disabled certain medical expenses are also taken into account)
- benefits are available monthly on the household’s Quest (debit) card and can be used at participating stores

**Badgercare Plus** (apply on line at Access.gov, by phone, mail, at the Milwaukee County welfare office or certain health facilities)

- available to children birth to age 19, pregnant women, parents and certain relatives living with and taking care of a child, parents with children in foster care, youth leaving foster care
- recipients must be citizens or qualifying relatives except emergency services and prenatal care are available to undocumented persons
- income limits are 300% of poverty for children and pregnant women,
200% of poverty for parents and relatives, there is no asset limit

- in certain cases families are not eligible if they have access to employer sponsored health care
- families with income above certain amounts will have to pay a premium to receive coverage

**Medicaid** (apply on line at Access.gov, by phone, mail, or in person at the Milwaukee County welfare office)

- persons who are 65 or older, blind or disabled (SSI recipients automatically receive Medicaid)
- individual must be citizen or qualifying alien
- income must be below certain set limits, asset limit is $2000 for one, $3000 for two persons

**GAMP** (apply at authorized health centers, call 289-5700 for locations)

- serves single individuals or couples without children
- coverage costs $50 for a six month period
- current income limit for one person is $902, for two $1166, there is no asset limit
- does not cover mental health services

**Mental Health Care**

- for persons without other insurance or with GAMP, care is available through the Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex, (walk in hours Monday through Friday, mornings until 1:00 p.m.)