

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Wisconsin DCF Receives NASTA Impact Award for Excellence in Human Services at EMWB**

**Arlington, VA:** The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) and the National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA), an APHSA affinity group, are honored to announce that the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) has received the NASTA Impact Award for Excellence in Human Services. The award was presented during APHSA's [Economic Mobility and Well-Being \(EMWB\) Conference 2025](#) to recognize Wisconsin DCF's transformative work in modernizing the Wisconsin Works (W-2) program.

Patara Horn, Bureau Director at Wisconsin DCF, shared, "At its best, W-2 is a tool for human potential, but there is a lot more we can do for participants than we're doing today." Throughout a two-year plus partnership between Social Finance and Wisconsin DCF, the two organizations assessed and redesigned W-2 to help better meet that very potential.

Ryan Erickson, Director of Impact Advisory at Social Finance, stated, "From the start, the DCF team challenged us to imagine the program from the participant's point of view. Their leadership pushed us to ask: how can TANF help tackle the real barriers someone faces when building a better life for their family?"

Throughout the collaboration, Wisconsin DCF emphasized a whole family approach to long-term outcomes and economic mobility. Their efforts included expanding access to emergency supports, centering career aspirations, and improving responsiveness to participant needs. Together, they explored outcome-based funding models to ensure services are tied to lasting impact.

The product of their hard work and dedication is an improved W-2 that is set up to better support and uplift communities. APHSA celebrates the achievements of Wisconsin DCF as well as their deep commitment to advancing economic mobility and well-being for all families.

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**About APHSA:** The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) supports leaders from state, county, and city human services agencies to advance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities nationwide. As a bipartisan membership association, they work with their members to generate pragmatic solutions grounded in lived experience. Visit [www.aphsa.org](http://www.aphsa.org) to learn more.