Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Governor Tony Evers
Secretary Jeff Pertl
dcf.wisconsin.gov

November 21, 2025

Community Relations- Social Development Commission
Attn: SDC Board of Commissioners
6850 N. Teutonia Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53209

Delivered via certified and electronic mail

Re: Final Notification of Termination of Community Action Agency Designation Status

Dear Commissioners,

This letter serves as notice of the final resolution of DCF's decision to terminate the Community Relations - Social Development Commission's (SDC) status as Milwaukee County's community action agency and recipient of federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding. As of November 18, 2025, SDC is no longer designated as a Wisconsin community action agency (CAA).

This decision does not impact SDC's designation as a community relations - social development commission as outlined in Wis. Stat. § 66.0125.

DCF's administrator for the Division of Family and Economic Security notified SDC of its intent to terminate SDC's designation as a community action agency under Sec. 678C of the Community Service Block Grant Act (42 USC 9915) and Wis. Stat. § 49.265(2)(c) on March 21, 2025.

Pursuant to state and federal statute as well as DCF's CSBG state plan, on April 4, 2025, DCF held a public hearing to inform its final decision in accordance with Wis. Stat. 49.265(2)(c). At that time DCF heard testimony from SDC as well as community input regarding SDC's role as a community action agency. DCF also created an email inbox for public comment, which was open before the hearing and for several days following the hearing.

Following the hearing and a thorough review of all written testimony and documents received, DCF issued its final decision on May 9, 2025. In accordance with federal law, SDC was notified that the decision would become effective unless SDC filed a request for review with the federal government within 30 days. DCF was notified by the federal Office of Community Services (OCS) within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on the 30th day following its letter that SDC had requested the federal review. SDC did not notify DCF of its request.

Under federal law, the federal government has 90 days from receipt of all documents to issue a decision, otherwise the State's decision becomes final. Specifically, CSBG federal law clearly states that:

> A determination to terminate the designation or reduce the funding of an eligible entity is reviewable by the Secretary. The Secretary shall, upon request, review such a determination. The review shall be completed not later than 90 days after the Secretary receives from the State all necessary documentation relating to the determination to terminate the designation or reduce the funding. If the review is not completed within 90 days, the determination of the State shall become final at the end of the 90th day.

42 U.S.C. 9915(b).

DCF received the first request for documents from OCS on June 20, 2025. Those documents were provided to OCS by DCF on July 7, 2025. DCF was notified by email of a request for additional and/or clarifying documents from OCS on August 15, 2025. Additional documents and clarifications were provided by DCF via email on August 19, 2025.

In September, DCF was informed in writing by OCS that the 90-day clock for federal review started on August 19, 2025, and that DCF's decision would become final after November 17 in the absence of additional follow-up from their office. As of today's date, DHHS has not issued a decision on the review. DCF confirmed with OCS this week that its decision became final effective November 18.

In accordance with federal CSBG law, DCF's decision is now final. DCF will move forward with allocating FY2025 CSBG funding to another eligible organization(s) that can restore these critical services to Milwaukee County as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pertl
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

cc: Connie Chesnik, Division of Family and Economic Security Administrator
Patara Horn, Bureau of Working Families Director
Sarah Henery, DCF General Counsel
Jill Mueller, DCF Attorney
David Crowley, Milwaukee County Executive
Marcelia Nicholson, Milwaukee County Board Chair
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Executive
William Sulton, Attorney for SDC
J. Janelle George, Acting Director, Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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