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## **DWD Announces the Release of Additional Funding for Local W-2 Agency**

***Funding will ensure agencies have resources available  
to connect people to work***

Sparta-Tomah-Black River Falls – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that her agency has made available to Workforce Connections, Inc. an additional \$152,222 to administer the W-2 program in Jackson, Juneau and Monroe Counties.

Said Secretary Gassman “Wisconsin’s economy is improving, reversing the slow economic growth of the last few years. With this growth is a renewed demand from employers for workers. DWD is making additional funding available to the W-2 agencies to ensure that they have the resources in place to connect W-2 participants to Wisconsin’s workforce.”

The goal of the W-2 program is to move able individuals into self-sustaining employment so they can reach economic sufficiency for themselves and their families. DWD contracts with local counties and private organizations to provide benefits and services to W-2 participants as they transition to work. The current 2-year contract is January 2003 through December 2005.

Funding allocations at the beginning of the contract period were based on projected program needs. DWD had also reserved some funding for unanticipated needs during the contract period. The reserved funding is now being made available by DWD based on modified agency plans to improve job placement and job retention for W-2 participants and anticipated caseloads in the area.

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