

Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System

Applied Learning Communities (ALCs)

Do you work directly with families referred to the local child welfare agency?
Need more information to get started?

I don't have a lot of time, what are the ALCs?

The ALCs benefit child welfare professionals in the supervisor and staff positions. Supervisors and staff in attendance will experience new learning, case consultation, and the opportunity to collaborate with peers from your region. Interested staff must attend with the supervisor or supervisor designee.

As a child welfare professional, you are routinely told what other people think of your work. Reporters have opinions, community members, families, colleagues from other disciplines, it seems everyone has something to say. The ALCs are for you, the child welfare professional. They are an opportunity to enter a still and thoughtful place where immediate decisions are not required. The ALCs provide a space to sort through other's opinions and hear your own voice. They further support how you access supervision to support and correct your professional judgment about practice in your region.

I understand what ALCs are. Tell me what they are not.

The ALCs are not meant to provide the "right" or "wrong" answer. Instead, this is an opportunity for you to take a step back from your practice, gather with your peers, and reflect on the ways statutes and standards guide your work and how you think about what you do next with the family.

I've been asked to join the agency team and attend the ALCs sessions, what is my role?

Come ready to show your knowledge and experience. Expect to engage in thoughtful discussion about what it is like to practice as a child welfare professional in Wisconsin. In our time together, we seek to gain more clarity on how we consistently apply statutes, standards, and trainings with the families we work with.

Will I have to present a case at the ALCs?

Our primary focus at the ALCs is to build a community of practice and learn together. At times that will include case presentations. When you are invited to present, you will work with your supervisor to select an eligible case based on the criteria provided, and you will be provided adequate time to prepare in advance.

When and where are the ALCs held? How long do they last? Do I need to pack a lunch?

Counties choose if they participate. The ALCs are held in-person and virtually depending on the topic. The topic and modality determine the length of each session.

When we meet in person it is in your region and lunch is provided if we meet over the noon hour. To establish predictability, the topics, schedule, and location are set a year in advance and are not subject to change unless there are unique circumstances.



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families



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