

Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System's Child Welfare 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 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. Enrollment in the program includes a 1-year commitment to attend four, 5.5 hour sessions in your region in 2019. In total, agencies will commit to 22 hours/calendar year for each staff enrolled, not including travel time. Interested staff must attend with a 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 judgement 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 a family.

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

Come ready to share 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 about how we consistently apply statutes, standards and training 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 where trust is established. Before each session we'll ask you and your supervisor to select a case to present. Together with your supervisor you will select and prepare a case based on the topic. The consultation format does not put any one person's work on "display." Instead, consultation will occur at tables with peers. Tables will be comprised of at least one supervisor and 5-7 peers

When and where are the ALCs held? Do I need to pack a lunch?

The ALCs are held 4 times in a calendar year. They are delivered regionally, once a quarter. Each region is comprised of a cohort of professionals. Counties choose if they want to participate. To reduce travel time for participants, a central site in each region is selected to host. 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.

How long is each session?

Sessions begin at 10 a.m. and last until 3:30 p.m. Participants travel within their region to a central site. There are periodic breaks offered throughout the day, including lunch.

