

## **Tuition Assistance Eligibility Options Paper 1: Six Month Residency**

### **Overview**

Current ordinance requires residents of Madison to live in the City for 6 months prior to receiving Tuition Assistance. If there is a waiting list for Tuition Assistance, the individual could not be on the waiting list until they met the 6-month residency requirement. There is currently no waiting list.

No other known programs in the City require this period of waiting before being eligible for a service or resource. Currently, there is no waiting list and so it may become an issue for families moving into Madison.

Current practice and ordinance allows the waiver of the 6-month waiting period for individuals brought into tuition assistance under the "Special Circumstances" category.

The original intent of the ordinance is believed to have been meant to deter individuals from moving into the City for the sole purpose of receiving this benefit or from using the address of a Madison resident to receive this benefit. Currently, all applicants for City Tuition Assistance are required to first verify that they are ineligible for Wisconsin Shares. As part of that process, the county verifies the address of the individual.

### **Relevant Ordinance**

3.12(10)(g)1.b: *The applicant must be a resident of the City of Madison of six (6) months prior to application for such tuition aid;*

### **Budgetary Impact**

There are no individuals currently waiting to be served due to this barrier. In the time Rommel has been in this position, few, if any, individuals have been excluded from the program due to this barrier. Therefore, the budgetary impact would be minimal.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Remove the 6-month waiting period for tuition assistance. As we've seen demographic changes in Madison, many families are moving to the suburbs due to cost of living increases. In order to incentivize families to stay in Madison or move to Madison, this barrier should be removed.