



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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Summary of Impact of Final State Budget on People with Disabilities

Celebrating What Was Done

People with disabilities, families and advocates for people with disabilities express thanks for key priorities included in the budget while also noting extreme disappointment for inadequate investment in other critical areas.

There was a significant investment by the Governor and Legislature in the Medicaid Personal Care Services rate and Family Care direct funding supplement which acknowledged the dire shortage of workers across the state in part due to inadequate wage. These workers provide essential services to people with disabilities and older adults that help them stay in their homes and out of expensive Medicaid-funded institutions.

The Governor used his authority to get additional per-pupil aid to all students through a partial veto. Any increase in per-pupil aid helps all students in general education classrooms, including students with disabilities.

Additionally, there were increases in: Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) funding to address waiting lists; funding for children's long-term care services intake, application, and screening costs; Child Psychiatry Consultation; and a Suicide Prevention Grant.

Disappointments and Things Left Undone

Unfortunately, the first increase to special education reimbursement rate in ten years is woefully inadequate to even begin to address the needs of students with disabilities. Based upon hundreds of family stories from across the state, Survival has heard families describe significant erosion in education quality for children with disabilities with a direct impact on student achievement, emotional well-being, and safety. The budget did not provide reimbursement of even one-third of special education costs, pushing the majority of expenses back on local districts."

Additionally, it was disappointing that BadgerCare expansion, dental Medicaid reimbursement increases, crisis intervention services, transition services for students with disabilities, family support disability resources were all removed from the budget.

BadgerCare expansion would have allowed 8,000 more paid caregivers to have critical health insurance and enable the 30% of Wisconsin's paid caregiving workforce already in BadgerCare to work and earn more. Collectively, that translates into millions more hours of caregiving that could be provided to

Family Care and IRIS participants. BadgerCare expansion would have also resulted in critical mental health supports for many individuals who cannot afford care.

Partial funding of needed investments

While there were some important funding increases that represent a positive step in the right direction, they did not go far enough to address serious issues faced by people with disabilities and their families.

For example, increases to public transit, specialized transportation, and paratransit are needed and major investment is still needed to create transportation options that work for everyone.

Large areas of the state have limited or no transportation options, or of the options that do exist, they are unaffordable, unreliable, unavailable at times people need them, or do not go where people need to go. Survival Coalition’s [fall 2018 statewide survey](#) revealed major transportation gaps in Wisconsin communities and underscore how transportation is a critical—and largely unmet—need that impacts every aspect of people with disabilities and older adults’ lives.

Investments in lead poisoning and prevention, birth to 3, school based mental health services, rewarding dentists who serve Medicaid patients with disabilities, increasing physician and behavioral health Medicaid reimbursement, and expanding the Opening Avenues to Re-entry (OARS) program all received increased funding, but not at the level that is needed to address these serious issues.

Below is a chart containing more detailed information outlining the Governor’s original request, what the Legislature passed and then what adjustments were made through the Governor’s partial veto authority.

FINAL STATE BUDGET OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Item	Proposed by Gov	Approved by JFC/ Legislature	Gov. Veto message
Education			
Special Education Funding	\$600 million	\$96.9 million	No change. There is a veto that increases the per pupil aid payment in each year after the 2018-19 school year to \$679 and \$63 for a total of \$742.
School based mental health services and staff	\$69.3 million	\$12.5 million	No change
Transition services for students w/disabilities	\$11 million	0	No change
Mental Health Services			

Item	Proposed by Gov	Approved by JFC/ Legislature	Gov. Veto message
Crisis Intervention Services	<p>DHS to fund a portion of Medicaid Crisis intervention benefit.</p> <p>Non-federal share is now funded entirely by counties</p>	Same with an improvement in calculating the maintenance of effort by average county expenditures over 3 years	Gov partial vetoed: removes the reference to calendar years 2016, 2017 and 2018. Gov objected to specifying the maintenance of effort calculation in statute, and directed DHS to set the county maintenance of effort for crisis intervention services
Regional Crisis Stabilization Centers Grant Program	\$2,500,000	<p>Northern WI Regional Crisis Center.</p> <p>Providen\$15,000,000 of general fund supported borrowing and enumerate this project at a total cost of \$15,000,000.</p> <p>Require JFC to approve bond issues for this project.</p>	Gov. partially vetoed; directed that this funding be used to support expansion of Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center
Physician and Behavioral Health Services/ Non-institutional mental health payments	\$69,114,400	\$24.7 million	Governor partially vetoed this provision because he objected to having the dollars placed in the JFC supplemental fund (1310). DHS was directed to come up with the funds from their existing budget.
Child Psychiatry Consultation Program	0	\$500,000	No change
Suicide Prevention Grant	0	\$100,000 awarded to WI United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association	Removes designation to WUCMAA. Directs DHS to develop a grant program to award funds.

Item	Proposed by Gov	Approved by JFC/ Legislature	Gov. Veto message
Hub and Spoke Mental Health & Substance Abuse Treatment Model			Directs DHS to develop a hub-and-spoke treatment model for substance abuse using the Medicaid home health benefit with \$89,900 GPR of existing funds.
Dental Care			
Funding for dental providers serving Medicaid recipients w/physical or intellectual disabilities	\$5 million	\$2.5 million	No change
Rate increase for dental providers serving Medicaid members	\$58 million	0	No change
Licensure of dental therapists	\$1.5 million	Removed from budget	No change
Other DHS			
Personal Care Rate increase	1.5% (\$16.7 million)	9% first year, an additional 3% second year	No change
Family Care direct care supplement	\$91 million	\$127.9 million	No change
BadgerCare expansion	Extend Medicaid coverage to 82,000 Wisconsinites and leveraged \$1.6 billion in additional funding	Removed from budget	No change
Lead Exposure and Lead Poisoning prevention	\$43 million	\$14 million	No change

Item	Proposed by Gov	Approved by JFC/ Legislature	Gov. Veto message
Expand access to Birth to 3 for lead exposed/poisoned children	\$9.1 million	\$2.25 million	No change
Children's Long Term Support Waiver: funding for kids enrolled & 1000+ kids waiting	\$73.7 million	\$73.7 million	No change. Continued question about sum sufficient funding moving forward
Statewide Application/Intake/ Screening Children's Long-Term Care Services	\$3.1 million	\$3.1M, subject to committee approval	No change
Children's Ombudsman	\$300K	0	No change
Children's Services Navigators	\$762K	0	No change
Children's Resource Specialists	\$335K	0	No change
Corrections			
Expansion of juvenile treatment center at Mendota Mental Health Institute	\$59 million (confirm)	\$44 million	This veto results in total of \$58,994,000 of general fund supported borrowing being available for this project.
Secured residential care centers for children and teenagers	\$115 million	\$80 million	Does not appear to be a change.
Returns 17-year-olds from adult court to the juvenile court system.	In budget	Removed from budget	No change
TAD – treatment and diversion services.	Provides \$1.5 million in additional funding for TAD program – funding level of over \$13 million over the biennium.	same	No change

Item	Proposed by Gov	Approved by JFC/ Legislature	Gov. Veto message
Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARs)	Expands OARS program statewide;	Expands but not statewide. Will expand from 44 to 51 counties, and expand average daily participants by 50.	No change
Transportation			
Public Transit Operating costs	Increase 10%	Increase 2%	No change
Capital costs for transit	\$20 total: half for one-time funding/half continuing	\$22 million one-time funding for diesel buses	No change
Specialized transit	\$6 million	\$3 million	No change
Paratransit	\$550,000	\$550,000	No change
Employment transportation program	\$1 million	\$500,000	No change

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Investing in People with Disabilities