



# Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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*P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707*

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## *2021-2023 Governor's Budget Bill Comprehensive Budget Summary*

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(for Survival Coalition Members)

### **Family Caregivers Supports**

- Aging and Disability Resource Centers. Survival supports providing funding to aging and disability resource centers in order to: (a) expand caregiver support services to address the needs of caregivers of adults with disabilities who are age 19 to 59; (b) require the centers to designate a caregiver coordinator and create a marketing plan to increase knowledge of programs available; (c) expand the tribal aging and disability resources specialist program within the resource centers to ensure that tribal members receive culturally appropriate information and can comfortably and effectively access long-term care programs and services; and (d) expand the tribal disability benefit specialist program, which is a contractual partnership between the department and the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council to provide assistance and advocacy services to adult tribal members with disabilities.
- Hospital Services to Caregivers- The CARE Act. Survival recommends requiring hospitals to provide the patient or the patient's legal guardian with an opportunity to designate a caregiver who will receive instruction regarding assistance with the patient's care after discharge. Survival also recommends adding designated caregivers to the list of individuals permitted access to information directly relevant to that individual's involvement in the patient's care if the patient or the patient's legal guardian provides informed consent.
- Tailored Caregiver Assessment and Referral. Survival recommends requiring the Department of Health Services to undertake a one-year feasibility pilot in FY22 of the Tailored Caregiver Assessment and Referral protocol, which is an evidence-based care

management protocol designed to support family members who are providing care to adults of any age with chronic or acute health conditions.

- Family and Guardian Training. Survival recommends establishing mandatory initial training requirements for new guardians. Survival also recommends providing funding for the department to award a grant to an organization with expertise in state guardianship law to develop, administer and conduct the required guardian training through a plain language, Web-based, on-line training module that can be accessed without cost, with printed versions available for free upon request.
- Alzheimer's Family Caregiving Support. Survival recommends providing additional community aid funding for the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program. Survival also recommends expanding financial eligibility for the program by increasing the maximum joint income an individual and the individual's spouse may earn per year from \$48,000 to \$55,000.
- Family and Medical Leave - Survival recommends expanding current state law, which provides 12 weeks of family and medical leave, as follows: (a) applying the law to employers with at least 25 employees, instead of 50 employees; (b) permitting leave to be taken to care for a grandparent, grandchild or sibling with a serious health condition; (c) expanding the definition of "qualifying exigency" to include deployment of a spouse or child, and an unforeseen or unexpected closure of a school or child care facility; (d) expanding the definition of "serious health condition" to include medical quarantine to allow workers to take Family and Medical Leave Act leave when under a medical quarantine, or caring for someone under quarantine, regardless of whether the person is exhibiting symptoms or not; (e) reducing the number of hours an employee is required to work before qualifying to 680 hours, instead of 1,000 hours; and (f) extending the statute of limitations for filing a complaint regarding law violations to 300 days, instead of 30 days.

## Direct Care Workforce

Funding Increases for Direct Care Workforce. Survival supports the proposed funding increases to strengthen Wisconsin's essential direct care workforce which could lead to increased wages, additional training supports, increased quality service options and bring Wisconsin one step closer to truly impacting the ongoing long-term care workforce crisis.

- Home- and Community-Based Waiver Programs Rate Bands. Survival recommends directing the Department of Health Services to develop a statewide rate band that would establish equitable and sustainable minimum rates for home and community-based long-term care supports (i.e. Family Care, IRIS, Partnership). Survival also recommends requiring the Department to include a proposal to implement the statewide rate band in its 2023-25 biennial budget request.
- Direct Support Professional Training. Survival recommends directing the Department of Health Services to develop and implement a pilot program to provide person-centered direct support professional training to achieve consistent standards of healthcare

practice. Survival also recommends directing the department to develop a career ladder for caregivers leading to potential certification as a nurse aide.

- Direct Care Funding for Family Care. Survival recommends providing funding to increase the direct care and services portion of the capitation rates the department provides to managed care organizations in recognition of the direct caregiver workforce challenges facing the state. (\$40M 1<sup>st</sup> year, \$37M 2<sup>nd</sup> year)
- Direct Care Funding for Personal Care Services. Survival recommends providing funding to increase support to direct care staff that provide medical services through personal care programs. (\$40M 1<sup>st</sup> year, \$37M 2<sup>nd</sup> year)
- Home Care Provider Registry. Survival recommends requiring the Department of Health Services to conduct a one-year pilot program to create a home care provider registry to support home- and community-based long-term care support programs and clients and vendors of care services. Survival also recommends requiring the department to issue a request for proposals to select a vendor of the software platform for the registry.
- Office of Caregiver Quality Staff. Survival recommends providing four-year project positions to the Office of Caregiver Quality to conduct entity background checks, screen misconduct reports and conduct field investigations into misconduct allegations in regulated healthcare settings and programs.

## Children’s Long-Term Care and Other Children’s Disability Medicaid Programs

- Disability Resource Center for Children and Families. Survival appreciates the proposal to serve all children with disabilities who are eligible for the Children’s Long-Term Supports (CLTS) waiver but recommends that there is also an investment in a statewide Disability Resource Center for Children and Families to provide families with desperately needed information, assistance and advocacy services. This investment would reduce widening disparities in access to services across the state.
- Full funding for the CLTS waiver. Survival recommends that there be a continued effort to ensure that all CLTS eligible children can enroll in the program and not be placed on a wait list. The cost presumably could be included in Medicaid base re-estimate.
- Expansion of the Birth to 3 Program and increased overall funding. Survival supports increased funding in the Birth to 3 Program to expand services to eligible children who have a positive blood lead test above 5 micrograms per deciliter. (\$3.3M in year one; \$6.6M in year two). Survival also supports increasing ongoing funding for the Birth to 3 Program (\$1.25M in year one; \$1.125M in year two.)

## Special Education

Survival Coalition supports the substantial increases proposed for special education funding and student mental health, totaling \$763 million across the biennium, and bringing special education funding up from the current 29% reimbursement to 50%. Students with disabilities have faced added challenges during the pandemic, combined with chronic underfunding in

special education, so the package of increased mental health supports, and special education funding comes at a crucial time.

Survival supports the following specific recommendations:

- An increase of \$709M for special education categorical aid, bringing the state’s commitment up from the current level of 29% reimbursement to 50% by the second year, and changing to sum-sufficient funding so that the 50% level will be met even if costs increase.
- An increase of \$9.5M for high-cost special education aid, bringing the reimbursement rate for eligible costs to 60% by the second year.
- An increase of \$45M for student mental health and wellness funding across all categories of pupil services (social workers, counselors, psychologists, and nurses), for all school districts that have pupil services expenditures.
- An increase of \$7M to increase the number and size of school based mental health services grants.
- Requiring all teachers at private schools participating in a parental choice program or the Special Needs Scholarship program, with some exceptions, to hold a license or permit issued by the Department of Public Instruction beginning July 1, 2024.
- Include information regarding the gross reduction in state general aid as a result of private choice programs on property tax bills to increase public awareness of parental choice program costs.
- Capping the number of available seats in the Special Needs Scholarship Program in FY23 using the program's FY22 headcount.
- Increasing the Special Education Transition Readiness grant by \$4.5M across the biennium, to help students with disabilities transition into the workforce and postsecondary education.

## Medicaid

- BadgerCare Expansion. Survival supports the development of a public option health plan that could be accessed through a Medicaid buy in, waiver authority, or premium assistance for individuals between 138-200% FPL.
- Authority to Submit Federal Waivers. Survival supports recommendations for repealing legislative oversight of the federal waiver submittal process to preserve the constitutional authority of the executive branch, ensure the efficient management of the Medicaid program and provide timely benefits to Medicaid recipients.
- Authority to Submit State Plan Amendments. Survival supports recommendations for repealing legislative oversight of the state plan amendment process.
- Medicaid Autism Treatment Rate Increase. Survival supports increasing expenditure authority to provide a rate increase for autism treatment services provided under the Medicaid program.
- Increase Dental Reimbursements. Survival Supports increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates by \$24M for dental providers who provide services to Medicaid

and BadgerCare Plus patients to increase access to dental services under the Medicaid program.

- Licensure of Dental Therapists. Survival supports creating a new license for dental therapists to increase the number of dental providers and dental services provided across the state, especially in regions designated as dental provider shortage areas.
- Medicaid Speech-Language Pathology Rate Increase. Survival supports increasing expenditure authority by \$1.9M to provide a rate increase for speech-language pathology services provided under the Medicaid program.
- Medicaid Audiology Rate Increase Agency. Survival supports increasing expenditure authority by \$9 M to provide a rate increase for audiology services provided under the Medicaid program.

## Mental Health

- Increased Medicaid Reimbursement Rates. Survival supports increases of the Medicaid rates for outpatient mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and child-adolescent day treatment psychiatric services to enhance access to suicide treatment and prevention services. (\$10M in Year 1 and \$30.5M in Year 2)
- Establish Behavioral Health Treatment Program for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. Survival supports \$1.9M in 2022-23 funding for a program that would provide direct treatment from providers fluent in American Sign Language and educated on the culturally unique challenges faced by the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind community.
- Expand the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program. Survival supports increasing funding \$.5M each year of the biennium to expand the program statewide.
- Expand the Medicaid Psychosocial Rehabilitation Benefit to Allow Billing by Private Providers. Currently non-county providers are unable to bill Medicaid for psychosocial rehabilitation. Psychosocial rehabilitation provides non-medical treatment services for Medicaid members with a mental illness such as vocational and independent living skills, social support, and medication management. Expanding it beyond county administration by \$2.8M GPR plus \$1.2M in program and federal revenue will greatly improve access to these services.
- Increase the beds and staff at Mendota Mental Health Institute, to expand capacity to provide competency evaluations or treat to competency services so pre-trial detainees spend less time waiting in jail for these services.
- Expand the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program. Survival supports reallocating unused veterans benefits program funding plus additional funds necessary to support veterans who may have a mental health condition or substance use disorder, as well as promote suicide prevention and awareness amongst traditionally underserved veteran populations.
- Provide Funding for Farmer Mental Health Programs. Survival supports funding of the Farmer Mental Health Assistance Program and Regional Farmer Mental Health Support Program to strengthen outreach and mental health services for Wisconsin's farm families.

- Regional Crisis Centers. Survival support the funding of \$12.3 in GPR in FY 2022-23 for the establishment of up to two regional crisis centers that would offer a crisis urgent care and observation center, a crisis stabilization facility and inpatient psychiatric beds, to improve the crisis response system, and reduce the need for long distance emergency detention transportation. These Centers would serve people of all ages from across the state and will provide support and clinical expertise to local mobile crisis units. Additionally, Survival supports the funding of 2.0 FTE human services program coordinator positions to develop and evaluate the performance of these centers on an ongoing basis.
- Regional Crisis Stabilization Facilities. Survival supports \$5M in 2022-2023 funding for five Regional Crisis Stabilization facilities to support adults in crisis who seek care voluntarily. These facilities would provide short-term support and stabilization – not inpatient care.
- Crisis Intervention Training Grant program. Increase of \$.375M in funding each year for law enforcement training regarding situations involving mental health crises and de-escalation.
- Peer Run Warm Line. Fund staff at peer-run respite centers to run the warm line. By supporting at least two new positions at each of the respite centers, staff will be able to both serve residents and support callers in non-emergency situations.
- County Crisis Lines. Fund additional clinicians (\$1.237M each year) to staff county crisis lines, to help ensure crisis phone lines are adequately staffed across the state and during non-business hours.
- Emergency Response Collaboration Grant Funds. Provide \$1.250M each year in funding for grants to county and municipal governments to establish collaborative programs between local law enforcement and behavioral healthcare providers to respond to 911 calls and divert to healthcare providers when appropriate.
- Milwaukee County Crisis Mobile Team Grant. \$.85M each year to support additional staffing to expand Milwaukee County Crisis Mobile Crisis response.
- Milwaukee Trauma Response Team. Survival supports \$.45M in funding to expand the city’s trauma response team initiative which is a joint venture between the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Police Dept., and Wraparound Milwaukee’s mobile urgent treatment team.
- Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Teams. Survival supports funding for Forensic Assertive Community Treatment teams to assist individuals with serious mental illness involved with the criminal justice system to achieve improved mental health outcomes; reduce recidivism; divert individuals in need of treatment away from the criminal justice system; manage costs by reducing reoccurring arrest, incarceration, and hospitalization; and increase public safety.
- Behavioral Health Bed Tracker. Provide \$100,000 in year 1, and \$50,000 in year 2 to fund a system that provides “real-time” information about in-patient, peer respite, and crisis stabilization capacity and bed availability to all entities involved in identifying placement options for individuals in crisis.

- Room and Board Coverage for Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment. Expand Medicaid benefits by \$3.275M each year to include coverage of room and board costs for residential substance use disorder treatment.
- Medication Assisted Treatment Rate Increase. Provide a rate increase for medication-assisted treatment services provided under the Medicaid program. ( \$3.633 in year 1 and \$7.265 in year 2)
- Medication Assisted Treatment. Increase the funding to expand the availability of medication-assisted treatment for those with opioid use disorder in underserved or high-need areas. (\$.5 Year 1 and \$1.0M Year 2)
- Substance Use Harm Reduction Programs Grant. Provide funding for Substance Use Harm Reduction Grants to support strategies aimed at reducing harm to those affected by substance use disorder, such as needle exchanges, peer support and recovery coaches, NARCAN Direct, etc. (\$.25M each year)

### Justice Reform

- Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS). Expand funding of the OARS program, which assists individuals with mental illness to successfully return to their community after release from a correctional setting in order to meet the need statewide. (\$2.25M Year 1 and \$3.0M In Year 2)
- Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program (TAD). Survival supports the expansion of TAD grant funding by \$15M and 2.0 FTE GPR positions to provide treatment and diversion programs for non-violent adult offenders for whom substance abuse was a contributing factor in their criminal activity. In addition, Survival supports a change in eligibility criteria that allows programs funded by a TAD grant to include individuals beyond solely an alcohol and other drug focus as long as it employs evidence-based practices targeted to the population served by the program. This will allow programs such as veterans courts, mental health courts, and other diversion programs to be funded through the TAD program.
- Nonviolent Offender Treatment Diversion Pilot Program. Survival supports the continuation of this program and removal of the June 30, 2021, sunset date. (\$.26M each year)
- Earned Release Program.(ERP) Expand the funding for Department of Correction ERP program by \$3.5M to include educational, vocational, treatment or other qualifying training programs that are evidence-based to reduce recidivism. In ERP individuals convicted of certain felonies with a substance use disorder need must complete a high intensity, evidence-based, residential alcohol, and drug treatment program.
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program. Survival supports a \$1.6M expansion of the MAT program to more areas of the state to provide more individuals with medication in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat individuals with opioid addictions.

## Juvenile Justice

- Raise the Age for Adult Court to 18. Survival supports the return of 17-year-olds to the juvenile court system by creating a sum sufficient appropriation to reimburse counties for serving 17-year-olds in the youth system. (Estimated at \$10M per year)
- Increase the Minimum Age of Delinquency. Survival supports the increase in minimum age for delinquency from 10 years old to 12 years old, allowing for more age-appropriate interventions and services. Serious Juvenile Offender Program. Eliminate the Department of Corrections Serious Juvenile Offender program entirely. Survival supports the use of a model that better recognize the needs of these youth and their families and moves responsibility for these youth back to the counties to allow programming in communities and closer to home whenever possible. This can be accomplished through an increase in Youth Aids of \$5M in Year 1 and \$13M in Year 2, and the reallocation of funds between the DCF and DOC budgets.
- Youth Aids. Increase funding in the DCF budget by 2 GPR funded positions, \$.4M in Year 1 and \$11.1M in Year 2 to support program improvements and grants for services to youth and modify the youth justice statutes and appropriations to allow for more flexibility in how Youth Aids funding is allocated.
- Elimination of Type 1 Juvenile Correctional Facilities. Survival supports the elimination of Type 1 facilities run by DOC in favor of smaller Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth that provide age-appropriate services run by DOC and counties. Additionally, all youth should be transferred from Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake as soon as a replacement facility that meets the youth's needs is ready, and closing those facilities when all youth have been transferred, which will require an extension of the original July 2021 closure date.

## Employment

- Project SEARCH. Survival recommends transferring \$250,000 GPR from the Department's Wisconsin Fast Forward program to Project SEARCH to provide greater resources for young adults with disabilities seeking competitive integrated employment.
- Increase Vocational Rehabilitation Resources. Survival recommends increasing funding for the state match for the Title 1B formula grant and providing 1.0 FTE position to continue to support vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with significant disabilities.
- Survival supports expanding the Wisconsin Supplier Diversity Program to include supplier certifications for disability-owned business enterprises.



## Economic Self-Sufficiency: ABLÉ

- Expand use of ABLÉ Savings Accounts in Wisconsin. Survival supports directing the Department of Financial Institutions to enter into a partnership to operate an ABLÉ program that can meet the needs of Wisconsinites. Proposed at \$200,000 GPR in each year of the Biennium.

## Transportation

Survival Coalition supports the following:

- Funding a transit capital improvement grant program of \$10 million in each year of the biennium.
- Increasing funding by \$4 million each year for employment access and mobility programs.
- Increasing paratransit aids by 2.5% in each year of the biennium
- Increasing funding in the specialized transit assistance program in each year of the biennium: \$22,900 year 1 and \$46,300 year 2.
- Changing the fund source for tribal elderly transportation grants from tribal gaming revenue to the transportation fund and increasing funding for the program: \$21,800 year 1 and \$44,700 year 2.
- Reinstate powers to local communities for non-motorized travel that used to be part of everyday operations. By including provisions for complete streets and the ability to use eminent domain for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, local municipalities are once again empowered to support all modes of transportation infrastructure.
- Provide \$75M for local multimodal transportation projects that combine elements and jurisdictions that make funding from existing programs difficult.
- Provide funding for new Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) service centers in Brown and Dane counties, which will provide improved access to obtain state photo ID for voting and other uses.

## Voting

Survival Coalition supports the following proposals to improve access to voting:

- Automatic Voter Registration (AVR): option to automatically register to vote or update voter registration when getting or renewing a driver's license or state photo ID, to improve accessibility to the polls and to keep voting information accurate and updated.
- Restores residency requirements for voting to 10 days prior to an election. The requirement was changed to 28 days in 2020.

## Other Provisions

Survival Coalition also supports the following items in the proposed budget:

- Civil Legal Services. Increase funding for civil legal services by \$4M GPR and an additional \$1 million of TANF funding. People with disabilities disproportionately live in poverty and have no meaningful access to the court system to protect their rights. Wisconsin is only one of two states that does not provide GRP funding for civil legal services for indigent persons.

## **Equity and Inclusion**

- Require that the State Bureau of Procurement within the department amend written language translation contracts to allow same-day translation of an unlimited number of words by September 1, 2022, or sooner if practicable.
- Create a cabinet-level chief equity officer within the Office of the Secretary (DOA) that will collaborate with agency equity officers within other agencies to identify opportunities to advance equity in government operations, including determining how current government practices and policies impact communities of color and individuals with disabilities.
- Office of Digital Transformation and the Wisconsin Front Door Initiative. Create a new office, which among other projects, would establish the Wisconsin Front Door on-line services hub, a comprehensive portfolio of state resources in a consolidated and centralized format.
- Translate the Department of Health Services Web Page into Multiple Languages with funding to implement the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services.

## **Broadband and Internet Assistance**

- Broadband Consumer Protections. Modify current law to protect broadband customers by requiring broadband service providers to meet certain service requirements, including prohibiting a broadband service provider from denying service to residential customers on the basis of race or income. (See Public Service Commission, Item #6.)
- Internet Assistance Program. Create an Internet Assistance Program to aid low-income households in paying for monthly Internet subscriptions and fund it and a 1.0FTE position with \$20M annually; \$10M GPR and \$10M in TANF funding. a (See Item #3; and Public Service Commission, Item #5)
- Public Service Commission Broadband Expansion Funding. Increase funding for the Commission's broadband expansion grant program to over \$150M over the biennium, including: (a) a total of \$74.8M in Year 1 and \$72.9M in Year 2 GPR and (b) a minimum of \$2M annually in funding already budgeted from the universal service fund as part of a larger investment in broadband in the state. Survival also supports providing funding and position authority for an additional position in the State Broadband Office to assist with the expanded broadband grant program and creating a new general purpose revenue appropriation to cover all of the costs of the State Broadband Office.
- Public Service Commission Supporting Municipal Broadband. Modify statutory provisions that discourage municipalities from providing broadband service to residents in broadband "unserved" and "underserved" areas; modifying current law to allow

these same municipalities to apply for grants under the broadband expansion grant program. Public Service Commission Broadband Infrastructure Owned by Electric Utilities and Cooperatives. Modify current law to allow electric cooperatives and utilities to install, maintain or own broadband infrastructure on an eligible easement.

- Public Service Commission Broadband Line Extension Grant Program. Provide funding to establish a broadband line extension grant program, which will provide grants or financial assistance to eligible households to subsidize the cost of a line extension from existing broadband infrastructure to a residence.
- Public Service Commission Internet Assistance Program. Provide \$20M annually in funding to the Department of Children and Families to support the creation of an Internet subscription monthly subsidy program for low-income households; This would be funded with \$10 million in general purpose revenue and \$10 million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding. (See Department of Children and Families, Item #3.)
- Public Service Commission Broadband Customer Protections. Modify current law to protect broadband customers by requiring broadband service providers to meet certain service requirements, including prohibiting a broadband service provider from denying service to residential customers on the basis of race or income. (See Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Item #30)
- Public Service Commission Broadband Planning and Leadership Grant Program. Provide funding to the Commission to support the creation of a broadband planning and leadership grant program to assist communities as they develop plans to expand broadband service and access and create a grant resource team within the Department of Administration, which will, in part, provide technical assistance to communities in navigating state and federal broadband grant processes. (See Department of Administration, Item #27)
- Public Service Commission Broadband Granular Mapping Data Requirements. Modify current law to require Internet service providers to provide broadband coverage mapping data on a more granular level than required by the Federal Communications Commission and provide funding and position authority to the commission to assist with the more comprehensive broadband mapping efforts.

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