

Survival Coalition: Analysis of Governor's budget proposal

Adult Long-Term Care & Family Caregiving

- Provides paid Family Medical leave for up to 12 weeks paid leave to all self-employed workers and part- and full-time employees working for employers who have more than 50 employees. Payroll contributions would be shared equally by employers and employees.
- Expands who can use Family and Medical Leave to grandparents, grandchildren, and siblings. Removes the reference to child, allowing workers to use FMLA for people of any age.
- Creates a Family Caregiver tax credit that allows reimbursement for out of pocket costs directly related to caring or supporting adult family members who need help with daily living activities. The maximum annual credit per family member is \$500.
- Increases respite funding by 200K.
- 5% rate increase for Home- and Community-Based Services for Family Care. This does not apply to IRIS or CLTS as they are not managed care.
- Increases funding for DHS's Division of Quality Assurance to allow for a 25% investigation rate to respond to safety complaints, including complaints involving 1-2 bed Adult Family Homes.
- Increases staffing for the Office of Caregiver Quality to support misconduct investigation and background check program.
- Increase base funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- Provides a 0.5 FTE position to provide caregiver support services in every county.
- Support the ongoing costs of the tribal Aging and Disability Resource Specialists (ADRS) -
- Build a centralized ADRC website and database providing Wisconsinites access to information about long-term care supports and services from the comfort of their home

Children's Long-Term Care

- The Governor's proposal directs DHS to ensure that any child who is eligible and applies for the disabled Children's Long-Term Support waiver program receives services under the program.

LTC Workforce

- Rate increases for paid Direct Service Professionals in Family Care. (\$88.8M over the biennium)
- Rate increases for personal care workers. (\$88.8M over the biennium)
- Funding to continue implementation of Caregiver Task Force recommendations.

Special Education

- The Governor's proposal raises the special education reimbursement rate from 31% to 60% and makes the appropriation sum sufficient so school districts are guaranteed to recoup 60% of the funding they spent on students with disabilities.
- Limit the special needs scholarships to currently enrolled students with no new admissions.
- Increases High-Cost Special Education reimbursement to 60% in 2025 and makes the appropriation sum sufficient so school districts are guaranteed to recoup 60% of the funding they spent on high-cost students with disabilities.
- Payment for School Medical services. Allows public school districts to retain 100% of Medicaid funds collected for supports like Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, mental health services and specialized transportation for students with disabilities who need to receive Medicaid-funded services at school.
- Requirement that parental school choice and special needs scholarship program schools have licensed teachers.
- Funding for school based mental Health services for students, and expansion of staff that can be included in funding to include school counselors, school psychologists, and nurses.
- Funding to reimburse schools for mental health services provided in and of school.

Transportation

- Multiple proposals to improve regional transportation capacity including: levy limit exceptions for cross-municipality transit routes, authorization of regional transit authorities.
- Increase general Mass Transit Aids by 4% in each year of the budget
- Increase Paratransit Aids by 4% in each year of the budget
- Create a Transit Capital Assistance Grant Program
- Increase funding for Specialized Transit Assistance Program (s. 85.22), which includes mobility management.
- Increase funding in each year of the budget to fund coordination of services for non-drivers
- Restore roadway design considerations in state law that support non-motorist infrastructure (Complete Streets) to help local communities safely integrate all modes of transportation.
- Increase Division of Motor Vehicles Access with Expanded Hours of Operation to allow expanded hours of operation at the Division of Motor Vehicles' physical locations.

- Increase for Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program
- Allows use of a state ID instead of a driver's license to establish residency for DNR approvals.

Employment

- Social security disability insurance payments. Repeals the current prohibition that any Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimant who receives a Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) payment is ineligible for UI benefits, and instead requires DWD to reduce a claimant's benefit payments by the amount of SSDI payments.

Voting

- Creates an Office of Election Transparency and Compliance to provide research and assistance to the Wisconsin Elections Commission, including responding to inquiries from the public and legislators and audits of election systems and equipment, including with respect to accessibility requirements for individuals with disabilities.
- Funding to implement Automatic Voter Registration. Recommends the Wis. Elections Commission to work with the Department of Transportation to begin automatic voter registration and that the Commission facilitate the initial registration of all eligible electors as soon as practicable.
- Shortens the Residency Requirement for voting from 28 days to 10 days.
- Allows a county or municipal clerk to begin canvassing absentee ballots on the day before an election.
- Expands voting access by eliminating the restriction on how soon a person may complete an absentee ballot in person.
- Require polling places to post a Voter Bill of Rights which informs voters of voting rights guaranteed under current law.
- Authorizes use of high schools for voter registration.

Mental Health

- Funding and position authority to support the Development of up to two crisis urgent care and observation centers.
- Funding to create a suicide prevention program.
- Funding to support the in-state 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Call Centers.
- Funding to establish a behavioral health treatment program for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.

- Funding to cover the nonfederal share of the Medicaid Community Support Program which is currently funded by counties.
- Funding to establish a 25-bed psychiatric residential treatment facility which would provide psychiatric care and treatment to children and youths under the age of 21 with complex behavioral health conditions and expanding Medicaid benefits to include a psychiatric residential treatment facility benefit.
- Funding for the peer-run respite center for veterans.
- funding for youth crisis stabilization facilities.
- funding to support existing peer recovery centers and to support the development of two additional peer recovery centers in counties not currently served by existing centers.
- position and expenditure authority for the Office of Children's Mental Health.
- Increases the Medicaid reimbursement rate for outpatient mental health and substance abuse services and child-adolescent day treatment to increase access to treatment and suicide prevention services.
- modifies and expands the existing Child Psychiatry Consultation Program into a broader Mental Health Consultation Program.
- provides funding to expand Medicaid benefits to include a psychosocial rehabilitation benefit and to provide reimbursement under the benefit to noncounty providers.
- Expands regulations to remove barriers first responders with post-traumatic stress disorder face when seeking worker's compensation.

Other disability issues

- Requires lead investigation of a dwelling or premises when an occupant under the age of six has lead poisoning or lead exposure above 3.5 mg
- Expands access to Birth to 3 for children with an elevated blood lead level above 3.5 and allocates funding for early intervention services across county programs.
- Increases Adult Protective Services funding to respond to more reported cases of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities.
- Provides funding to increase the capacity for the Guardianship Support Center to provide technical assistance to families and others about guardianship and alternatives to guardianship.
- Maintain ongoing funding to manage training modules for guardians.

- Accept the federal ACA provision for Medicaid expansion to provide coverage to 89,700 state residents - covering all low- income Wisconsin residents, of which 30,300 are uninsured and reduce health care costs by over \$1.6 billion GPR.
- Expand Medicaid benefits to include services provided by Community Health Workers who serve as a liaison between health and social services and the community to facilitate access to services improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.
- Professionalizing Dental Therapy. Governor's Proposal creates a new license for dental therapists to increase the number of dental providers and dental services provided across the state.
- Funding for a Medicaid Community Health Benefit to provide nonmedical services (housing referrals, nutritional monitoring, stress management and other services) to Medicaid recipients.
- Funding for a grant to support community dental health coordinators across the state.
- Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts. Governor's proposal implements the recommendations from the DFI report to authorize the state to implement and administer an ABLE program, either directly or by entering into a formal agreement with another state, or with an entity representing an alliance of states.
- Homestead Tax Credit Expansion and Indexing. Governor's Proposal increases the maximum income threshold for the homestead tax credit and indexes the credit for inflation to preserve the credit's value against inflationary pressures. People with disabilities, older adults, and those with earned income are eligible for the Homestead Credit.
- Tax credit for installing universal changing stations. Governor's proposal creates an income and franchise tax credit for small businesses that install universal changing stations. Universal changing stations are a floor-mounted or wall-mounted, powered, and height-adjustable adult changing table with a safety rail that can be used for personal hygiene by an individual with a disability of either sex and the individual's care provider.
- Creates a sales and use tax exemption for diapers, feminine hygiene products and adult incontinence products.
- Broadband Expansion Funding - one-time investment for the broadband expansion grant program with the requirement that the commission spend at least \$75 million annually.
- Broadband Line Extension Grant Program funding to provide grants or financial assistance to eligible households to subsidize the cost of a line extension from existing broadband infrastructure to a residence.
- Digital Equity Expansion - modifies current law to provide the commission with additional flexibility to reallocate state universal service funds for digital equity expansion initiatives.

- Funding and position authority and modifying 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.
- Funding a Municipal Home Rehabilitation Grant Program for municipalities to rehabilitate and restore blighted residential properties to increase affordable housing options within the municipality.
- Create a Whole-Home Upgrades Pilot Grant Program to provide funding for whole-home upgrades within a Milwaukee neighborhood to reduce energy burdens and create a healthier living environment for households with low income.
- Create a Housing Safety Grant Pilot Program to award grant funding to the city of Milwaukee for activities supporting the improvement of rental housing safety.
- Expand renter protections by modifying current law related to preemption of a local unit of government's ability to enact ordinances regarding landlord-tenant responsibilities, inspections, and eviction processes and procedures.
- Increase the State Housing Tax Credit from \$42 million to \$100 million to help address the need for affordable housing and increase the credit period from six taxable years to ten.
- Funding and position authority to support the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Telecommunications Assistance Program, interpretation services and grants to independent living centers.
- Increase the amount of disability income subtraction to \$5,500 for a single filer and \$11,000 for a married couple (if both spouses are eligible) and increase the income thresholds to \$30,000 for single filers and \$60,000 for married-joint filers.