

Wisconsin Children's Long -Term Support Council

2017-2019 Biennial Budget Recommendation

BACKGROUND

Families who have a child with significant disabilities are more likely to live in poverty and experience financial hardship and stress than other families. Yet in Wisconsin, nearly 1 in 2 (46%) eligible children and families are waiting for services that help them live at home and be part of their communities.

Almost 2600 children and youth with significant disabilities and their families are waiting for essential supports and services such as specialized equipment, childcare for children over 12, medical supplies, or home modifications. The wait time for children ranges from 1 to 8 years depending on where a family lives. This can have a devastating impact on families and children and reflects a consistently low priority given to children with long-term support needs over many years. While 43% of children eligible for long-term supports are waiting, a pathway to eliminate waiting lists for adults will be statewide by 2018.

CHILDREN'S COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

DHS and the legislature have made a commitment to end waiting lists for adults with long-term support needs. We believe this should happen for children with disabilities and their families as well.

a. Retain the current funding level in the Department's CLTS waiver allocation.

The Children's Long-Term Support Council strongly recommends that the current funding level in the department's CLTS (Children's Long-Term Support) waiver allocation be retained in the CLTS waivers in future years. This will allow the department to significantly reduce, and perhaps even eliminate the current wait list for thousands of children, which would be a positive and historic development for families and their children and our state as a whole. The 2017-19 DHS budget proposal transfers \$22 million (AF) from CLTS to the Medicaid budget.

b. End wait lists for children with significant disabilities by the end of next biennium.

Children with the most significant disabilities, one of our most vulnerable populations, have to wait for Medicaid services. No other Medicaid population in WI is subject to waiting for funding for services for which they are eligible. The solution is to change the funding mechanism from an allocation authority to a Medicaid line item projection as is done with the rest of the Medicaid budget including Family Care/IRIS.

FUNDING TO END WAIT LISTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CHILDREN'S MEDICAID WAIVERS

The CLTS Waiver's provide services and supports to those children with the most severe disabilities and their families. The waivers provide a vehicle to generate federal match which maximizes state CLTS dollars (40%state/60%federal).

2017-19 Biennium	GPR	FED	AF	New Children served
YR 1	\$7,628,000	\$10,364,000	\$17,992,000	1000
YR 2	\$16,712,948	\$22,707,524	\$39,420,472	1191
Total	\$24,340,948	\$33,071,524	\$57,412,472	2191

Based on the average annual cost/child AF \$17,992 (\$7628 GPR; \$10,364 FED) LFB 2015