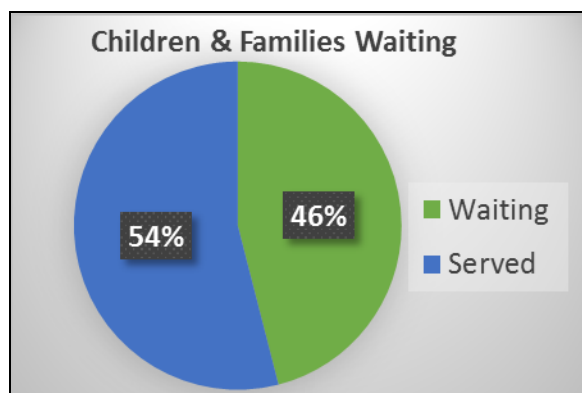


The Issue

2600 children and youth with significant disabilities and their families are waiting for essential long-term supports, such as specialized equipment or home modifications. The wait for children ranges from 1 to 8 years depending on where a family lives. While 46% of children eligible for long-term supports (Children’s waivers) are waiting, a pathway to eliminate waiting lists for adults will be statewide by 2018.



Background

Children and youth with significant disabilities can have extraordinary needs that require unique supports so families and their children can fully participate and benefit from the typical community experiences that all children enjoy. Families who are well informed and have access to supports can play key roles in identifying and securing opportunities for their children and youth with disabilities.

Waiting for services means missed opportunities for: cognitive, physical and behavioral development, and learning skills for independence. An inability to meet less costly needs now can lead to expensive crises and higher future costs, in addition to significant stress for families.

Impact of Disability on Families

- 28% families lives below the FPL compared to 16% without children with disabilities
- 56% report financial hardship
- 24.5% family members cut back or stop working
- 23% of families report usually or always feeling stress compared to 5% of families without children with disabilities
- Less than 48% of mothers report being in good health compared to 64% of mothers without children with special needs.

SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR’S BUDGET REQUEST AND END WAIT LISTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES. Governor Walker’s budget includes \$15.8 million to eliminate the wait list for children by the end of 2019. These state dollars would generate another \$23.5 million in federal Medicaid match. 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.

Contact: 608-239-1364

County CLTS Enrollment & Waitlist By County For CLTS Waiver

Enrolled: 6,035

Waiting: 2,596

