

2019-21 Wisconsin State Budget Summary for Wisconsinites with Disabilities

Every two years our Governor develops a budget that outlines their priorities for Wisconsin. Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers announced his plan on Thursday, February 28th. Many of his ideas will be challenged if not altogether excluded from the state's final approved budget. In the end, the budgeting process is a long one that requires great compromise and a hard look at the state legislature's and governor's priorities for the citizens of Wisconsin.

We have summarized the budget proposals that could affect the lives of Wisconsinites with disabilities. **It is essential that you advocate for the services you need to thrive as a citizen of Wisconsin.**

Contact your Senators and Representatives today. If they do not hear from you, your needs will not be considered, nor prioritized. The only way to ensure the state considers your needs is to become a loud voice throughout the process.

Locate your legislators via the Wisconsin State Legislature - <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>

HEALTH CARE

- Expand Medicaid (Badgercare) to cover all low-income Wisconsin residents who earn incomes between up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level
- Establish a requirement across all health insurance exchanges that guarantees affordable health insurance for individuals with preexisting conditions
- Prohibit price gouging for plans that cover preexisting conditions
- Requires coverage of essential health benefits and preventative services
- Lower prescription drug costs by establishing a prescription drug importation program
- Increase access to dental services in the state for low-income and disabled patients
- Fund non-institutional mental health, behavioral health and psychiatric services
- Improve Mental Health Crisis Intervention services
- Invest in a range of programs/services that prevent health disparities including housing, stress management and nutritional counseling, among others
- Repeal forthcoming Badgercare waiver revisions including work requirements

CAREGIVING

- Fully fund the Supplemental Security Income and Caretaker Supplement benefits that allow family to care for their loved ones in their homes
- Provide increased funding to improve pay for direct care workers
- Eliminate wait lists for children with disabilities ensuring access to long-term, in-home services under the Children's Long-Term Support waiver program
- Reduce bureaucracy and Improve support for families of children with disabilities who are navigating the state service system

EDUCATION

- Increase special education aid to reimburse eligible special education costs at 30 percent (in 2019-20) and 60 percent (in 2020-21). Up from the current 25 percent
- Modify the per student special education reimbursement rates to ensure school districts are always able to fund services for students with the greatest need.
- Increase funding for special education transition readiness grants and expansion of Project SEARCH
- Increase funding (\$65M) to address the need for access to mental health services for school-age youth
- Prohibit new students from participating in the special needs scholarships (voucher) program beginning in fiscal year 2020-21.
- Require private voucher schools to meet state standards of public schools

TRANSPORTATION

- State-level and local advocacy is needed to improve non-medical accessible transit options throughout the state

JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Increases funding to develop smaller, more community-based juvenile justice facilities. Closes Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake youth facilities
- Create a new unit at Wisconsin Resources Center to serve the mental health and alcohol and drug abuse needs of inmates at Department of Corrections

Additional budget information is available on the Wisconsin Department of Administration - <https://doa.wi.gov>