

# Wisconsin State Budget Briefing for Disability Advocates

# What You Will Learn

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1. Changes at the federal level that impact the state budget
2. Why the state budget is important
3. What is in the state budget
4. How can I have a voice about the state budget

# Federal changes: Medicaid

## Congress proposing big changes to Medicaid

- Congress is including **as part of the Affordable Care Act replacement** legislation (also known as the ACA or Obamacare) **significant cuts to Medicaid.**
- Congressional leaders and President Trump have stated that they will reduce Medicaid funding to states through either **Medicaid block grants** or **per capita caps**

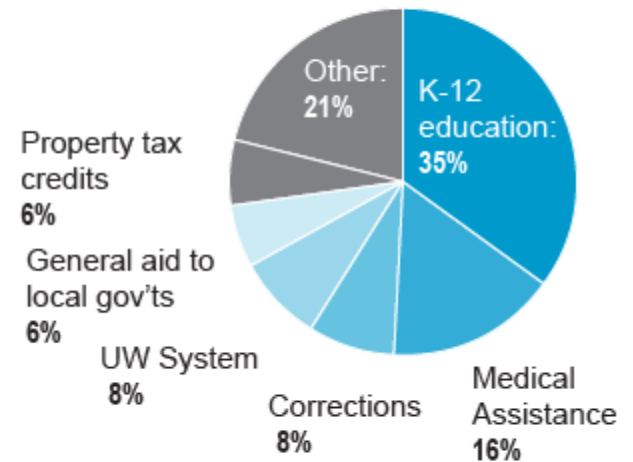
# Federal changes: Medicaid

## Congress's Actions will impact Wisconsin's State Budget

- Federal changes to Medicaid-- such as reductions in federal funding due to block grant or per capita caps--will impact state's budgets
- Depending on what Congress does, Wisconsin may have to make changes to Wisconsin's Medicaid programs and services.

### Top Programs in GPR Spending

For fiscal year 2014.



Source: DOA  
WISCONSIN BUDGET PROJECT

# Federal changes: Medicaid

## Who is in Wisconsin Medicaid programs?

- Medicaid offers critical supports that are not available or accessible on the private market to:
  - children and children with disabilities,
  - people with physical disabilities,
  - people with intellectual/developmental disabilities,
  - people with mental health conditions,
  - older adults,
  - low income pregnant women,
  - low income working adults.

# Wisconsin's Medicaid Programs

<b>Family Care/Managed Long-Term Care</b>	<b>Children's Long Term Support Program</b>
IRIS – Self-Directed Long-Term Care	Katie Beckett Program
CIP/COP (Long-Term Care Waivers)	Comprehensive Community Services
Family Care Partnership	Community Support Program
PACE	Community Recovery Services
Personal Care services (through Medicaid)	Targeted Case Management
Elderly Blind Disabled (EBD) Medicaid or Social Security(SSl) Medicaid	SeniorCare
Medical Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP)	Wisconsin Chronic Disease program
Wisconsin Well Woman program	Family Planning Only Services program
BadgerCare	Services provided using a Wisconsin Forward Health card

# Federal changes: Medicaid

## How does Medicaid funding work now?

- The federal government pays ~60% of Medicaid costs, states pay ~40%.
- If more people need Medicaid or costs increase, more funding is provided by the Feds/State to cover costs
- When fewer people need services, or costs go down the Feds/State reduce funding.
- Currently if a person meets the eligibility requirements (generally poverty, age, and/or disability), they can get the services they need under Medicaid.

# Federal changes: Medicaid

## What does Medicaid cover?

- States are required to provide certain **mandatory** services under Federal Medicaid law
- States can choose to provide additional **optional** services
- Wisconsin provides almost all optional services
  - Many “optional” services Wisconsin has invested in have resulted in cost savings for Wisconsin
  - **Everything covered in Family Care/IRIS, prescriptions, dental care, etc. are optional under federal law.**



# Mandatory Medicaid Services

- Inpatient hospital services
- Outpatient hospital services
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) (for kids)
- **Nursing facility services\***
- Home health services
- Physician services
- Rural health clinic services
- Federally qualified health center services
- Laboratory and X-ray services
- Family planning services
- Nurse Midwife services
- Certified Pediatric and Family Nurse Practitioner Services
- Freestanding Birth Center services
- Transportation to medical care
- Tobacco cessation counseling for pregnant women
- Tobacco Cessation



# Optional Medicaid Services

- Prescription drugs
- Clinic services
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Speech, hearing and language disorder services
- Respiratory care services
- Other diagnostic, screening, preventive and rehab services
- Podiatry services
- Optometry services
- Dental services
- Dentures
- Prosthetics
- Eyeglasses
- Chiropractic services
- Private duty nursing services
- Personal care
- Hospice
- Case management
- Services for Individuals Age 65 + in an IMD
- Other services approved by the Secretary
- TB Related Services
- Inpatient psychiatric services for individuals under age 21
- Services in ICF/ID
- Home and Community-Based Waivers – 1915(c)\*
- State Plan Home and Community Based Services -1915(i)\*
- Self-Directed Personal Assistant Services -1915 (j)\*
- Community First Choice Option - 1915 (k)\*

*This means Family Care, IRIS, CLTS, etc.*



# Federal changes: Medicaid

## What are Medicaid Block Grants?

- Block Grants give Wisconsin a set dollar amount to cover all Medicaid costs for all people who are in one of Wisconsin's 19 Medicaid funded programs or use the ForwardHealth card.
- Block Grants **do not** guarantee states will receive enough funds to cover people currently in Medicaid, or meet changing needs of a population.
- States would have to decide on whether to provide **extra** funding or **cut** Medicaid costs.

# Federal changes: Medicaid

## What are Medicaid Per Capita Caps?

- Per Capita allocation gives states a set dollar amount per person enrolled in Medicaid to cover all Medicaid costs.
  - Different populations (e.g. older adults, children, kids with disabilities, people with physical or developmental disabilities, mental health, low income adults) may be capped at different dollar amounts.
  - It is uncertain how the per capita allocations will be determined, whether they will differ among populations, what costs they would cover, etc.
- Per Capita caps **do not** guarantee that states will receive enough money to cover costs.
- States would have to decide on whether to provide **extra** funding or **cut** Medicaid costs.

# Federal changes: Medicaid

## Impact of Medicaid Block Grants or Per Capita Caps

- Analysis of Medicaid Block and Per Capita Cap proposals estimate a 35-40% reduction in Federal Medicaid funding.
- States would have to choose/change who they serve and what services/supports they provide, and could:
  - Limit or eliminate some services or supports
  - Establish wait lists for programs or services
  - Establish “tiered” benefits for certain populations
  - Restrict who is eligible for Medicaid
  - Eliminate coverage for whole populations or subpopulations
  - Add requirements, like cost-sharing, for participants
  - Eliminate entitlement to Medicaid
  - Use prior authorization or other methods to reduce or restrict access to services
  - Cut reimbursement rates for care providers
  - Or other mechanisms to reduce Medicaid costs

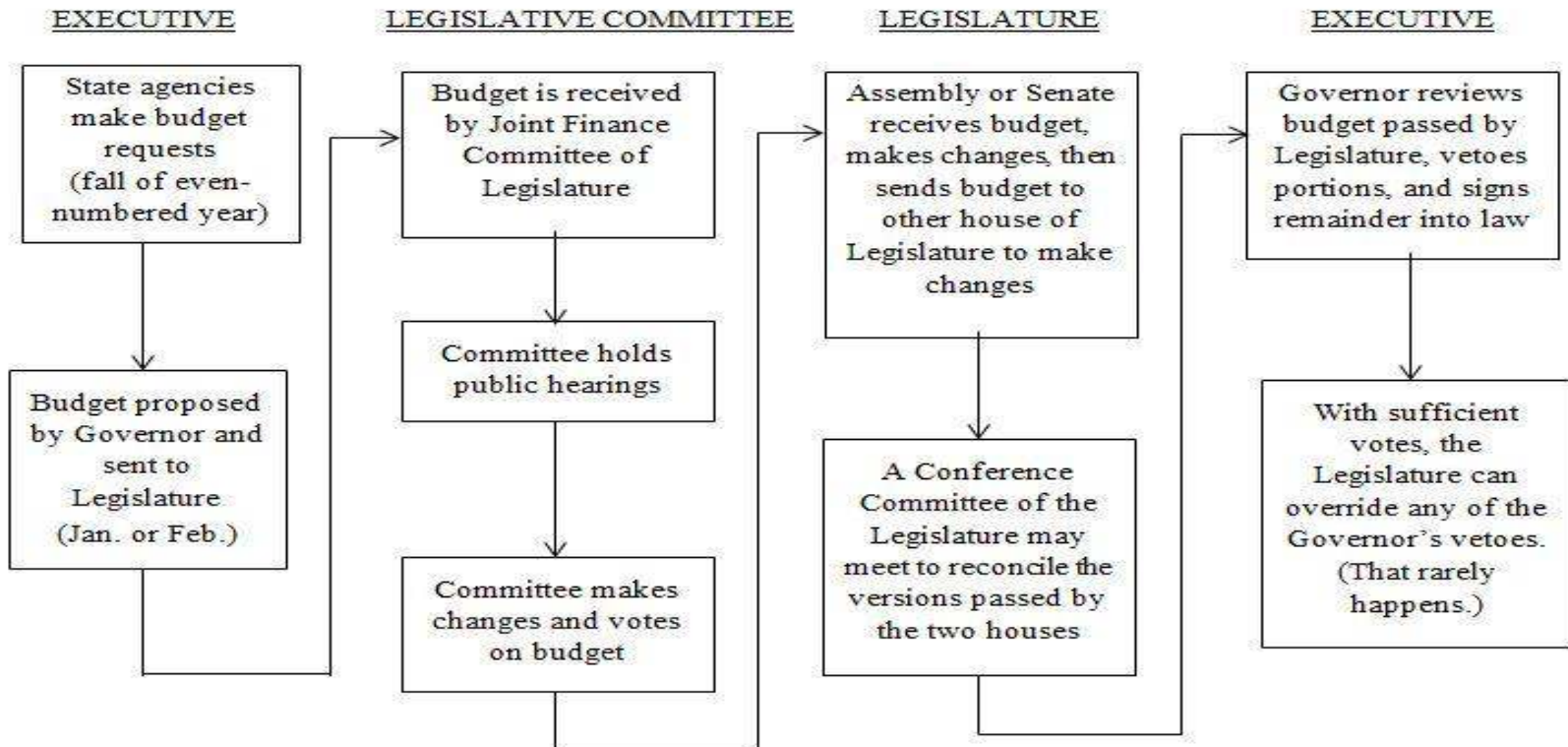
# Why is the State Budget Important?

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- It is passed every two years and includes important funding for State Programs.
- It determines how much money will be spent on different things that our government provides.
- There are often changes to policy put into the budget, that change the program but do not seem related to a “budget” because they don’t impact cost.

# How the State Budget Becomes a Law

## The Budget Process in Wisconsin



Begins in fall of even-numbered year

Feb to May

May/June

Summer of odd-numbered year

# Where are we at now?

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- Governor Walker gave his budget speech (Feb. 8).
- The Legislative Fiscal Bureau determines the costs or cost savings of different proposals.
- Joint Finance Committee (JFC) will announce hearings around the State of Wisconsin.
- Senate and Assembly vote on budget.
- Budget needs to be passed before July 1, 2017.



# What is in the State Budget?

## Medicaid: Children's Long Term Supports

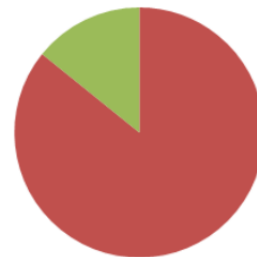
- Proposal funds children who've been waiting for long term supports for children with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities or severe emotional disturbances.
- 2,200 families would gain access to critical supports that keep children with significant disabilities out of institutional care and connected to their communities.

# What is in the State Budget?

## Medicaid: Personal Care

- Proposal increases Medicaid personal care rates by 2%. Amount does not go far enough to address the direct care crisis Wisconsin is facing statewide, particularly in rural areas.
- Direct care providers in nursing homes are set to receive a more than three-times higher increase in the budget than workers coming into people's homes.

### People Can't Find Workers....It's Putting Them at Risk



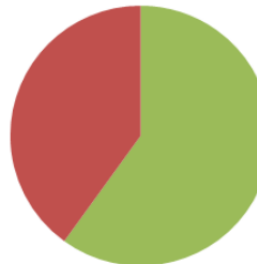
85%

don't have enough workers to work all of their shifts



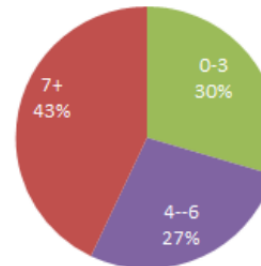
95%

said it's "Very Hard" or "Somewhat Hard" to find workers



60%

get sick more often when they don't have enough workers



43%

can't find a worker 7 or more times per month

Source: Survival Coalition Consumer Survey, November 2016.

Contact: [survivalcoalitionwi@gmail.com](mailto:survivalcoalitionwi@gmail.com)

<http://www.survivalcoalitionwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/SurvivalSurveyFactSheet.pdf>

# What is in the State Budget?

## Medicaid: Medical Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP)

- Establishes a fairer premium structure so premiums increase gradually as people earn more.
- Participants will have a \$25 per month minimum premium.
- Counts earned and unearned income more favorably
- Allows exclusion of medical and remedial expenses, long-term care costs, and impairment-related work expenses to determine premium and eligibility for MAPP.
- Allows participants to retire without losing Independence Account savings or Retirement contributions and still remain eligible for Medicaid long term care programs
- Changes how people verify how they met the program's work requirements, and increases support for people needing re-employment assistance

# What is in the State Budget?

## Medicaid: BadgerCare

- Budget directs DHS to ask federal government for permission to expand work training requirements to all childless adults
- No explicit exemption for childless people who have mental health, physical, developmental, or intermittent disabilities from work training requirements.
  - Not clear if barriers to accessing training or employment would result in BadgerCare ineligibility
  - Not clear if participation in other work training programs (FoodShare, etc.) would count as fulfilling the forthcoming BadgerCare requirements.

# What is in the State Budget?

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## FoodShare

- Budget directs DHS to ask the federal government for permission to implement mandatory work training requirements for some able-bodied childless adults in order to keep FoodShare eligibility

# What is in the State Budget?

## Federally Funded: Housing

- Many people with disabilities and older adults are recipients of housing vouchers under the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Proposal directs the state housing agency (WHEDA) to ask the federal government for permission to implement a pilot requiring work requirements in order to be eligible for a housing voucher.
- Creates a homeless services coordinator position at the Department of Health Services to work with homeless agencies and municipalities to develop a Medicaid waiver for intensive case management.

# What is in the State Budget?

## Education: Funding

- No increase in special education funding: nearly a decade of no increases.
- Increase in overall funding, however all schools get the same regardless of level of need.
  - Under the current funding formula, poorest and neediest school districts receive more funds.
- Budget would grant lifetime licenses for teachers

# What is in the State Budget?

## Education: Transition

### Special education transition grants

- Increases funding of the Transition Incentive fund that rewards schools that prove they have moved more students into community employment at a competitive wage and into postsecondary education and training.

### Youth Transition Readiness Investment Grants

- Establishes a new grant program to support school districts to get jobs in the community for students with disabilities.



# What is in the State Budget?

## Education: Mental Health

- School age mental health, provides funding to improve access to mental health services for school-age youth by
  - supporting the availability of social work services in schools
  - funding grants for school-linked mental health services
  - training school personnel in mental health first aid and trauma-informed care

# What is in the State Budget?

## Mental Health

- Expands the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program to improve access for children and adolescents.
- Funds a peer run respite for veterans in Milwaukee
- Expands mental health services for girls at Copper Lakes School
- Expands the Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) program which provides reentry support for prison inmates with a mental illness

# What is in the State Budget?

## Transportation

- Small increase in paratransit and Tribal Elderly Transportation Program
- No new investment in public transit
- No investments in new approaches, like shared ride options, mobility management and coordination, etc.

# What is in the State Budget?

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## Other Items

What can you do to affect the budget?



# You Can Speak Up



- Talk to your legislator at the Capitol or in your district:  
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- Attend Disability Advocacy Day in Madison on March 21st
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper

# You Can Speak Up



## Joint Finance Committee Hearings

[BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov), or send a handwritten letter to: Joe Malkasian, Room 305 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702.

# How do I Talk to My Legislator?

1. Give a clear message and practice saying it. Write it out.
2. Know basic information about the issue or program you are advocating about and how it affects you-- Tell your story.
3. Remember every time you meet with a legislator or staffer you are building a relationship. Relationships need lots of regular contacts over time.
4. Ask for what you really want from your legislator and be clear. For instance, “I want more funding for . . .,” or “I want the current changes to . . . to be taken out of the budget.”
5. Remember to listen as well as talk to your legislator or staffer.
6. When a legislator or staffer raises an objection or question about your issue, stay calm and polite. Don’t feel you have to answer right away. Say, “I’m not sure about that. I will get back to you.”



# How do I Talk to My Legislator con't?

8. Handouts have to be clear and to the point – read them first.
9. Don't give up. Keep up the contacts until you get a real answer. If they do not commit to help at the meeting, it gives you an excuse to call them back and visit again.
10. Broaden your “base” – get other people involved. Get 2-3 people you know to come with you to a visit in your hometown or the legislator's home town close to you.
11. Remember to say thank you for their time or support.
12. Don't get discouraged-- change takes time.

# Building your Message

## 2017 State Budget Training

### Building Your Personal Message

#### What is the issue?

Choose one of the top issues identified by Survival Coalition:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-Term Care      | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health       | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce   |

#### How does this impact you?

How does this issue relate to your daily life? How could it improve your life? How could it make your life harder?

#### What is your ask?

What result would you like? How will you know when your problem is solved?

#### What information could help convince others?

What facts, figures or research could help make your case? Use the Survival Handout to help.

# Questions?

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