



2019-21 State Budget

Comparison of Governor's and Joint Finance Committee's proposals on programs important to people with disabilities

Special Education

Governor's Proposal	Joint Finance Committee did
\$600 M for Special Education Funding	\$96.9 M for Special Education Funding
\$63.9 M for Mental Health Services and Staff	\$12.5 M for Mental Health Services and Staff
\$11 M for Transition Services	\$0 for Transition Services

Impacts:

- No increase in special education funding in over 10 years; JFC proposal is 5% increase over two years while costs have gone up 65% in past decade.
- One in five students face mental health issues; between 50% and 80% of these issues will continue to go untreated with a less than 20% investment in actual school district requests.
- No additional funding for transition services for students with disabilities age 14-21; 93 school districts unable to receive additional funding to prepare youth for community employment.

Transportation

Governor's Proposal	Joint Finance Committee did
Public Transit Operating costs, increase 10%	Public Transit Operating costs, increase 2%
\$20 M total for capital improvement. \$10M one-time funding, \$10M continuing in future budgets	\$22 M one-time funding for diesel buses
Specialized transit \$6 M	Specialized transit \$3 M
Paratransit \$550 K	Paratransit \$550 K
Employment transportation program \$1 M	Employment transportation program \$500 K

Impacts:

- These increases will not begin to address the needs of non-drivers who took Survival Coalition’s statewide transportation survey, and identified major gaps that impact their ability to keep their job, get to medical appointments, get around in their communities and stay connected to family.
- 70% of respondents said the transportation they currently depend upon, whether it be family member rides, current bus service or other options is fragile and if something in their life changed unexpectedly, they would likely be left sitting at home with no ability to get anywhere at all.
- Bus routes and hours of service will be cut.

Caregiving

Governor’s Proposal	Joint Finance Committee did
Personal Care Rate increase 1.5% (\$16.7 M)	9% first year, an additional 3% second year
Family Care direct care supplement \$91 M	Family Care direct supplement \$127.9 M
BadgerCare expansion	Removed from budget

Impacts:

- JFC should be commended for approving the largest increase in personal care rates in more than a decade. However, wages are not enough to address the crisis.
- Expanding BadgerCare extends health insurance to 8000 additional caregivers, allows the 30% of caregivers to earn more and contribute millions more care hours to Family Care and IRIS participants without losing health insurance.
- BadgerCare expansion would save \$325 million and also bring in an additional \$1.6 billion to support Medicaid programs.

Dental Access

Governor’s Proposal	Joint Finance Committee did
\$5 M to dental providers that serve Medicaid recipients with physical and intellectual disabilities	\$2.5 M to dental providers that serve Medicaid recipients with physical and intellectual disabilities

\$58 M in Medicaid reimbursement increases for dental providers	\$0 in Medicaid reimbursement increases for dental providers
Licensure of Dental Therapist to provide access to dental services and training grants \$1.5 M	Removed from budget

Impacts:

- JFC’s modest \$2.5 million investment does not resolve the huge challenges people with disabilities face trying to take care of their teeth.
- The JFC budget does not substantive address the fact too few dentists take Medicaid patients, and an even smaller number of dentists that have accessible practices to accommodate mobility equipment, sensory needs, or sedation dentistry.

Children's Services

Governor's Proposal	Joint Finance Committee did
Lead Exposure and Lead Poisoning prevention: \$43 M	Lead Exposure and Lead Poisoning prevention: \$14 M
Expand access to Birth to 3 for lead exposed/poisoned children: \$9.1 M	Provide one-time funding for Birth to 3 for lead exposed/poisoned children: \$2.25 M
Children’s Long Term Support Waiver, funding for kids currently enrolled and the 1000+ kids waiting: \$73.7 M	Children’s Long Term Support Waiver, funding for kids currently enrolled and the 1000+ kids waiting: \$73.7 M
Statutory change to ensure no kids will end up on the wait-list again	Statutory change to ensure no kids will end up on the wait-list again: Not Included
Statewide Application, Intake, and Screening for Children’s Long-Term Care Services: \$3.1 M	Statewide Application, Intake, and Screening for Children’s Long-Term Care Services: \$3.1 M
Children’s Ombudsman: \$300 K	Children’s Ombudsman: \$0
Children’s Resource Specialists: \$335 K	Children’s Resource Specialists: \$0

Impacts:

- Current wait-list is ended, but no additional funds if more children are identified
- Disability resource centers that can support families to find and get needed services are not included.
- No ability for families to resolve problems or make complaints if they run into problems with the program.

Mental Health

Governor's Proposal	Joint Finance Committee did
DHS to fund a portion of the Medicaid crisis Intervention benefit. The nonfederal share is currently funded entirely by counties.	Same with an improvement in calculating the maintenance of effort by average county expenditures.
Regional Crisis Stabilization Centers Grant Program \$2.5 M	Regional Crisis Stabilization Centers Grant Program \$0
Physician and Behavioral Health Services/ Non-institutional mental health payments \$69.1 M	Physician and Behavioral Health Services/ Non institutional mental health payments \$24.7 M
Child Psychiatry Consultation Program \$0	Child Psychiatry Consultation Program \$500 K
Suicide Prevention Grant \$0	Suicide Prevention Grant \$100 K

Impacts:

- People in crisis will continue to be transported by law enforcement to Winnebago Mental Health Institute, far away from their support networks and local mental health providers. Additional investment is urgently needed to increase access to mental health services for Medicaid members. Rates have not increased in 11 years. Currently 49 of Wisconsin's 72 counties are designed as mental health provider shortage areas.
- Child psychiatry consultation program and suicide prevention grant were added.