

2023-2025 State Biennial Budget Requests

Stop Lead poisoning

- Set aside 10% of the **Real Estate Transaction** fee funds for property owners to cover testing and remediation for lead and other environmental hazards in old stock properties built before 1980.
- Create a sum sufficient funding formula that fully covers county Public Health Agencies costs of responding to elevated blood lead levels in children.

Help family caregivers

- Create an employee-funded state insurance fund to offer paid Family and Medical Leave for part time and full-time employees.
- Expand who can use Family and Medical Leave to include at least grandparents, grandchildren, and siblings.
- Establish a family caregiving tax credit that allows taxpayers to deduct up to \$7200 per year, the [average annual out of pocket costs](#) incurred by family caregivers.
- Increase respite funding by 200K.

Stabilize and increase paid direct service workforce

- Include full-time paid Direct Service Workers (DSPs) in the local government health insurance pool.
- Set the wage floor for DSPs as “living wage” or “market wage” whichever is greater for the area served.
- Create a statutory formula to automatically increase DSP base wages in the biennial budget with inflation, living wage, market wage, and housing wages as components of the formula.
- Ensure DSPs are paid equally for jobs requiring the same skillsets whether they work for Family Care, IRIS, or CLTS participants.

Prevent and respond to abuse and neglect

- Increase Adult Protective Services funding to 15M annually to respond to more reported cases of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities.
- Expand the Department of Justice Elder Abuse Hotline to include people with disabilities age 18-59 and increase biennial funding to \$500K annually.
- Increase funding for DHS’s Division of Quality Assurance to investigate and respond to safety complaints, including complaints involving 1-2 bed Adult Family Homes.



Rights to make decisions

- Provide funding (\$250K) to increase the capacity for the Guardianship Support Center to provide technical assistance to families and others about guardianship and alternatives to guardianship.
- Change statutory language to require one-time review of the terms of a guardianship five years after it is in effect and determine whether any changes are needed and create an appropriation to cover court time.

Non-Driver Transportation

- Increase virtual/telephone/online options to save non-driver trips to state and county agencies.
- Implement non-driver performance metrics for public transit, Wis. Stats. 85.21, 85.215, 85.22, 85.23, 85.25 and 53.10 programs.
- Fund pilots that reward regional, county, and local jurisdictions for creating affordable transportation that lets non-drivers easily get to regional destinations on their schedule.
- Provide funding to increase use modeling tools that show planners, local governments, and transportation systems where non-drivers are and where they need to go.

Special education

- Increase special education funding for public schools to cover to 90% of special education costs. Wisconsin currently funds at least 90% for students in the private Special Needs Scholarship Program.
- Increase accountability for private Special Needs Scholarship Program schools so they are comparable to that required of public schools by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), including a complaint and enforcement mechanism and robust data collection.
- Increase the transition readiness grant from \$1.5 million to \$4.5 million annually to prepare students with disabilities for community employment and independence after high school.
- Limit the special needs scholarships to currently enrolled students with no new admissions.

Planning to move on from state institutions

- Create a plan to reduce the number of state-run institutions from three to one and end long term residential services offered by Central Wisconsin Center and Southern Wisconsin Center so that those funds can be reinvested into home and community based services.