

WAFCA 2023-2025 Biennial Budget Final Overview

When the Governor introduced his budget proposal in February, WAFCA provided a [summary overview](#) that highlighted items of interest. This summary identifies items that were retained, rejected or modified by the state legislature in crafting their version of the budget. This is not a comprehensive summary of all of the provisions included in these selected Departments. For a more complete summary, click on the links provided below to access the details prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

Overall the Governor's budget proposed to spend \$103.8 billion over the biennium and the Legislature's budget spends \$97.4 billion.

Department of Children and Families ([LFB DCF Budget Summary](#))

CHILD CARE

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- \$11,198,000 GPR annually to continue funding the Partner Up! Program, originally established with ARPA funds.
- \$5 million TANF in each fiscal year for a New Provider grant program
- \$1,680,000 to support the creation of a quality early childhood education center in the city of Milwaukee.

JFC Included or Modified

- Decreased the governor's proposed amount to \$1,070,000 annually for social-emotional training and technical assistance in childcare settings with the goal of reducing instances of children being removed from daycare for behavioral issues.

FAMILY & ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- \$187,200 TANF in each fiscal year to fund a contractor position to conduct a pilot program, known as the Housing, Opportunity, Planning and Empowerment (HOPE) program, to provide financial literacy and empowerment services to families receiving W-2 benefits.
- Expansion of the Family Medical Leave Act.

CHILD WELFARE AND YOUTH SERVICES

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- Intensive Family Preservation Services.
- Additional funding to Milwaukee for assessment and stabilization centers, aftercare services, behavioral health services, a dedicated Qualified Residential Treatment Program, and short-term respite childcare for families in emergent need of services.
- Funding increases for programs that serve runaway and homeless youth and independent living supports.
- Expansion of home visiting services.
- \$20 million each year of the biennium for domestic abuse services, such as shelters and counseling.

JFC Added

- \$2,000,000 under Title IV-E annually in one-time funding to Children's Wisconsin for Triple P Online.

FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

JFC Included or Modified

- Increased the Kinship care payment to \$375 per month.
- Accepted the 5% age-based foster care rate increases.
- Accepted the governor's proposal for \$200,000 annually for QRTP staff training.

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- Expanding the definition of relative & providing increases for the clothing and sibling exceptional rates.
- Aligning kinship caregiver rates with the age-based foster care rates.
- Providing additional, flexible financial support to kinship caregivers.

YOUTH JUSTICE

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- Sum-sufficient appropriation in order to return 17-year-olds to juvenile court jurisdiction.
- Creation of a Juvenile Justice Reform Review Committee.
- Youth Justice training.

JFC Modified

- Provided one-time funding for 5.0 contracted staff to develop a case management and reporting system.

Department of Health Services (LFB DHS Budget Summary)

MEDICAID

JFC Included or Modified

- \$132 million in reimbursement rate increases for primary care.
- \$15 million in reimbursement rate increases for emergency physicians.
- \$123 million for increases in disproportionate share hospital payments.
- \$30 million for reimbursement rate increases for hospital services provided in a behavioral health unit of a general medical/surgical hospital.

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- Full Medicaid expansion which would have provided an additional \$675 million in federal match.
- Expansion of post-partum Medicaid coverage to 12 months from the current 60 days.
- \$17 million in new funding to support outpatient behavioral health and day treatment reimbursement rate increases.
- \$12 million in reimbursement rate increases for autism services.
- \$40 million to support full state funding for community support program services.
- \$16 million for room and board support for residential substance use treatment.
- \$3.7 million for certified peer specialist services.
- \$2 million for psychosocial rehabilitation services by non-county providers.

LONG-TERM SUPPORT/AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES

JFC Included or Modified

- \$226 million to support the cost to continue ARPA funded home and community-based services rate increases including the 5% supplement for mental health services and day treatment.

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- Changes to children's long term support program

CRISIS SERVICES

JFC Included or Modified

- \$10 million in the JFC supplemental appropriation for crisis urgent care and observation facilities
- \$2 million in JFC supplemental appropriation for telemedicine crisis response pilot program.

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- \$3 million for 988 suicide and crisis lifeline funding.
- \$1.8 million for new psychiatric residential treatment program certification.
- \$4 million for modification of current child psychiatric consultation program to expand to include additional patient populations such as perinatal, geriatric, veteran, etc.

- Modifying funding source for youth crisis stabilization grant funding.
- \$1.5 million increase in QTT grants.

OTHER HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

JFC Included or Modified

- Require DHS to submit a plan to JFC to increase licensing fees for assisted living facilities and outpatient mental health clinics to cover the cost of staffing within the Bureau of Assisted Living.

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- \$22 million for staffing and funding expansion for Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center.

Department of Public Instruction ([LFB DPI Budget Summary](#))

GENERAL SCHOOL AIDS

JFC Included or Modified

- Included \$534 million in new funding. The Governor's budget provided \$1.3 billion.
- Sets the per pupil adjustment under revenue limits at \$325 in each year of the biennium. (under this annual adjustment would continue into the foreseeable future)
- Increases the low revenue adjustment from the current level of \$10,000 to \$11,000 per pupil beginning in 2023-24 and thereafter.

CATEGORICAL AIDS

JFC Included or Modified

- Special Education. Included \$97 million in new special education funding to increase the proration rate to 33%. The Governor proposed a \$1 billion increase which would have covered up to 60% of eligible costs.
- School-Based Mental Health Services Grant. Provide a one-time increase of \$15 million in each year of the biennium for school-based mental health services. Eliminate the competitive grant and provide funding on a per pupil basis which effectively equates to \$31/pupil in 2023-4, and 2024-25. Total allocation returns to \$10 million in 2025-26.

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- Aid for Comprehensive SMH. \$235 Million for new categorical aid for comprehensive school mental health systems.
- Aid for School-Based Mental Health Professional Staff. \$36 Million to support schools hiring school services professionals including nurses, counselors, social workers and psychologists.
- \$120 million for school nutrition aid and \$9 million for school breakfast reimbursement.

Department of Safety and Professional Services ([LFB DSPS Budget Summary](#))

JFC Included or Modified

- Reduced funding to support technology infrastructure upgrades and automation, which will bring efficiencies to the department.
- Modified position requests to fund 6.0 license processing positions, including 4.0 for health professions and 2.0 for business and trade, and 1.0 paralegal. Specified that the positions are four-year project positions. Also reduced the number of call center staff to 6.0 office operations associate positions and specified that the positions are two-year project positions, and the funding is one-time.
- Reduced the expenditure authority over the biennium to work with the Department of Administration Division of Enterprise Technology.

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- Allowing the Department of Safety and Professional Services to adjust credential renewal schedules to better align with industry needs.

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance ([LFB OCI Budget Summary](#))

Governor's Proposals Not Adopted

- Allocating \$5 million over the biennium to establish a state-based health insurance marketplace under the federal Affordable Care Act.
- Creation of the Office of Prescription Drug Affordability.
- Health Insurance coverage requirements.
- Telehealth parity provisions.
- Requiring health insurance plans offered in the state to cover services provided by substance use disorder counselors if those services are covered under the plans through any other providers.
- Requiring health insurance plans offered in the state to cover services provided by Qualified Treatment Trainees.