

## WAFCA 2021-2023 Biennial Budget Final Overview

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When the Governor introduced his budget proposal in February, WAFCA provided a [summary overview](#) that highlighted items of interest. This summary builds on that initial highlight overview by identifying 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 fuller 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 \$91.2 billion over the biennium and the Legislature's budget spends \$87.5 billion.

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

#### **CHILD CARE**

##### ***JFC Included or Modified***

- Modified: The Governor had proposed significant changes to the Wisconsin Shares program, including a \$106 million investment of state dollars and a delinking of YoungStar and Wisconsin Shares to create Child Care Strong. *JFC instead provided \$29 million increase in TANF over the biennium to fully pay the price of at least 65% of the slots for children within the licensed capacity of all childcare providers.*

#### **FAMILY & ECONOMIC SUPPORT**

##### ***Governor's Proposals Not Adopted***

- \$9,000,000 Increase the Emergency Assistance program and various modifications to statutory definitions/eligibility.
- \$7,300,000 to start the statewide expansion of Transitional Jobs
- \$20 million annually for an Internet Assistance Program
- \$500,000 annually for grants to the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation for civil legal services to low-income families

#### **CHILD WELFARE AND YOUTH SERVICES**

##### ***JFC Included or Modified***

- GOV/JFC: Increase aid to DMCPs for ongoing, wraparound, and other contracted services.
- GOV/JFC: Provide additional funding of \$132,000 annually to expand the BE GREAT: Graduate program to Boys and Girls Clubs in Wausau and Sheboygan.
- GOV/JFC: Create a Jobs for America's Graduates allocation, funded with \$500,000 TANF annually, which would fund programs that improve social, academic, and employment skills of TANF-eligible youth
- Modified: The Governor proposed \$12,000,000 annually for a statewide in-home services intervention program and 2 FTE to develop and implement the program. *JFC did not include this funding and instead provide \$2 million in TANF funding for child welfare safety services.*

##### ***Governor's Proposals Not Adopted***

- \$15,000,000 total increase in Children and Family Aids
- \$1,500,000 for child welfare worker training improvements
- \$500,000 for a Nurse Family Partnership Program in Milwaukee County
- \$836,000 over the biennium to expand eligibility in Independent Living Services and serve more youth as permitted through Family First.
- Add 4 FTE initial assessment positions in DMCPs.
- \$500,000 annually for the Homeless Shelter Grant program
- Consolidate certain DCF youth services programs into a new youth services grant program.

## FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

### ***JFC Included or Modified***

- GOV/JFC: Increase Kinship and Level 1 foster parent monthly rate to \$300
- GOV/JFC: \$200,000 for congregate care provider training
- GOV/JFC: Extend the pilot program providing representation of parents in CHIPS proceedings currently operating in Brown, Outagamie, Racine, Kenosha, and Winnebago counties to June 30, 2023
- Modified: The Governor proposed \$377,800 to support telephone and telehealth nursing services for QRTP. *JFC limited this to one time funding in 2022-23.*
- Modified: The Governor proposed \$600,000 over the biennium to expand adoption recruitment in Milwaukee County. *JFC limited this to one time funding.*

### ***Governor's Proposals Not Adopted***

- 2.5 percent increase in each calendar year for foster care rates in Level 2-4
- \$75,000 for creating a new grant program to provide separated siblings with opportunities to be reunited, such as at summer camps
- \$300,000 for driver education and licensing for children in out-of-home care
- \$1,300,000 for a Milwaukee-based QRTP program

## YOUTH JUSTICE

### ***JFC Included or Modified***

- Modified: The Governor proposed an \$18 million increase in Youth Aids funding to assist counties in supporting the elimination of the Serious Juvenile Offender Program currently operated through the Department of Corrections. *JFC rejected the statutory/program changes and instead provided and increase of \$4.7 million annually to the youth aids base allocation.*

### ***Governor's Proposals Not Adopted***

- \$15,000,000 in the biennium and 3 FTE to support system improvements related to 2017 Act 185 including community-based grants, residential services grants, expansion of training for youth justice, and state staff to administer the programs
- Sum-sufficient appropriation in order to return 17-year-olds to juvenile court jurisdiction (recommends \$10,000,000 in each year of the biennium)

## **Department of Health Services ([LFB DHS Budget Summary](#))**

## MEDICAID

### ***JFC Included or Modified***

- Modified: The Governor proposed increasing Medicaid by \$40.6 million over the biennium to fund a 40% increase in rates for outpatient mental health, substance use treatment and child and adolescent day treatment. *JFC instead increased funding by \$23.9 million to support a 15% increase in outpatient MHSA rates and a 20% increase in day treatment.*
- Modified: The Governor proposed \$10.8 million for 20% rate increases for Medication-Assisted Treatment. *JFC provided \$3.7 million to fund a 5% rate increase.*
- Modified: The Governor proposed \$22.6 million to provide a 25% increase in Autism treatment rates. *JFC approved a \$14.6 million increase to provide a 15% increase.*
- Modified: The Governor proposed \$35.8 million for increases in dental rates. *JFC approved \$46.2 million to provide for a 40% increase in reimbursement rates.*
- Modified: The Governor proposed seeing a federal waiver to extend postpartum Medicaid eligibility from approximately two months to 12 months. *JFC approved a waiver request to extend coverage to 90 days.*

### ***Governor's Proposals Not Adopted***

- Expand Medicaid under the federal Affordable Care Act by covering all low-income Wisconsin residents who earn incomes between 0 percent and 138 percent of the federal poverty level.
- \$25 million to create a Medicaid community health benefit for nonmedical services to reduce and prevent health disparities that result from economic and social determinants of health.
- \$35 million over the biennium for grants for community organizations and local public health departments to implement health equity action plans.
- \$14 million to expand Medicaid benefits to include services provided by community health workers to serve as a liaison between health and social services and the community.
- \$2 million for payment to providers that are not county-based for Community-Based Psychosocial Services.
- \$6.5 million over the biennium to pay allowable charges on behalf of recipients of Medical Assistance for room and board for residential substance use disorder treatment.

### **LONG-TERM SUPPORT/AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES**

#### ***JFC Included or Modified***

- GOV/JFC: Provide \$3.5 million over the biennium to expand the dementia care specialists program to all aging and disability resource centers.
- Modified: The Governor proposed \$77.8 million over the biennium to fund rate increases for personal care direct care services. *JFC adopted some changes to the Governor's proposal and included \$78.2 million in increases.*
- Modified: The Governor proposed \$77.8 million to increase direct care staff support in the Family Care rates. *JFC increased the funding to \$104 million over the biennium.*
- Modified: The Governor proposed a statutory language change to ensure that every child in need of long-term supports receives the services they require. *JFC did not adopt the statutory change, but provided cost-to-continue funding to expand enrollment to alleviate waiting lists.*

#### ***Governor's Proposals Not Adopted***

- Create a nonrefundable individual income tax caregiver credit for qualified expenses incurred by a family caregiver to assist a qualified family member
- Expand caregiver support services for caregivers of adults with disabilities who are age 19 to 59.
- Require ADRCs to designate a caregiver coordinator and create a plan to increase knowledge of programs.

### **CRISIS SERVICES**

#### ***JFC Included or Modified***

- Modified: The Governor proposed \$17.5 million to provide for regional crisis centers offer a continuum of crisis services and grants for stand-alone crisis stabilization facilities. *JFC did not adopt the proposal and instead provided \$10 million to the JFC supplements appropriation for regional crisis services or facilities.*

#### ***Governor's Proposals Not Adopted***

- \$2.5 million over the biennium for grants to municipalities and counties to establish behavioral health and police collaboration programs to increase behavioral health professional involvement in emergency response situation.
- \$2.5 million over the biennium to support the staffing needs of county crisis programs and peer-run respite centers for their telephone services.
- \$4.5 million to implement a forensic assertive community treatment program, which is intended to be an intervention that bridges the behavioral health and criminal justice systems.

### **OTHER HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH**

#### ***JFC Included or Modified***

- GOV/JFC: Provide \$2.5 million GPR (continues one-time funding from the 2019-21 biennial budget)

- Modified: The Governor proposed a \$1 million increase over the biennium to expand the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program statewide. *JFC provided a \$500,000 increase in the second year of the biennium*
- *JFC: The Joint Finance Committee increased the grants available to support clinical supervision of mental health treatment trainees by \$250,000 in the second year of the biennium.*

#### ***Governor's Proposals Not Adopted***

- \$9.9 million to expand Birth to 3 services to additional children that are lead poisoned.
- \$1.9 million GPR grant to establish a behavioral health treatment program for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.
- \$2 million for grants to behavioral health providers to implement electronic health records systems and connect to health information exchanges.

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

#### **MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS**

##### ***JFC Included or Modified***

- GOV/JFC: Expand the School-Based Mental Health Services Grant program by \$3,500,000 GPR annually, beginning in FY22. Modify the grant language to allow more school districts to access the program. Replacing “community mental health agencies” with “mental health providers” to allow schools to partner with individual providers and/or employ telehealth or online strategies.
- Modified: The Governor proposed an increase of \$46 million over the biennium to expand the categorical aid for school mental health programs and provide reimbursements for all pupil services categories, as opposed to just school social workers (i.e., expenditures for school counselors, school nurses, and school psychologists would be reimbursable). *JFC did not include the statutory modifications and instead provided \$12 million over the biennium to support school social workers.*

##### ***Governor's Proposals Not Adopted***

- \$1 million to increase existing mental health training programs as well as to broaden training offerings to include other evidenced-based strategies.

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

##### ***JFC Included or Modified***

- Modified: The Governor proposed adding 14.0 FTE permanent PR positions and 2.0 FTE project PR positions at the Department of Safety and Professional Services to investigate professional regulations violations and decrease processing times for professional licenses. *JFC funded 3 FTE new permanent positions and 2 FTE project positions.*

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

##### ***Governor's Proposals Not Adopted***

- Establish parity provisions to ensure patients utilizing telehealth services are not charged or have their services limited any more than if they utilized an equivalent in-person service to increase the availability and affordability of telehealth services.
- Fund the development of a state-administered public option health plan to be offered no later than 2025 or 2022 if the federal Affordable Care Act is no longer enforceable.