

Wisconsin Council on Children's Long Term Supports

November 18, 2024
Governor Tony Evers
115 East
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Via email

Dear Governor Evers,

The Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) Council charges are based on the statement that "with the right supports and services, children with long-term support needs can live their best lives and participate in their homes and communities" here in Wisconsin. The CLTS Council is charged with advising, guiding, and providing recommendations to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) on services, supports, and systems. With this role in mind, we make the strong recommendation for sum sufficient funding in the upcoming budget.

The CLTSW program supports the families of children with disabilities and special health care needs through supportive home-based services. There are many family members on the CLTS Council who can speak about how necessary these services and supports are to their own children. For many of us, these services are what allow our children and families to survive and thrive.

Over the past year, our council has heard from a number of waiting families about their need for these services, but the inability to access them due to waitlists in their counties. These are families and children who are not getting the services that they desperately need. Their experiences waiting for CLTSW and

these services have been extremely difficult, even dire. Their experiences highlight the importance of the CLTSW. The [new timely enrollment initiative](#) that encourages county waiver agencies (CWAs) to eliminate delays was applauded by the CLTS Council. However, the initiative has further increased enrollment in the CLTSW program. The online dashboard shows that there are many other waiting families and that the need continues to increase. The possibility that this funding may be decreased, despite such increasing need, would be a crisis for families across the state. Each of these families and children are Wisconsinites with names. They are our neighbors and friends. Children need these services to live a full life. Families need these supports and service to maintain their jobs, other family relationships, and to upkeep their own health and wellbeing.

Childhood is a time of developmental windows. Developmental windows set the stage for how children are able to interact with and explore their world for the rest of their lives. Meeting children with services during these prime developmental windows is exactly what CLTSW does.

CLTSW is the only Medicaid program that is not sum sufficient. Sum sufficiency would ensure that all eligible children can access these critical supports during the years when they matter most. The CLTS benefit language for children should be consistent with the legislative and administrative commitment to adults with disabilities (HS 10.36 eligibility and entitlement).

The CLTS Council makes the strong recommendation for sum sufficient funding in the upcoming budget.

Sincerely,

The Wisconsin Council on Children's Long Term Supports