

All in for Kids

A CLTS Waiver Program Family Newsletter

All in for Kids: CLTS Waiver Program is a newsletter created to keep you and your family informed about the supports and services available through the CLTS Waiver Program. The newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.



Important information about the COVID-19 vaccine

You are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine if you are a caregiver who has a child in a special needs program, like the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program or Birth to 3 Program.

Paid and unpaid caregivers, including family members, who help children with personal care and other direct contact services should look for places to get vaccinated. Check local public health websites, social media, and news sources to find nearby places to get vaccinated.

While Wisconsin does not require proof of eligibility for caregivers and families, some vaccination locations do. Talk with the child's program coordinator about getting a letter to use as proof of eligibility.

Many places offer the vaccine, such as providers, pharmacies, and local health departments. Please remember that Wisconsin does not have enough COVID-19 vaccines to vaccinate everyone who is eligible right now, so you may have to wait to get a vaccine.

Getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to protect you, your family, and your community from COVID-19. A vaccine can keep you from getting sick and stop you from spreading the virus to others.

The COVID-19 vaccine does not change the need for you to keep doing other actions to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep yourself healthy. Important ways for you to stay safe and healthy include:

- Wash your hands often.
- Stay at home when possible.
- Wear a face covering or face mask.
- Stay physically distant from others when you can.

Wisconsin has a limited amount of COVID-19 vaccines. It will take several months for everyone who needs the vaccine to get it.

Right now, the vaccine is only approved for people who are 16 years old or older. Information about the next group of eligible people is coming soon.

We encourage you to learn about the vaccine, how it works, and how Wisconsin is distributing it. To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine.htm. For more information about vaccine phases and eligibility, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm.

For recent information about COVID-19 in Wisconsin, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm.

Thinking creatively is step two of Deciding Together

CLTS Waiver Program uses a team approach called Deciding Together to make decisions. In this approach, you are the expert of understanding your

REMINDER

The service and support coordinator (SSC) can connect you with advocates and other community resources, not just phone numbers or website links.

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family's goals, strengths, and needs. Deciding Together considers your family's experiences when making an individual service plan.

The All in for Kids: CLTS Waiver Program newsletter will keep supporting you in the Deciding Together process. The January newsletter talked about step one. This newsletter breaks down its second step, thinking creatively.

Future issues will explore other steps in Deciding Together.

You can find details about the full Deciding Together process at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02246.htm.

As a reminder, in the first step of Deciding Together, your family, the child, and SSCs talk about strengths, needs, and goals. The second step of Deciding Together is thinking creatively about solutions for services and who might help. During the COVID-19 pandemic, creativity is more important than ever.

Once the team identifies your family's needs, goals, and interests, the team will think creatively about solutions. You, the SSC, and anyone else you want to include will meet to brainstorm ideas for supporting goals and outcomes. You and the SSC will work as a team. The team should start with your family's input and ideas. It is important to think big. Narrowing down the list of ideas will come later.

Here are some example questions to help start the conversation:

- Could a mentor help the child be more included in the community?
- How could the child do an activity that matches their interests (such as, swimming, drawing, or other hobbies)?
- What family members and friends in the child's life could help?
- Would a safety plan or crisis plan help make sure the child is safe?
- Are other resources, such as FoodShare and housing aid, available?
- How could this goal or need be addressed for any child regardless of their ability?
- What ideas have been tried and what would have made it more successful?
- How could technology be used?

Supports and services benefits for children and families

The Supports and Services at a Glance tool is a helpful document to refer to during the second step of Deciding Together. It has a list of supports and

REMINDER

It is important to remember:

- This is a safe time to share thoughts and ideas.
- Ideas can be used later.
- Write down all ideas to talk about later.
- Creative ideas can come from other people in your family and community.
- Support outside of CLTS might be needed to help reach a goal.

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services that the CLTS Waiver Program may offer. It can help the team think creatively about how to meet the needs of the child and your family. To refer to this tool, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02570.pdf.

Remote Children's Long-Term Support services

What are remote Children's Long-Term Support services?

Remote CLTS services are CLTS services delivered by a provider who is in a different place than you. You and the provider must use both video and audio technology to connect with each other. For example, you could do a video call on a smartphone or computer.

Some examples of remote CLTS services are:

- Counseling and therapeutic services (except for therapeutic overnight camping)
- Mentoring
- Respite (short-term breaks, including activity therapy and therapeutic day camp)
- Support and service coordination

Most remote CLTS services allowed temporarily because of the COVID-19 pandemic are now permanently available. The other temporary remote CLTS services will stay available during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How to access remote Children's Long-Term Support services

You should ask providers if they deliver remote CLTS services. You can receive a remote service as much as you want if a service can be delivered remotely **and** if the CLTS Waiver Program approves the service. Contact the SSC to participate in remote services.

To participate in remote services, your family and the child must:

1. Have the tools and technology needed to interact with the provider.
Both video and audio are needed.
2. Give permission to their provider.

Renewal of the Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program

We are planning for the CLTS Waiver Program renewal. Your family's input will affect how the CLTS Waiver Program delivers services in the next CLTS

RESOURCES

Learn about remote services for the CLTS Waiver Program available during the COVID-19 pandemic on the COVID-19 Updates to Services for Children With Delays or Disabilities webpage at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-children.htm.

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Waiver cycle. The next Waiver cycle will start in 2022 and go through the end of 2027.

For more details about the CLTS Waiver Program renewal, go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/renewal.htm.

The Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program heard from families

We collected family feedback through an online survey and three online input sessions in October 2020. We used the online survey and input sessions to get ideas for CLTS Waiver Program improvements. Over 100 families attended the input sessions, and we got more than 250 survey responses.

Family feedback about the Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program

Family feedback shows that the CLTS Waiver Program helps them get the care they need. Services like respite, counseling and therapeutic services, and home modifications help children stay in their homes and communities.

Some ideas from families about how the CLTS Waiver Program could improve include:

- Using simpler writing when giving information about the program and services
- Supporting the full health and wellness of children and families
- Adding opportunities for families and children to be included at social and community events
- Offering more family supports, especially emotional support
- Giving families more independence and decision-making opportunities

What is next for families and the Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program renewal?

The next chance for you to share your ideas and thoughts about the CLTS Waiver Program renewal will be in May 2021. We will post the document online for your feedback. You should keep checking the www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/renewal.htm webpage for more information on how and when to leave feedback.

The 2021 Circles of Life Conference

The 2021 Circles of Life Conference will be virtual this year. The yearly conference is for families with children who have disabilities. Families can

RESOURCES

For more details about the CLTS Waiver Program renewal, go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/renewal.htm.

You can send feedback to DHSCLTSWaiverRenewal@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

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connect with each other, join educational sessions, and learn about new resources and providers. Providers and other professionals who support families and children also go to the conference.

If you are interested in attending, you can pick from 28–30 conference sessions that are each one hour long. These sessions will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2021, and Friday, May 7, 2021. The sessions will be small group meetings, so you can talk with other families and ask questions.

Register for the conference

Registration starts in February for the May 6–7 conference. Online registration is recommended, but paper registration is available too. Check the conference website at www.circlesoflifeconference.com to see when registration opens.

The Children's Long-Term Support Council

What is the Children's Long-Term Support Council?

The CLTS Council makes recommendations to the secretary of the Department of Health Services on how the CLTS Waiver Program can help children with disabilities and their families.

Most council members are parents from diverse backgrounds who have children with disabilities. Other council members include advocacy agencies, human service agencies, and provider agencies. The CLTS Council has up to 25 voting members appointed by the secretary of the Department of Health Services.

Join the Children's Long-Term Support Council

The CLTS Council is looking for more parent members. If you are interested in becoming a council member, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cltscouncil/parent-appointment-letter-2019.pdf.

Council meetings are usually held in person in Madison every three months. Council members can attend these meetings virtually. To find out more about the council and the meeting schedule, visit the council's website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cltscouncil/index.htm/.

DID YOU KNOW?

If a child is on the CLTS Waiver or the Children's Community Options Program, waiver funds can be used for the conference. Refer to the helpful Paying for Conference Registration Using Waiver Funds guide at www.circlesoflifeconference.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/How-to-Have-Waiver-Funds-Pay-for-Attending-a-Conference-.pdf. You can also talk to the SSC if you have questions.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

For faster delivery, sign up to receive the electronic version of this newsletter and other emails about the CLTS Waiver Program. Go to public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=WIDHS_554. You can also sign up for other Department of Health Services long-term care program emails at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm.

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Helpful resources for families

Deciding Together guide: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02246.htm

Finding Your Way: A Navigation Guide for Wisconsin Families Who Have Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Disabilities: ucedd.waisman.wisc.edu/fyw/

Tips on how to avoid the flu: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/influenza/prevention.htm

Previous issues of *All in for Kids: CLTS Waiver Program*: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akids.htm

NEED HELP?

It is natural for people to have differences of opinion from time to time. People, doing the best they can, may still disagree. Every family has the right to formally appeal a decision about supports and services. To do so, file an appeal with the Division of Hearings and Appeals at doa.wi.gov/Pages/LicensesHearings/DHAWorkandFamilyServicesUnit.aspx. Filing an appeal is not seen as a negative action. It is simply a way to advocate for your family.

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All in for Kids: CLTS Waiver Program is a newsletter published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for children and families in the CLTS Waiver Program.

The CLTS Waiver Program makes Medicaid funding available to support children with substantial limitations due to developmental, physical, or severe emotional disabilities who are living at home or in the community. Funding may be used to support a range of services based on an assessment of the child's and family's specific needs and identified goals or outcomes. For more information, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/index.htm.

Para leer este boletín en español, visite www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akids.htm.

Xav nyeem tsab ntawv xov xwm no ua Lus Mev, mus xyuas www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akids.htm.

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