

All in for Kids

A Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program Family Newsletter

All in for Kids: CLTS Program is a newsletter that helps keep you and your family informed about the CLTS Program. The newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).



Family spotlight: Leah makes history on the court

We're excited to celebrate an incredible young athlete, from Waukesha County, whose hard work, determination, and team spirit helped make history. Meet Leah, a remarkable player in the junior division of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA)—and now a national champion.

In April 2025, Leah and her teammates became the first all-girls wheelchair basketball team to ever win a national championship in the junior division. Starting the tournament ranked sixth, the team powered through a challenging bracket, defeating teams from Chicago, Virginia, Alabama, and New York.

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What makes this achievement even more special? The 2024–25 season was Leah's first full year playing adaptive sports.

Leah joined her wheelchair basketball team in early 2024. With help from the CLTS Program, she attended adaptive basketball camps in both the summers of 2024 and 2025, an opportunity that became a turning point in her development as both a player and a young leader. These camps helped her build strength, sharpen skills, and grow her confidence on and off the court.

Her family shared their deep appreciation for everyone who has supported Leah's journey, including her CLTS support and service coordinator (SSC), Julia:

"Thank you to the CLTS program, her service coordinator, Julia, and many others who helped support her throughout the season and prepare for next season with funding support for wheelchair basketball camp."

We are cheering for Leah as she continues to grow, compete, and inspire. ♦

The CLTS Program wants your family stories and photos!

The All in for Kids newsletter is for families. We want to feature your photos and experiences for other readers to enjoy! You can share things like:

- A positive interaction with the CLTS Program.
- An example of how the CLTS Program has helped your family or child.
- A photo or story of an activity you did with your child.
- A photo of artwork or something else your child has made.

Email your family story or photo to dhsccls@wisconsin.gov with "All in for Kids" in the subject line. You can also send ideas for stories you would like to read in the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you! ♦



Leah pictured proudly at the national championship.



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Staying up to date on vaccines: what families need to know this season

Vaccines play an important role in helping children stay healthy, especially during the fall and winter respiratory virus season. This year, Wisconsin has made it easier for families to get the vaccines they want and need.



In September 2025, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) issued a standing order that allows people to get the COVID-19 vaccine at pharmacies across the state without a prescription. DHS continues to recommend the COVID-19 vaccine for everyone 6 months and older, including children and people who are pregnant. These recommendations align with national medical organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Keeping vaccine information current

Because vaccine guidance can change, it's important for families to rely on trusted, up-to-date sources. To keep your family's vaccine information up to date, you can:

- Talk with your child's health care provider
- Visit dhs.wi.gov for statewide updates
- Ask your SSC for help finding reliable information

How Medicaid helps cover vaccines

All children in the CLTS Program are enrolled in Medicaid, and some families may also have private health insurance. Vaccines remain one of the most effective ways to keep children healthy. Here's what families using Medicaid need to know about vaccine coverage:



Wisconsin Medicaid continues to cover all vaccines recommended for children, including the COVID-19 vaccine for children 6 months and older, at no cost to you.



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Vaccines matter for all families

Some families also have private health insurance in addition to Medicaid. Your health care provider or pharmacy can help you understand how your private insurance covers vaccines and how it works alongside Medicaid. If you have questions, your SSC can help connect you with the right resources.

Staying current on vaccines helps protect your child, your family, and your community. Whether you're preparing for school, seasonal viruses, or new recommendations, you don't have to navigate it alone.

Need more information?

Visit dhs.wi.gov or talk to your child's health care provider or SSC for help understanding vaccine recommendations and coverage options. ♦

Important update for 2026: keep your Medicaid enrollment active to stay in the CLTS Program

To be in the CLTS Program, your child must also enroll in full-benefit Wisconsin Medicaid health care coverage. Beginning in 2026, the CLTS Program will update how it handles enrollment.

Starting next year, if a child's Medicaid health care coverage ends, their CLTS Program enrollment will automatically end too. This is not a new rule (Medicaid has always been required for CLTS Program enrollment) but beginning in 2026, the system will enforce it automatically.

What families need to know

1. You may start receiving more notices in the mail.

Families will begin seeing advance notices when:

- Their child's Medicaid health care coverage is ending.
- Their child's CLTS Program enrollment is scheduled to end because their Medicaid health care coverage is ending.

These notices are sent from different mail centers, so you may receive them at different times.

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2. The first families affected will be those with Medicaid health care coverage ending January 31, 2026.
 - Renewal notices go out 45 days in advance, so families may start receiving notices in December 2025.

What to do if you receive a Medicaid renewal notice

Read the letter right away and complete any required actions to keep your child's Medicaid coverage active. This may include turning in renewal forms or providing updated information. If you receive both a Medicaid notice and a CLTS Program notice, don't worry. There are no extra CLTS Program steps to take. Just complete your Medicaid coverage renewal on time to prevent any interruptions for your child's care.

What happens if Medicaid coverage ends?

- If your child's Medicaid coverage lapses, their CLTS Program enrollment will end on the same date.
- If you renew Medicaid quickly and it reopens without a gap in coverage, then:
 - Medicaid will be reopened back to the date it ended, and
 - CLTS Program enrollment will also automatically reopen on the same date**
 - Your child must still meet functional eligibility requirements for the CLTS Program.

This is most likely to happen when families turn in renewal paperwork late, but Medicaid reopens without a break in coverage. If Medicaid does not reopen back to the original date, you will need to re-enroll in the CLTS Program and your family could experience a gap in CLTS Program supports and services.



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Your role: keep Medicaid coverage active

To stay enrolled in the CLTS Program, your child must remain enrolled in full-benefit Medicaid health care coverage. That means families must:

- Complete the annual Medicaid coverage renewal
- Respond to requests for information
- Keep addresses and contact information up to date
- Read all mail carefully
- Reach out with questions

Your SSC is here to help if you're unsure what a letter means.

Where to get help with Medicaid

- Log in or renew online at access.wi.gov
- Call Member Services: 800-362-3002
- Contact your SSC if you need support or have questions



Bottom line

Keeping Medicaid coverage active is required to keep your child enrolled in the CLTS Program. Read all renewal notices right away, complete any required steps, and reach out if you need help. Your child's health care, and their CLTS Program supports and services, depend on it. ♦♦



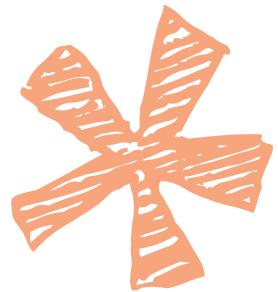
Winter family fun ideas

Some people love to spend time outdoors at this time of year. Others just want to stay inside when the temperature drops. Whichever type you are, here are some activities to try with kids when you are spending time together this winter.

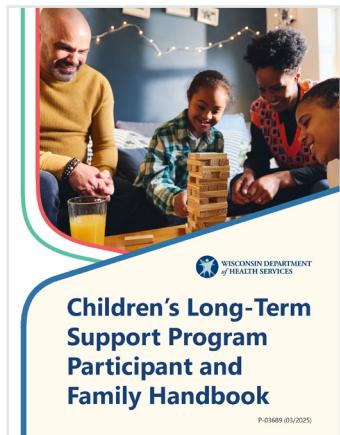
- **Snow painting:** When can you squirt out a painting? When there is snow on the ground! Fill squirt bottles (such as empty mustard or ketchup bottles) with water and food coloring. (Use more food coloring to make it show up better.) Then head outside and let your child squirt a picture or their name onto the snow. This is lots of fun and helps the child practice motor skills. As a bonus, there is no clean-up afterward!

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- **Fort building:** This is a great inside activity when it is just too cold outside! Lay sheets or blankets over chairs or the kitchen table. Add pillows and more blankets inside the fort to make a cozy space. Snuggle up together for a yummy snack, a game, a good book, or a movie!
- **Creative cooking:** Getting kids involved in cooking is a great way for them to have fun and help out at the same time! For a sweet treat, try making chocolate-dipped pretzels: Use the stove or microwave to melt chocolate chips, then dip pretzels. Add colorful sprinkles if you like and wait for the chocolate to cool. This is one time when it is okay for kids to play with their food! ♦



Your CLTS Program Participant and Family Handbook: A guide you can count on



Every family in the CLTS Program has access to a helpful resource designed to support you throughout your journey—the CLTS Program Participant and Family Handbook.

This family-friendly handbook brings together the information you need to understand the program, explore available supports and services, and feel confident as you navigate services that help your child learn, grow, and thrive.

Inside the handbook, you'll find:

- Clear explanations of CLTS Program supports and services
- Information about your child's CLTS Program team and how each member can support your family
- Guidance on life transitions, from early childhood through young adulthood
- Answers to common questions families often have along the way

Whether you are brand new to the CLTS Program or have been enrolled for years, the handbook is a useful tool you can return to again and again.

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How to get your handbook

- Every family enrolled in the CLTS Program receives a printed handbook in the mail.
 - If your child is newly enrolled, you will receive your copy within about a month of enrollment.
- A digital version is always available online so you can access information whenever you need it.
 - dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03689.pdf ✧



Scan me for CLTS
Program handbook

Important update for Katie Beckett Medicaid: new online renewals and MyACCESS app

Families with children on Katie Beckett Medicaid now have new, convenient ways to manage their benefits, including the ability to renew online, report changes, and use the MyACCESS mobile app.

Key changes

- **Renew benefits online:** Families can renew their Katie Beckett Medicaid benefits directly online at access.wi.gov. No need to mail in forms, unless you want to.
- **Report changes online:** Families can report address and contact information changes online at any time at access.wi.gov. No need to contact the Katie Beckett Central Office, unless you want to.
- **MyACCESS app:** For the first time, Katie Beckett Medicaid members can manage benefits on their mobile devices using the official MyACCESS app to view application status, see benefit information, check on upcoming actions you need to take, set reminders, upload documents, and report changes to address and contact information.
- **Benefit Status Tracker:** Families can use the new Benefit Status Tracker through access.wi.gov or MyACCESS for an easy way to see where they are at each step of the application process.



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Support available

For any tech support questions or assistance about access.wi.gov or MyACCESS, members can contact Member Services at 800-362-3002. ♦

If you disagree with a decision in the CLTS Program

It's normal to have differences of opinion from time to time. If you disagree with a decision about your child's support or service in the CLTS Program, their eligibility, or a chosen provider, you have the right to appeal. This means you can formally request that the decision be reviewed by a judge.

If you believe something was denied but you did not receive a Notice of Adverse Action (NOA), you still have the right to receive one. The NOA explains the decision and gives you the right to appeal. If you think you should have received one but didn't, ask your SSC or the agency providing CLTS Program services to send it to you.

To start the appeal process:

Submit a request form or write a letter. Fill out a form to request a hearing or write a letter explaining why you disagree with the decision. Make sure to sign and date the request.

Send that form or letter to the Division of Hearings and Appeals.

The address is:

Division of Hearings and Appeals
P.O. Box 7875
Madison, WI 53707-7875



The Division of Hearings and Appeals will notify you when a date for your fair hearing has been set.

For more information about appeals or to find the form, visit:
doa.wi.gov/RequestAHearing



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It's important to know that filing an appeal is not a bad thing. It's simply a way to work through differences and make sure your child's needs are fully considered. The appeal process is here to support you if you feel a decision about your child's supports and services is not right for your situation. ♦

Helpful resources for families

Mental health and school attendance

The Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health (OCMH) released a fact sheet explaining how mental health challenges can lead to school absences, and how chronic absenteeism can increase anxiety, isolation, and academic stress. Regular attendance supports learning, relationships, and long-term well-being, and schools with strong student services can help families address attendance concerns.

Read the fact sheet here:

[https://children.wi.gov/Documents/ResearchData/OCMH Fact Sheet_October 2025_Absenteeism and Mental Health.pdf](https://children.wi.gov/Documents/ResearchData/OCMH%20Fact%20Sheet%20_October%202025_Absenteeism%20and%20Mental%20Health.pdf)



Office of Children's Mental Health: Supporting Kids with Disabilities Fact Sheet

The Office of Children's Mental Health issued a fact sheet talking about what our state is doing to support children with disabilities. It includes a list of things that policymakers, providers, communities, schools, and parents/caregivers can do to help kids and their families.

Download it here:

[https://children.wi.gov/Documents/ResearchData/OCMH Fact Sheet_July 2024_Supporting Kids with Disabilities.pdf](https://children.wi.gov/Documents/ResearchData/OCMH%20Fact%20Sheet%20_July%202024_Supporting%20Kids%20with%20Disabilities.pdf)



Wisconsin Wayfinder helps connect you to resources

Families often have many questions after learning their child has one or more delays, disabilities, special health care needs, or mental health conditions. Wisconsin has five regional Children's Resource Centers that are devoted to supporting these families. The centers help both families and providers:

- Connect to community resources.
- Learn about and find supports and services.
- Get answers to questions.

You can call the toll-free phone number 877-WiscWay (877-947-2929) to talk to a real person who will connect you with your children's resource guide.

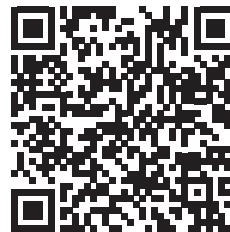
You can go online at dhs.wi.gov/wiscway for more information.

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers Declares 2025 the Year of the Kid

Gov Evers signs bipartisan pro-kid budget: "This is a win for Wisconsin's kids, families, and communities." Gov. Evers enacts 2025-27 budget to do what's best for kids and working families by lowering out-of-pocket costs for child care and more.

View the press release here:

content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/3e7d45c ♦



Join our email list

Sign up to receive the electronic version of this newsletter and other emails about the CLTS Program.

1. Go to dhs.wi.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm.
2. Scroll down to the Children's Long-Term Care Subscription List Topics section.
3. Select CLTS Information for Families and Participants.

Tell your family and friends in the program to sign up as well!

Previous 2025 issues of the All in for Kids: CLTS Program are available at: dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids25.



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

The CLTS 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 dhs.wi.gov/children/index.htm.

Para leer este boletín en español, visite dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids25.

Xav nyem tsab ntawv xov xwm no ua Lus Hmoob, mus xyuas dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids25.

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