

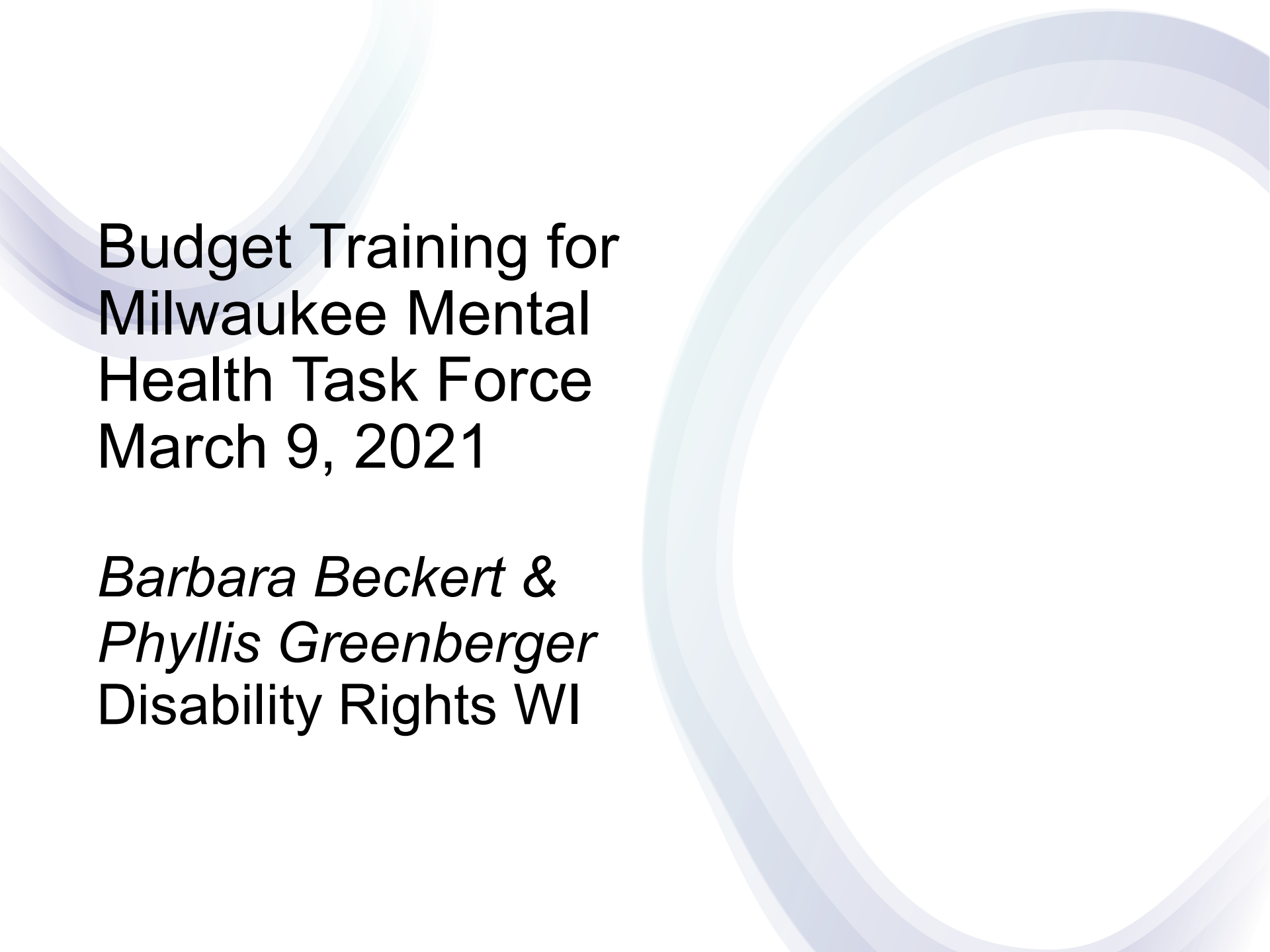


Wisconsin State Budget training for disability advocates



disabilityrights | WISCONSIN





Budget Training for
Milwaukee Mental
Health Task Force
March 9, 2021

*Barbara Beckert &
Phyllis Greenberger*
Disability Rights WI

We will cover:



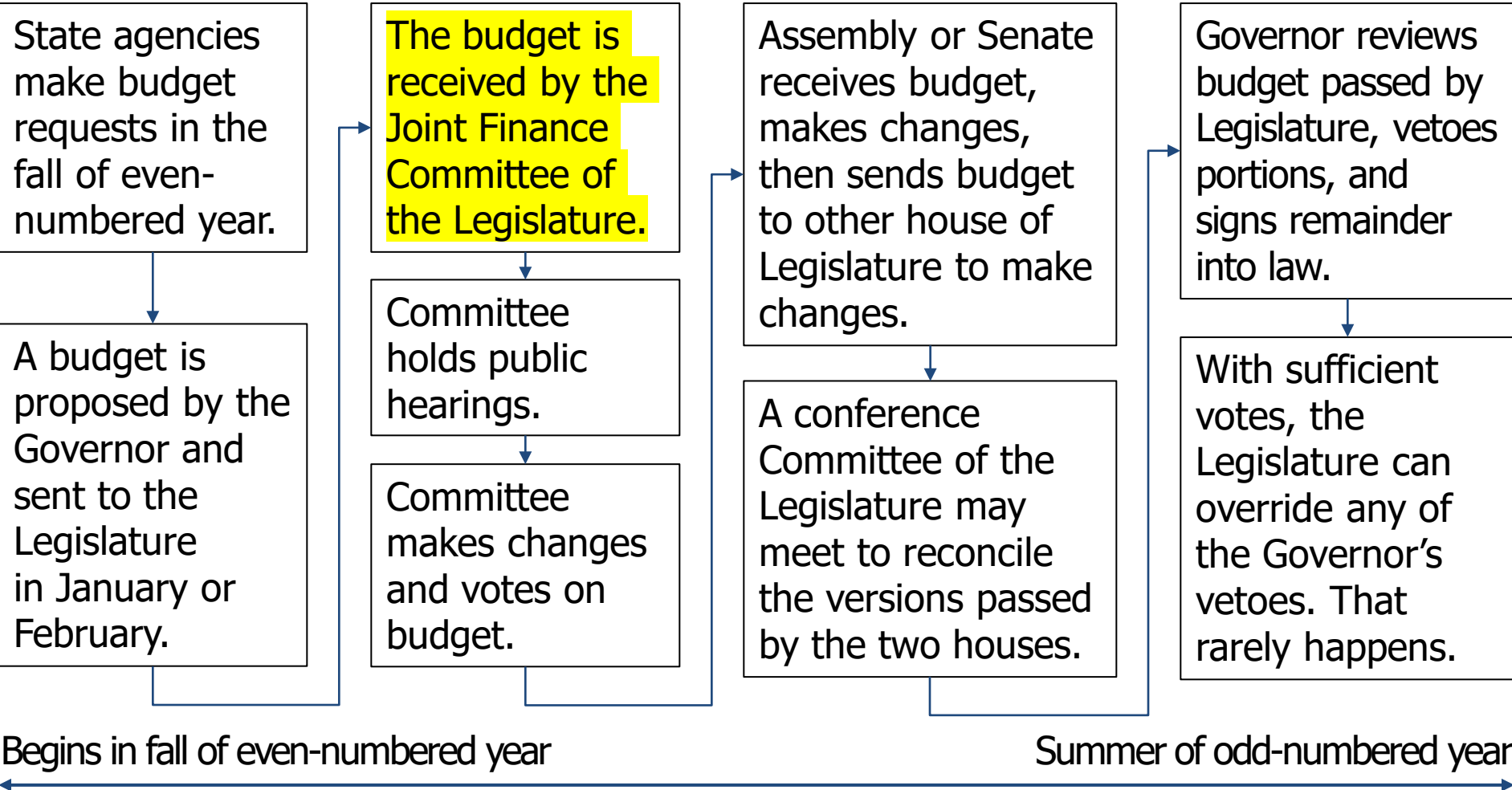
- What's in the Governor's proposed budget
- We will try to cover the following:
 - Mental health
 - Juvenile Justice, Corrections (Adult)
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Transportation
 - Caregiver support
 - Medicaid
 - Children's Long Term Support, Birth to 3, Dental Care, Badgercare expansion, other changes
 - Health care coverage
 - Other issues (Voter registration, Aging, Housing)

Why is the State Budget Important?

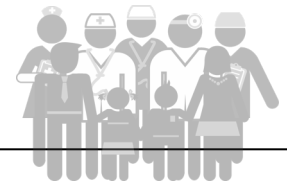


- It is passed every two years. Includes funding programs and services important to people with disabilities (Family Care, CCS, public transit etc.)
- The budget determines how much money will be spent on different state programs and services.
- Some budget changes may impact policy, and change programs without impacting cost.
- Stay informed and share your priorities with policy-makers: budget hearings, Assembly Dems listening sessions, Badger BounceBack Live Sessions

The Budget Process in Wisconsin



Medicaid



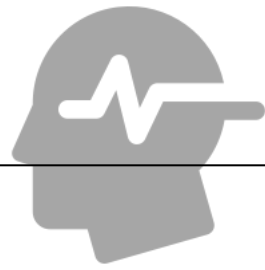
- Expands access to BadgerCare/Medicaid to adults with family incomes no greater than 138% FPL.
- Would cover approximately 90,000 more Wisconsinites, half previously uninsured,
- Saves \$634 million in state funds; draws down \$1.3 billion in federal funds.
- In other states, nearly 30% of people covered by Medicaid expansion have a mental health or substance use disorder.

Mental Health



- Increases Medicaid reimbursement rates for outpatient mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and child-adolescent day treatment psychiatric services
- Establish a behavioral health treatment program for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind
- Child Psychiatry Consultation Program, increasing funding to expand the program statewide.

Mental Health



- Expand the Medicaid Psychosocial Rehabilitation Benefit to allow private providers to bill for these services.
- Increases the number of beds and staff at Mendota Mental Health Institute so individuals who are being treated to become competent to stand trial will spend less time in jail awaiting treatment.

Mental Health



- Establish up to two regional crisis centers, with each offering a crisis urgent care and observation center, a crisis stabilization facility and inpatient psychiatric beds, to improve the crisis response system, and reduce the need for long distance emergency detention transportation.

Mental Health



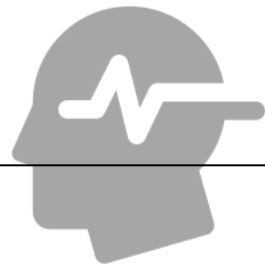
- Establish five Regional Crisis Stabilization facilities to support adults in crisis who seek care voluntarily.
- **Increased funding for the Crisis Intervention Training Grant program** to fund training for law enforcement regarding situations involving mental health crises and de-escalation.

Mental Health



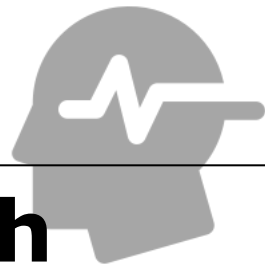
- **Behavioral Health Phone Lines Support for staff** at peer-run respite centers and additional clinicians to staff county crisis lines
- **Emergency Response Collaboration Grant Funds** grants to county and municipal governments to establish collaborative programs between local law enforcement and behavioral healthcare providers

Mental Health



- Milwaukee County Crisis Mobile Team Grant.
- Milwaukee Trauma Response Team expansion
- Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Teams.
- Funding to support a Behavioral Health Bed Tracker

Mental Health



- **Expands the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program** to support veterans who may have a mental health condition or substance use disorder
- **Provides funding for the Farmer Mental Health Assistance program** and creates a Regional Farmer Mental Health Support Program

Substance Use Disorders Treatment



- Room and Board Coverage for Residential Substance Use Disorder treatment.
- Medication Assisted treatment rate increase and Expansion.
- Substance Use Harm Reduction Programs Grant.
- Expands Earned Release Program (ERP).
- Expands Medication Assisted Treatment program (MAT).

Justice Reform



- Expands the Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) program
- Expands the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program.
- Continue the Nonviolent Offender Treatment Diversion Pilot Program

Juvenile Justice



- Raises the age for adult court to 18 and returns 17-year-olds to the juvenile court system
- Increases the minimum age of delinquency from 10 years old to 12 years old,
- Eliminates the Serious Juvenile Offender Program at DOC
- Increases Youth Aids funding
- Eliminates Type 1 juvenile correctional facilities.

Caregiver Task Force Proposals



Aging and disability resource centers (\$7m):

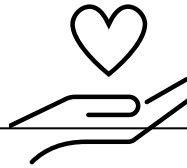
- Expand caregiver support; focus on caregivers of adults with disabilities age 19–59
- Expand tribal aging and disability resource specialist (ADRS) program
- Expand tribal benefit specialist program
- Expand dementia care specialists statewide by providing \$3.5m over biennium (18 for county ADRCs, 7 for tribes)

Family Caregivers



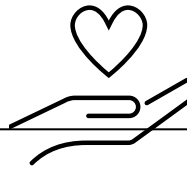
- Allows family caregivers to use Family Medical Leave to care for siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren with serious health conditions.
- Allows hospital patients to designate a caregiver and requires hospitals to provide caregivers instructions on how to care for patients after discharge.

Family Caregivers



- Create a Caregiver Tax Credit - an individual non-refundable income tax caregiver credit for qualified expenses up to \$500.

Family Caregivers



- Create and fund a one-year family caregiver assessment pilot. Use an evidence-based caregiver assessment in certain underserved areas of the state (chosen through grant application) to better identify and meet the needs of family members who are providing care to adults of any age with chronic or acute health conditions.

Family Caregivers



- Establish mandatory initial training requirements for guardians (Family and Guardian Training) and provide funding for the WI DHS to award a grant to an organization with expertise in state guardianship law to develop, administer and conduct the required guardian training in a plain language, web-based, on-line training module that can be accessed for free, with printed versions available for free upon request.



Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support (AFCSP):

- Increases funding by \$1m over biennium (\$500,000/\$500,000)
- Recommends expanding financial eligibility: from \$48,000 to \$55,000
- Was not in the Caregiver Task Force Recommendations, but supports family caregivers of people with dementia

Paid Caregiving Workforce



- Funding to increase direct care and services portion of the capitation rate DHS provides to Family Care MCOs, in recognition of the direct care workforce \$40m 1st year, \$37M 2nd year

note: this funding does not help IRIS participants

Paid Caregiving Workforce



- Increases funding for personal care services (\$40m 1st year, \$37M 2nd year) to support workers who provide medical services through personal care agencies.
(note: this funding does not help IRIS participants who hire workers who do not work for an agency)
- Provides an 11.5%/11.7% increase to nursing home rates, investing \$241m over the biennium

Paid Caregiving Workforce



Earning disregard for direct care workers:

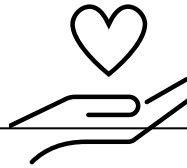
- “Income disregard for Wisconsin Shares”
- No loss of eligibility from income related to caregiving
- \$1.2m provided over biennium

Paid Caregiving Workforce



- Directs DHS to create statewide rate bands to make sure workers are paid sufficiently for providing home and community based long term supports no matter where they work in the state. Rates for services will be established through a process with providers and other stakeholders at the table to make sure rates cover actual costs.

Paid Caregiving Workforce



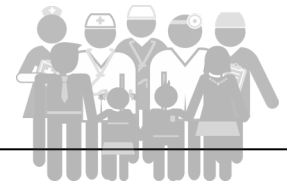
- Creates project positions in Office of Caregiver Quality to conduct entity background checks, screen misconduct reports and conduct field investigations into misconduct allegations in regulated healthcare settings and programs. (*only covers licensed residential settings.*)
- Establishes a pilot to create a home care provider registry that can be used by provider agencies and individuals seeking workers. (*does not provide funding*)

Paid Caregiving Workforce



- Directs DHS to implement a pilot program to develop standardized training for direct support professionals that is focused on person-centered care, allows for portability of training statewide and develops a career ladder for workers. leading to potential certification as a nurse aide. *Does not provide funding.*

Medicaid



- Medicaid Autism Treatment Rate increase.
- Medicaid Speech-Language Pathology Rate Increase
- Medicaid Audiology Rate Increase Agency.
- Medication Assisted Treatment Rate Increase.

Dental Access



- Creates a new license for dental therapists to increase the number of dental providers and dental services provided across the state, especially in regions designated as dental provider shortage areas.
- Increases Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental providers who provide services to Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus patients to increase access to dental services under the Medicaid program.

Children with Disabilities



- Provides funding to ensure that any child who is eligible and applies for the Children's Long-Term Support waiver program receives services.

Children with Disabilities, lead exposure



- Expands Access to the Birth to 3 Program for eligible children who have a positive blood lead test above 5 micrograms per deciliter.
- Provides ongoing funding for the Windows Plus Program, which provides lead-safe renovation to high-risk areas in homes built before 1950 that are occupied by low-income families.



- Increases the rate at which eligible special education costs are reimbursed to 45 percent in FY22 and 50 percent in FY23 and changing the way the money is allocated to ensure school districts receive the percent reimbursement promised by the state. (sum sufficient)
- Increases the High-Cost Special Education aid reimbursement rate for eligible program costs to 40 percent in FY22 and to 60 percent in FY23.

Education



- An increase of \$46.5 million for student mental health and wellness funding across all categories of pupil services (social workers, counselors, psychologists, and nurses), for all school districts that have pupil services expenditures.
- An increase of \$7 million to increase the number and size of school based mental health services grants.

Education



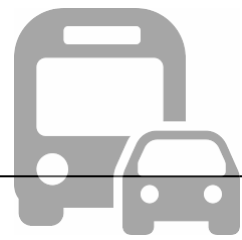
- Requires teachers at private schools participating in a parental choice program or the Special Needs Scholarship program to have a DPI license or permit beginning July 1, 2024;
- Requires information containing the gross reduction in state general aid as a result of private choice programs on property tax bills to increase public awareness of parental choice program costs.

Education



- Caps the number of available seats in the Special Needs Scholarship Program in FY23 using the program's FY22 headcount.
- Special Education Transition Readiness grant increase to help students with disabilities transition into the workforce and postsecondary education.

Transportation



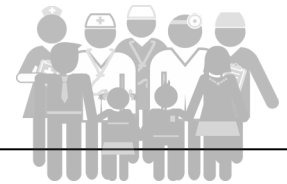
- Increases mass transit operating aids (2.5%), funds transit capital improvement (\$10M per year), Paratransit (2.5% per year), and Specialized Transit.
- Allows local government to collaborate to create and fund cross-jurisdiction transit corridors.
- Provides funding for new DMV service centers in Brown and Dane counties.

Voting



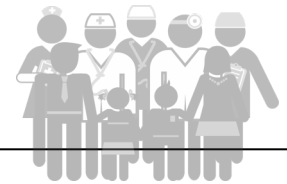
- Automatic Voter Registration (AVR): option to automatically register to vote or update voter registration when getting or renewing a driver's license or state photo ID.
- Restores residency requirements for voting to 10 days prior to an election. The requirement was changed to 28 days in 2020.

Employment



- Transfer existing funding (\$250,000) to expand Project SEARCH.
- Increase Division of Vocational Rehabilitation state match funding. Add one state staff position to continue to support vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with significant disabilities.
- Expand the Wisconsin Supplier Diversity Program to include certifications for disability-owned businesses.

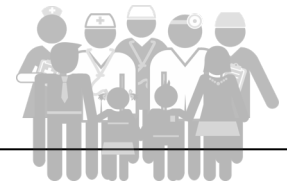
Housing



Increase funding for the homeless prevention programs recommended by the Interagency Council on Homelessness, but at higher funding levels to reflect ongoing needs:

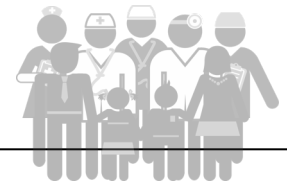
- \$1 million GPR each FY for Homelessness Prevention Program
- \$500,000 GPR each FY for the creation of a new diversion program
- \$700,000 GPR each FY for the State Shelter Subsidy Grant
- \$5 million GPR each FY for the Housing Assistance Program
- \$500,000 TANF each FY for Homeless Case Management Services Grant;
- \$250,000 GPR each FY for Skills Enhancement Grant at DCF
- \$2 million GPR each FY to create a new housing quality standards grant
- \$600,000 GPR each FY for housing navigation grant
- Create a veteran rental assistance program funded at \$1 million GPR in each fiscal year.

Civil Legal Services



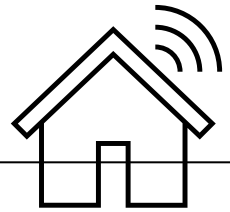
Increases the funding available for civil legal services and legal assistance, which can be used in eviction cases, and includes a statutory language change to allow for eviction-related services for low-income families.

ABLE Savings Accounts



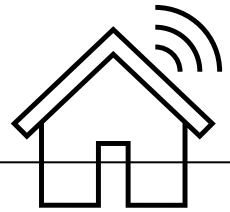
- Implement and administer a qualified Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program either directly or by entering into an agreement with another state or alliance of states.
- The ABLE program provides tax-exempt savings accounts to pay qualified expenses for an individual with disabilities, including education, housing and transportation costs. \$400,000 to Department of Financial Services

Internet connection and access



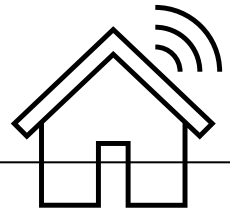
- Creates an Internet assistance program to aid low-income households in paying for monthly Internet subscriptions.
- Provides funding for eligible households to extend existing broadband infrastructure to a residence.

Internet connection and access



- Modify law to require internet service providers to have more detailed maps that show the level of broadband coverage in an area.
- Requires broadband service providers to meet certain service requirements and prohibits a broadband service provider from denying service to residential customers on the basis of race or income.

Internet connection and access



- Increases funding for broadband expansion grants and lets municipalities apply.
- Modifies law to make it easier for municipalities to provide broadband service to residents in broadband "unserved" and "underserved" areas
- Modify law to allow electric cooperatives and utilities to install, maintain or own broadband infrastructure.

Ways to get heard

- Call and email your state senator and state representative with your budget priorities
 - look up your legislators here: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- Attend a JFC hearing and testify on your budget priorities
 - Or E-mail JFC BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Like your Representatives social media pages (Facebook, Twitter) and comment on budget related posts
- March 23th is Disability Advocacy day



*Make your ask

1. Introduce yourself

- Your name, where you live (you want to establish yourself as a constituent), a few details to establish your credibility and connection to your community.

2. Introduce your issue and experience

- Introduce your issue and how your issue impacts people with disabilities. Share your personal experience with your issue.

3. Make your ask

- Make sure to let your legislator know what you want. Do you support what is in the Governor's budget, want to see something added or changed, or want something removed?



Where to find more information on the budget

Budget in Brief: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/2021-23%20Executive%20Budget.aspx>

The Budget Bill:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/proposals/sb111>

Organizational Policy Priorities for the 2021-23 session:

- BPDD: <https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/what-are-the-issues/>
- DRW: <https://disabilityrightswi.org/public-policy/drw-priorities-for-the-2021-2023-biennial-budget/>
- The Arc Wisconsin: <https://arcwi.org/content/uploads/sites/17/2021/02/The-Arc-WI-2021-Policy-Priorities-FINAL-1.pdf>

Contacting Policymakers

- “Who Are My Legislators?” on [Wisconsin State Legislature Home Page](#)
- Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472
- Joint Committee on Finance:
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/committees/joint/2293>

Questions

