

The background features abstract geometric shapes in shades of blue and red. On the left, a solid blue shape curves upwards. On the right, there are overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in various shades of blue and red, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text is centered in the white space between these shapes.

# MHTF State Budget Advocacy Updates April 15, 2021

# Joint Finance Committee Budget Hearings

- ▶ The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee is holding 3 in-person public hearings on the state budget / one virtual hearing.
- ▶ See the [JFC Committee website](#) for details.
- ▶ Each hearing will last from 10 AM - 5 PM. Remaining hearings:
  - Wednesday, April 21, The Hodag Dome, Rhinelander, WI
  - Thursday, April 22, UW-Stout, Menomonie, WI
  - Wednesday, April 28, 2021 Virtual Budget Hearing [\\_](#)
- ▶ [Registration](#) for virtual session begins Mon. 4/19 at 10 AM at <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments/virtual/>
- ▶ Limited to two people per organization, **first come first serve!**

# TIPS ON SHARING YOUR BUDGET PRIORITIES:

## ▶ **Speak at a Joint Finance Committee Budget Hearings**

- Attend a Joint Finance Committee hearing and register to speak, or submit your comments in writing.
- Speakers (virtual and in-person) will have two minutes to speak.
- There is one virtual hearing. You must register in advance – it is limited to 200 people so be ready to go Monday morning!
- Check out the [Joint Finance Committee Public Comment website](#) for details about the hearings.
- If you need disability related accommodations, contact Joe Malkasian at [Joe.Malkasian@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Joe.Malkasian@legis.wisconsin.gov) with your request.
- Be prepared for your 2 minutes! Share your story and explain how this issue relates to your life, or the lives of people you care about.

# Submit Written Comments

- You may submit written comments on the budget at any time on the JFC Committee Public Comment website at: [www.legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments). These comments are downloaded daily so this can be a timely way to share budget priorities.
- You also have the option to email your comments to the committee at [budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov).
- Share your budget priorities with your State Assembly Representative and State Senator. You may email them, or contact their office and ask to schedule a call with your legislator or their staff. To find contact information for your legislators, you can call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472 or use the "Who Are My Legislators?" on [Wisconsin State Legislature Home Page](#).

# Budget Resources

- Survival Coalition's 2021-2023 Governor's Budget Bill Comprehensive Budget Summary. ([View PDF](#))
- DRW Training on the Biennial Budget for Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force: <https://www.milwaukeeemhtf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/MHTF-2021-2023-State-Budget-Training-Presentation-acc.pdf>
- Disability Rights Wisconsin's biennial budget priorities (View PDF [here](#)).
- View [the 2021-2023 Executive Budget in Brief here](#).
- View [the full Budget Bill \(SB 111\) here](#).
- View information about mental health and other budget proposals on [the WI Department of Health Services website](#).
- March 15<sup>th</sup> Virtual Town Hall: Governor Evers' 2021-23 Budget Request: Wisconsin Department of Corrections <https://vimeo.com/524264443>
- 2021 Joint Committee on Finance website with links to Committee Members and Committee meetings: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/committees/joint/2293>
- WisconsinEye provides coverage of budget related press conferences, as well as the budget hearings, agency briefings, and JFC meetings: [Budget 2021 - WisconsinEye \(wiseye.org\)](#) You may need to set up an account.



# MHTF State Budget Priorities



# Medicaid Expansion

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- ▶ Expands access to BadgerCare/Medicaid to adults with family incomes no greater than 138% FPL
- ▶ Would cover approximately 90,000 more Wisconsinites, 50,000 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

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- ▶ Increases Medicaid reimbursement rates for outpatient mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, & child-adolescent day treatment psychiatric services (\$40 million)
- ▶ Establish a behavioral health treatment program for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. The program will develop capacity to provide direct treatment and increase access to culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services. (\$1.9 million)
- ▶ Expand the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program, statewide (now in 57 counties). CPCP provides primary care providers with consultation from a psychiatrist and psychologist on issues such as diagnosis and medication management, as well as referral to other mental health resources.



# Mental Health

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- ▶ **Behavioral Health Phone Lines Support for staff** at peer-run respite centers and additional clinicians to staff county crisis lines (\$2.4 million)
- ▶ **Emergency Response Collaboration Grant Funds** grants to county and municipal governments to establish collaborative programs between local law enforcement and behavioral healthcare providers (\$2.5 million)

## Mental Health

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- ▶ Milwaukee County Crisis Mobile Team Grant. (\$1.7 million)
- ▶ Milwaukee Trauma Response Team expansion (\$900,000)
- ▶ Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Teams. (\$4.5 million)
- ▶ Funding to support a Behavioral Health Bed Tracker (\$150,000)



# Substance Use Disorders Treatment

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- ▶ Room & Board Coverage for Residential Substance Use Disorder treatment (\$6.5 million)
- ▶ Medication Assisted treatment rate increase and Expansion
- ▶ Substance Use Harm Reduction Programs Grants (\$500,000)
- ▶ Expands Earned Release Program (ERP).
- ▶ Expands Medication Assisted Treatment program (MAT) (\$12.4 million)



# Justice Reform

- ▶ Expand the Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) program to meet the need statewide. OARS assists individuals with mental illness to successfully return to their community after release from a correctional setting. (\$2.25M Year 1 and \$3.0M In Year 2)
- ▶ Expand the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program. TAD programs offers treatment as an alternative to incarceration, and significantly reduces both recidivism and costs. Expand TAD eligibility to include people who have a mental health diagnosis, and do not have a substance use disorder. This will allow programs such as veterans courts, mental health courts, and other diversion programs to be funded through the TAD program.

# Youth 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.

# 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.

# Contact Your State Legislators

- ▶ In addition to the Joint Finance Committee, share your budget priorities with your State Senator and Assembly Representative.
- ▶ To find out who your legislators are:
  - ▶ Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472 or
  - ▶ Click on “Who Are My Legislators?” on the [Wisconsin State Legislature Home Page](#)