

Overview of Mental Health Provisions in the 2023 – 2025 State Budget

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This document provides an overview of key mental health provisions in the 2023 - 2025 budget approved by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Evers. For each item, there is a summary of the Governor's proposal, and action taken by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC).

Note: *JFC removed over 540 provisions from Governor Evers' biennial budget in a single motion. Some of these items are listed in the attached document as "Removed from budget consideration pursuant to Joint Finance Motion #10".*

For additional detail and information about other budget provisions:

- [Legislative Fiscal Bureau Summary](#) of DHS budget
- Legislative Fiscal Bureau [Comparative Summary of Budget Recommendations -- Governor and Joint Committee on Finance -- June, 2023 \(by Agency\) \(wisconsin.gov\)](#)
- Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations analysis document: <http://www.survivalcoalitionwi.org/index.php/2023/updates/survivals-budget-analysis/>

Medicaid Cost-to-Continue Estimate

The [MA "cost-to-continue" estimate](#) establishes the program's budget for the upcoming biennium under a scenario in which no changes are made to program benefits, eligibility, or provider reimbursement rates.

Governor: Provided \$1,080,023,800 (\$119,124,000 GPR, \$633,051,500 FED, \$46,004,200 PR, and \$281,844,100 SEG) in 2023-24 and \$631,476,000 (\$261,743,800 GPR, \$443,601,100 FED, -\$59,598,400 PR, and -\$14,270,500 SEG) in 2024-25 to fund projected MA benefits under a cost-to-continue scenario (no program changes to benefits or eligibility)

Joint Finance: Voted to increase funding by \$33,462,300 (-\$5,436,300 GPR, -\$14,402,600 FED, \$36,453,800 PR, and \$16,847,400 SEG) in 2023-24 and decrease funding by \$47,931,500 (-\$21,241,300 GPR, -\$117,035,300 FED, \$97,662,700 PR, and -\$7,317,600 SEG) in 2024-25 to reflect the cost-to-continue re-estimate. (JFC adopted the MA cost-to continue reestimate Alternative A in the [Fiscal Bureau paper #405](#))

Full Medicaid Expansion

Governor: Included in the Governor's budget proposal.

Joint Finance: Removed from budget consideration pursuant to Joint Finance Motion #10

Outpatient Behavioral Health and Day Treatment Reimbursement Rate Increases

Governor: Proposed reimbursement rate increases for outpatient mental health and substance abuse services and for child-adolescent day treatment services.

Joint Finance: Provision not included.

Autism Services Reimbursement Rate Increase

Governor: Proposed an increase to the reimbursement rate for autism treatment services.

Joint Finance: Provision not included.

Community Support Program (CSP)

Governor: Proposed additional funding for MA services provided under the CSP program. This would have shifted the responsibility of paying the nonfederal share of CSP services from counties to the state, and required DHS to provide reimbursement payments to counties for CSP services for both the federal and

nonfederal share of the payment, instead of, under current law, only the federal share.

Joint Finance: Provision not included.

Residential Substance Use Disorder Room and Board Funding

Governor: proposed funding for Medical Assistance to support the room and board costs of MA enrollees receiving residential substance use disorder treatment. Specified that room and board costs for residential substance use disorder treatment is a reimbursable service category under MA.

Joint Finance: Provision not included.

Integrated Stabilization, Intoxication Monitoring, And Detoxification Facility Services

Governor: Provision included in Governor's budget

Joint Finance: Removed from budget consideration in Joint Finance Motion #10

School Based Services Federal Funding

Governor: Provision included in Governor's budget

Joint Finance: Removed from budget consideration in Joint Finance Motion #10

Certified Peer Specialist Services

Governor: Provision included in Governor's budget

Joint Finance: Removed from budget consideration in Joint Finance Motion #10

Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services by Non-County Providers

Governor: Provision included in Governor's budget

Joint Finance: Removed from budget consideration in Joint Finance Motion #10

Crisis Urgent Care and Observation Centers:

Governor: Provided \$64,700 in 2023-24 and \$10,038,500 in 2024-25 and 1.0 position, beginning in 2023-24, for making grants for two sixteen-bed crisis urgent care and observation facilities and for administration of the grant program. The proposal included statutory language to establish the crisis urgent care and observation facility and the grant program.

Joint Finance: Reduced funding by \$64,700 in 2023-24 and \$10,038,500 in 2024-25 and deleted the 1.0 position, to eliminate all funding for DHS under this item as well as the position to administer the program. Delete the statutory language associated with establishing the crisis urgent care and observation facility and the grant program. Create a biennial appropriation (rather than annual appropriation) for making grants for crisis urgent care and observation facilities, but with no funding provided. Provide \$10,000,000 GPR in 2023-24 in the Joint

Committee on Finance program supplements appropriation, for regional crisis urgent care and observation facilities.

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Grants

Governor: Provide \$898,700 in 2023-24 and \$2,105,700 in 2024-25 in a new appropriation for suicide and crisis lifeline grants.

Joint Finance: Provision not included

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) Certification and Grants

Governor: Proposed \$1.7 million in 2024-25 to support psychiatric residential treatment facilities for youth. Required DHS to submit a state plan amendment or waiver to get federal approval, and authorized the department to promulgate needed rules.

Joint Finance: Provision not included

Mental Health Consultation Program

Governor: Provide \$2 million annually to expand consultation services provided by the Medical College of Wisconsin to assist primary care physicians and clinics in providing care to their patients by creating a mental health consultation program and retaining a separate consultation program for addiction medicine. The program would have incorporated a comprehensive set of mental health consultation services, including perinatal, child, adult, geriatric, pain, veteran and general mental health services.

Joint Finance: Provision not included

Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Behavioral Treatment Program

Governor: Proposed providing \$1.9 million GPR in 2024-25 to provide behavioral health treatment services for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind.

Joint Finance: Provision not included

Youth Crisis Stabilization Facility Grants:

Governor: Proposed providing \$996,400 GPR per year to fund youth crisis stabilization grants. The Department currently makes grants to support two youth crisis stabilization facilities, which provide short-term residential stabilization for youth age 17 or younger who are experiencing a mental health crisis. Under this item, the grants would instead be funded through a new GPR appropriation.

Joint Finance: Provision not included

Peer Run Respite Center Funding

Governor: The Governor proposed a change in how the peer-run respite grant for veterans is funded, and eliminated the \$1,200,000 statutory annual limit on grants. Under this item, the grant for the veterans peer-run respite center would be made from the same GPR appropriation that is used to support the grants for the other three peer-run respite centers. Currently, the grant is funded from revenue the mental health institutes receive from charges to counties for the admission of their residents under emergency detention or civil commitment procedures.

Joint Finance: Provision not included

Peer Recovery Center Grants

Governor: Proposed providing \$260,000 annually to be used for grants to support peer recovery centers. Grant funds would be used to support existing peer recovery centers that have received grants from the Department using federal block grant funds, as well as to support two other peer recovery centers in other parts of the state. In 2021, DHS awarded \$30,000 grants for 11 peer recovery centers using federal mental health and substance abuse block grant funds.

Joint Finance: Provision not included

Qualified Treatment Trainee Grants

Governor: Provide \$1,576,600 in 2024-25 for qualified treatment trainee (QTT) grants. A QTT is a person who has earned or is working toward a graduate degree in one of several mental health fields, such as psychology, social work, marriage and family therapy, or nursing, but who has not yet completed supervised practice requirements necessary for professional licensure.

Joint Finance: Provision not included

OARs - Opening Avenues to Reentry Success

Governor: Proposed provide \$3,449,600 GPR in 2023-24 and \$5,346,900 GPR in 2024-25 to allow the program to enroll additional individuals and to provide state funding to replace a portion of the funding that is currently provided by a federal grant, which will expire in 2023-24. The Governor also proposed funding for two DHS positions to support administrative functions associated with expanding the program.

Joint Finance: Approved about half of what the Governor asked for to expand the program. Under the motion that passed JCF, DOC could add roughly 48 participants in FY24 and another 47 participants in FY25; a total increase of 95 budgeted participants over the biennium, ~50% of the identified unserved and eligible population. Expansion could be statewide or focus on increasing service to

eligible and willing individuals in the currently served counties. JFC did not approve the Governor's proposed two staff positions to administer the program.

Office of Children's Mental Health

The Governor proposed an additional 1.0 position program and policy analyst position.

Joint Finance: Provision not included

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Platform

Governor: Provided \$30,000 to maintain a substance use disorder treatment platform, which is an online resource listing available treatment providers, including information on the type of services each provider offers and their location. The platform is already under development and this would provide ongoing funding to maintain the platform.

Joint Finance: Provision not included.

Telemedicine Crisis Response Pilot Program:

Governor: This item was not in the Governor's budget.

Joint Finance: The Committee voted to provide \$2 million GPR in 2023-24 for a telemedicine crisis response pilot program.

Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (MJTC) – Staffing and Funding for Expansion

Governor: An MJTC expansion project, is already underway and expected to be completed in October of 2023. It will add 30 beds for males youth and 20 beds for female youth. The Governor proposed funding for 114.5 positions in 2023-24 and 174.0 positions in 2024-25 to provide position and expenditure authority to expand the capacity of MJTC.

Joint Finance: Provision not included. Did not include funding for any positions.

Contracted Community Services

Governor: Provide \$3,910,700 in 2023-24 and \$7,089,100 in 2024-25 for projected costs of the Division of Care and Treatment Services contracts for community-based mental health services for the treatment and monitoring for its forensic and sexually violent persons programs. The funding in this item pertains to six contracted programs: (a) supervised release services; (b) conditional release services; (c) competency restoration services; (d) outpatient competency

examination; (e) Department of Correction community supervision services; and (f) court liaison services.

Joint Finance: Due to the level of detail, this is not summarized here. See the [LFB Summary](#) for details on JFC action.

Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Teams

Governor: Proposed by the Governor.

Joint Finance: Removed from budget consideration pursuant to Joint Finance Motion #10

Bureau of Assisted Living (BAL) Staff

Governor: Fund 32.0 positions, beginning in 2023-24, to address a backlog of surveys the Bureau of Assisted Living (BAL) conducts in response to complaints, to license new facilities, and to meet its standard of conducting a licensing survey for every facility at least once every two years. BAL is responsible for licensing and surveying community-based residential facilities, some adult family homes, and residential care apartment complexes and certifying substance abuse and mental health treatment programs. The Bureau is currently authorized 75.0 positions, including 49.0 surveyors.

Joint Finance: Provision not included. Instead, direct DHS to submit a plan to the Joint Committee on Finance, within six months of passage of the 2023-25 biennial budget act, to increase licensing fees for assisted living facilities and outpatient mental health clinics to cover the cost of staffing within BAL necessary to ensure adequate protection of the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals, as determined by DHS.

Office for the Promotion of Independent Living Programs

Governor: Proposed providing \$833,000 GPR in 2023-24 and \$850,600 GPR in 2024-25 for the Office for the Promotion of Independent Living Programs, including 1 new rehabilitation specialist for the blind position within OBVI, increase funding for the Telecommunications Assistance Program, and increase funding for interpretation services, and increase funding for WisTech grants for the Independent Living Centers.

Joint Finance: Provision not included.

School Based Mental Health and Special Education Funding in the Department of Public Instruction Budget

Expand categorical aid funding for school mental health staff to and expand to include school counselors, psychologists, and nurses as well as social workers

Governor: Increase of \$36M (\$18 each year of biennium) and broadens the types of school mental health staff that funds can be used for.

Joint Finance: Provision not included.

Community and school collaborative mental health support

Governor: Proposed new comprehensive school mental health aid of \$235.8M (\$117.9M each year of biennium), to replace School Based Mental Health Services Grant

Joint Finance: Provision not included.

Instead, increase School Based Mental Health Services Grant by \$30M (\$15M each year of biennium) to a total of \$50M (\$25M each year of biennium), and convert from competitive grant to per-pupil grant.

Special Education Reimbursement

Governor: Raises the special education reimbursement rate from 31% to 60% and makes the appropriation sum sufficient so school districts are guaranteed to recoup 60% of the funding they spent on students with disabilities.

Joint Finance: Maintains sum certain funding. Increases amount of funding to raise special education reimbursement rate from 31.5% to 33.3%.

Note: Separate legislation ([2023 Wisconsin Act 11](#)) increases the amount of state money for private school vouchers, as much as \$12,368 per student (a 33% increase). The amount of money private schools get for each student is sum sufficient, meaning public dollars will cover actual costs. In contrast, public school funding is sum-certain, meaning a set amount of public dollars will be spent even if actual costs exceed the budgeted amount. Existing state law gradually increases the number of students using public dollars that choice schools may enroll each year, with enrollment limits expiring in 2026. After 2026 there will be no limits on the number of students using public dollars in private schools that can choose not to serve students with disabilities and are not required to report progress or outcomes.

High Cost Special Education Reimbursement

Governor: Increased reimbursement to 60% in 2025 and makes the appropriation sum sufficient so school districts are guaranteed to recoup 60% of the funding they spent on high-cost students with disabilities.

Joint Finance: Maintains sum certain funding. Increases amount of funding to raise high-cost special education reimbursement rate to 45% (year 1) and 50% (year 2).