

CAN Members, thank you for your advocacy these past few months! Here is an update on items of focus for the state's two-year budget. We are pleased that a number of Children's-supported provisions have been included in the budget proposal approved by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Evers. We are grateful to our leaders and staff, members of our Children's Advocacy Network, and our partner organizations, who all helped to elevate these issues. A few highlights:

Wisconsin State Budget

1. Department of Health Services

- a. **Medicaid DSH funding.** Increase to Medicaid budget of \$74 million annually for the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program. Governor Evers provides DHS the authority to establish the amount and parameters for the DSH payment which goes to hospitals, like Children's, with high volumes of Medicaid-covered patients.
- b. **Mental and behavioral health qualified treatment trainee (QTT) program.** Establishes a matching grant program with \$500,000 annually to train pediatric mental and behavioral health care providers.
- c. **Mental and behavioral health provider rate increases.** Directs DHS to increase physician and other mental and behavioral health provider rates for services through existing financial resources.
- d. **Increased dental reimbursement for patients with disabilities.** Increases the reimbursement for dental services provided to patients with disabilities who are covered by Medicaid by \$2.5 million.
- e. **Mental health consultation code.** Maintains Medicaid reimbursement for school-based mental health practitioners to consult with school personnel on student care plans (otherwise set to expire).
- f. **Child Psychiatry Consultation Program (CPCP).** Medical College of Wisconsin led, and Children's supported, the effort to provide an additional \$500,000 to expand the mental and behavioral health physician consultation hotline service to additional Wisconsin counties.
- g. **Funding for lead abatement.** Provides over \$14 million to fund lead abatement throughout Wisconsin.
- h. **Telehealth services.** Includes provider-to-provider consultations and remote patient monitoring as eligible services for Medicaid reimbursement through existing funds.
- i. **Oral health and Seal-a-Smile program.** Increases program funding and provides funding for positions to run these successful prevention programs.
- j. **County crisis intervention services.** Increases funding for county crisis intervention services by \$13.4 million over the two-year period by allowing DHS to partially reimburse counties for services provided to patients covered by Medicaid.

2. Department of Children & Families

- a. **Home visiting services.** \$3 million increase in Family Foundations Home Visiting program budget to expand home visiting services.
- b. **Foster care rate increase.** Increases foster care and kinship care rates by 4% in July 2020 to strengthen parent recruitment and retention.
- c. **Milwaukee County Shared Revenue.** Advocated for the veto of cuts to Milwaukee County that would have resulted in \$14 million reduction to current funding levels for child welfare services.

3. Department of Public Instruction

- a. **School-based mental and behavioral health grants.** Doubles current state funding (\$3.25 million) to \$6.5 million annually.

4. Office of Commissioner of Insurance

- a. **Wisconsin Healthcare Stability Plan.** Maintains the current reinsurance program which helps lower health care premiums.