



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, Deputy Director of Government Affairs

DATE: May 31, 2019

SUBJECT: 2019-2021 State Biennial Budget –Department of Health Services and Department of Children and Families

In regard to items scheduled for consideration by the Joint Committee on Finance on June 4, 2019, please consider the following recommendations of the Wisconsin Counties Association:

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY	
LFB PAPER #	RECOMMENDATION
362	Support Alternative A1 or A2, B2, and C1.
369	Please see attached.
371	Support separate motion on the intake, application, and screening process to hold GPR funding in the JCF supplemental appropriation to allow for stakeholder input.
391	Support Alternative 2.
393	Support Alternative A.1.
395	Support Alternative 1 or 2.
419	Support funding for county income maintenance consortia to perform the functions associated with the 1115 waiver provisions adopted in previous budgets, as well as the FoodShare eligibility changes included in prior state budgets (see attached funding chart).
419	Support a separate motion to increase funding for the Fraud Prevention and Intervention Program by

	\$500,000 annually (\$250,000 GPR and \$250,000 FED).
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205	Support a \$30 million annual increase in the Children and Family Aids allocation, beginning January 2020.
215	Increase state child support funding by \$1.5 million GPR per year in the 2019-21 state budget.

Attached please find rationale for the items listed above. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the WCA office at 608.663.7188.

LFB PAPER	#362	CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES AND REGIONAL CRISIS STABILIZATION FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM
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RECOMMENDATION: Alternative A1 or A2, B2, and C1.

Rationale:

- As identified in the report “Toolkit for Improving Crisis Intervention and Emergency Detention Services,” there are a number of barriers to improving the current crisis response system.
- Implementation of more robust crisis intervention services and the availability of regional crisis stabilization facilities will lead to fewer emergency detentions, thus decreasing the amount of trauma placed on the individual in crisis.
- Allows for a more consistent crisis response on a statewide basis.
- Funding for mental health crisis response is one of the top budget priorities for counties in the health and human services area.

LFB PAPER	#369	NURSING HOME REIMBURSEMENT
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RECOMMENDATION: Please see attached.

Rationale:

- Please see attached.

LFB PAPER

#371

CHILDREN'S LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

Support separate motion on the intake, application, and screening process to hold GPR funding in the JCF supplemental appropriation to allow for stakeholder input.

Rationale:

- In 51 counties, the county department of human/social services is responsible for the intake, application, and screening process. Counties were not included in any discussions with regard to the creation of a statewide contract to perform these functions for the CLTS program and have raised concerns about the proposal. In discussions with other stakeholder groups, it appears they were unaware of the department's proposal as well.
- Counties that are involved in the CompassWisconsin: Threshold pilot project have also raised concerns.
- Counties have concerns regarding the interplay between CLTS and other county-administered programs, most notably Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), if eligibility determination for children's long-term support programs is disconnected from counties.
- Counties would like to enter into discussions with DHS, advocates, and other stakeholders to discuss what is working well in the current system, where improvements could be made in the current system, and how to best serve children and families moving forward, whether the work is ultimately performed by counties or a contracted agency.
- Holding the GPR funding in the JCF's supplemental appropriation will allow the discussions that should have taken place prior to DHS' budget submission to occur.

LFB PAPER **#391** BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM EXPANSION
RECOMMENDATION: **Support Alternative 2.**

Rationale:

- As pointed out by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Governor’s proposal could have a fiscal impact on counties since there is no limit on the amount of annual funding counties may be required to invest in the program beyond the funds provided by other payor sources.
 - Please see attached “Birth to Three Funding” paper outlining county concerns with the current funding level for the Birth to Three program.
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LFB PAPER **#393** DEMENTIA INITIATIVES
RECOMMENDATION: **Support Alternative A.1.**

Rationale:

- The number of older adults in Wisconsin with Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia is expected to increase significantly (double by 2040).
- Early identification of memory issues by dementia care specialists (DCS) leads to earlier intervention and long-term planning, which may help avoid potentially costly, crisis situations.
- Dementia care specialists provide programs that ease symptoms, such as the Language Enriched Exercise Plus Socialization (LEEPS) program, that improves physical fitness and mood, and maintained functional ability.
- DCS provide support to family caregivers, allowing individuals with dementia to remain at home longer than individuals whose family members did not receive support services.
- The DCS program has improved the sustainability of Wisconsin’s long-term care system by reducing the need for public funding.

LFB PAPER **#395** HEALTHY AGING GRANTS

RECOMMENDATION: **Support Alternative 1 or 2.**

Rationale:

- The Wisconsin Institute on Healthy Aging (WIHA) provides valuable services to county Aging and Disability Resources Centers (ADRCs) and county aging units.
 - WIHA maintains the licensure for several programs provided by counties. Absent WIHA’s licensure, ADRCs and county aging units would be unable to provide valuable programming related to falls prevention and diabetes management.
 - WIHA provides valuable services to counties, including data collection and analysis, as well as developing and training leaders and recruiting participants.
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LFB PAPER **#419** FSET AND MA – ADMINISTRATION OF
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND CONTRACT
PROVISIONS

RECOMMENDATION: **Support funding for county income maintenance consortia to perform the functions associated with the 1115 waiver provisions adopted in previous budgets, as well as the FoodShare eligibility changes included in prior state budgets (see attached funding chart).**

Rationale:

- Please see attached.
- Please note that counties have re-estimated their request downward following additional discussions with the State Medicaid Director.

LFB PAPER	#419	FSET AND MA – ADMINISTRATION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND CONTRACT PROVISIONS
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RECOMMENDATION:	Support a separate motion to increase funding for the Fraud Prevention and Intervention Program by \$500,000 annually (\$250,000 GPR and \$250,000 FED).
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Rationale:

- Please see attached.

LFB PAPER	#205	CHILDREN AND FAMILY AIDS FUNDING INCREASE
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RECOMMENDATION:	Support a \$30 million annual increase in the Children and Family Aids allocation, beginning January 2020.
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Rationale:

- Please see attached.
- For more information, please visit <https://wichildwelfarecrisis.wicounties.org>.

LFB PAPER

#215

CHILD SUPPORT STATE OPERATIONS AND LOCAL
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

**Increase state child support funding by
\$1.5 million GPR per year in the 2019-21
state budget.**

Rationale:

- State child support funding has been flat for more than a decade. An additional \$1.5 million of state GPR funding per year is needed to help local agencies keep up with rising caseloads and new state and federal regulations. Increased state funds would draw down a federal match of roughly \$3 million each year.
 - Both the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and the Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association (WCSEA) support this request.
 - An investment in the child support program is an investment in Wisconsin's children. Child support reduces childhood poverty rates and increases child well-being.
 - For every \$1 invested in the program, Wisconsin's child support agencies collect \$5.80.
 - Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding, which could lead to a loss in federal funding.
 - 47 counties have passed a resolution supporting increased funding.
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