

Wisconsin Counties Association
2025-27 State Biennial Budget Summary

July 3, 2025
(Updated: July 7, 2025)

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

- Funding for County Conservation Staffing Grants will provide enough dollars to support the first three positions in every county conservation department at 100%, 70%, and 50% - which increases the investment from 2025 by \$7.5 million over the biennium.
- One-time continued investment of \$7 million to support cost-sharing grants to landowners for the installation of structural practices.
- An additional \$500,000 for County Sustainable Forestry Grants and County Forest Administrator Grants, as well as \$130,000 more for County Forest Wildlife Habitat Grants.
- Reauthorization of \$2 million for Pre-Disaster Flood Resiliency Grants.

AELU items removed from the budget include:

- \$100 million for PFAS testing and remediation.
- Increased fee assessed to CAFO operators.
- Continuation of the Wisconsin Fund.
- Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) replacement or rehabilitation fund continuation – this is also known as the Wisconsin Fund.

Transportation and Public Works

- Routine Maintenance Agreements will have an additional \$30 million over the biennium to help counties provide routine maintenance on the state highway system.
- An increase to General Transportation Aids (GTA) of 3% in the first year of the biennium and another 3% in the second year of the biennium.
- Additional one-time investment in the Local Roads Improvement Program-Supplemental (LRIP-S) of \$100 million.
- Reinvested \$150 million in the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP) with \$30 million set aside to assist local governments with fixing or replacing 6–20-foot bridges that are in poor or worse conditions.
- A 10% increase in Paratransit Aids.

- Fully fund County Forest Road Aids at \$351 per mile.
- \$20 million for Brown County to develop the Port of Green Bay.
- Increase Expressway Policing Aids to \$20 million in the second year of the biennium.

TPW items removed from the budget include:

- Increase to Mass Transit Operating Aids.
- Increases in for the Local Road Improvement Program in both years of the biennium.

General Government

- County Veterans Service Office Grants awarded \$64,600 SEG annually (5% increase).
- Veterans Transportation Grants to Counties received \$100,000 SEG annually to increase funding for counties for transportation to medical facilities for veterans.
- Non-State Local Project Grant Program was awarded \$50 million in earnings interest from the American Rescue Plan Act for a grant program to assist non-state organizations with facility construction.

General items removed from the budget include:

- Collective bargaining including establishing collective bargaining rights for state and local government front-line workers; expansion of collective bargaining rights for municipal and state safety workers, transit employees, and front-line workers to bargain over the employer-paid share of health insurance premiums; elimination of the annual recertification requirement for state and local government bargaining units.
- Reinstatement of prevailing wage
- Broadband expansion grant dollars.
- Reimbursement to counties for special election costs.
- Allowing the clerk to canvas absentee ballots on the day prior to the election.
- The register of deeds recording fee.

Judicial and Public Safety

- Circuit Court Cost Payments awarded \$10 million GPR annually for additional support to counties.
- 43 additional FTE GPR assistant district attorney positions provided across the state.
- Statewide Interoperable Radio Network Replacement project awarded \$79.7 million in 2025-26.

- Grants for WISCOM Upgrades awarded \$10 GPR million in 2025-26 for local governments to upgrade their interoperable radio equipment.

WCA Final Budget Summary

Page 3

July 3, 2025

JPS items removed from the budget include:

- Increase in funding for crime victim services.
- Two additional circuit court branches for Brown County.
- Extension of judicial privacy to federal judges.

Health and Human Services

- \$11.1 million GPR (\$21.6M FED) provided over the biennium to support the replacement of the KIDS child support system with a modern web-based information technology system (THRIVE).
- \$1.8 million GPR in 2025-26 provided for grants to create psychiatric residential treatment facilities in Wisconsin.
- Governor Evers partially vetoed the Juvenile Corrections rates thereby establishing a daily rate for counties of \$501 in fiscal year 2025-26 and \$758 in fiscal year 2026-27.
- \$1.1 million over the biennium to the base contracts for IM agencies by 2% in each year.
- \$3.7 million over the biennium to increase base allocations for county and tribal ADRCs.
- \$7 million over the biennium in a new appropriation for 988 suicide and crisis lifeline grants.
- \$10 million GPR in the supplemental appropriation for crisis urgent care and observation facility grants.
- \$48 million GPR (\$109 FED) over the biennium to increase funding for contractual services and information technology systems costs for the administration of the MA and FoodShare programs.
- \$61.6 million FED child care funds annually to increase Shares child care reimbursement for providers to the 75th market percentile.
- \$2.2 million FED funds to eliminate Shares co-payments for persons under 100% of poverty.
- Medicaid cost-to-continue re-estimate with additional funding of \$1.53 billion (\$559 million GPR) in 2026 and \$2.28 billion (\$779 million GPR) in 2027.
- Re-estimates of TANF funded programs including Kinship Care

HHS items removed from the budget include:

Youth Justice:

- Youth Aids Allocation increase
- Serving 17 year olds in the youth justice system

Child Welfare

- Children and Family Aids Allocation increase
- Assignment of child support for out-of-home placements
- Eligibility expansion for “like-kin” kinship care

Long Term Care

- Funding increase for adult protective services
- Funding increase for the Alzheimer’s Family and Caregiver Support Program
- Funding increase for home delivered meals
- Funding increase for home and Community Based Services

Behavioral Health

- Full state funding for community support programs
- Funding increase for community aids basic county allocations