

CAN Members, thank you for your advocacy these past few months! 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. While there were certain funding provisions we had hoped to see included (including funding for prevention services), all in all, this is a good budget for kids' health and well-being.

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.

## **Wisconsin 2021-23 State Budget Highlights**

### **1. Department of Health Services**

- a. **Medicaid DSH funding.** Increase to Medicaid budget of \$104 million annually for the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program and maintains caps and flexibilities that help hospitals, like Children's, who care for high volumes of Medicaid-covered patients.
- b. **Statewide clinical supervision grant program.** Adds an additional \$250,000 annually to the grant program to help train pediatric mental and behavioral health care providers.
- c. **Mental and behavioral health provider rate increases.** Directs DHS to increase outpatient mental and behavioral health rates by 15% and increase child and adolescent day treatment services reimbursement by 20%.
- d. **Child Psychiatry Consultation Program (CPCP).** Increases funding by \$500,000 in year two of the state budget for the Medical College of Wisconsin/Children's operated child psychiatry consultation program (CPCP) to expand the program to primary care providers in additional counties in Wisconsin.
- e. **Regional mental health crisis funding.** Provides \$10 million in grants for regional crisis response services or facilities.
- f. **Increased reimbursement for dental providers.** Increases the Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental services by 40% which helps support safety net providers, like Children's, in improving access to care.
- g. **Increased Medicaid reimbursement for other critical provider services including emergency department physicians, physical therapists, speech and language pathologists and audiology services.**
- h. **Postpartum coverage.** Extends the time period from the current 60 days to 90 days that individuals will have postpartum Medicaid coverage after the baby's birth. The Governor proposed a full year, which we supported; while this is a welcome improvement, we will continue to advocate with our partners for postpartum coverage to be extended to a full year.

### **2. Department of Children & Families**

- a. **Provides \$300,000 in state budget funding to Children's** to support additional child focused adoption recruiters through the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program to reach more children in Wisconsin to promote positive outcomes for kids in out-of-home care.
- b. **Increases monthly tier one rates from \$254 to \$300 for foster and kin families** to help sustain the valuable relationships they have with children in care.

### **3. Department of Public Instruction**

- a. **School-based mental and behavioral health grants.** Increases grants to schools by \$3.5 million annually (totaling \$10 million annually) to help schools offer mental health services right in the school setting.

### **4. Office of Commissioner of Insurance**

- a. **Wisconsin Healthcare Stability Plan.** Increases funding for reinsurance program which helps lower health care premiums for plans on the Marketplace.