



Wisconsin Department of Health Services

DIVISION OF LONG TERM CARE

BUREAU OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Programs Serving Children with Delays or Disabilities

Description

The Bureau of Children's Services includes several programs that provide services and supports for children with delays or disabilities. The programs assist families to care for their child at home and in the community and prepare for transitioning into adulthood. The Bureau of Children's Services programs are designed and administered to support children and families to live a fulfilling life.

Children may be eligible for one or more programs based on the child's delay or disability, level of care, and assessed need.

The Bureau of Children's Services includes the following programs:

- Birth to 3 Program
- Care4Kids Program
- Children's Community Option Program
- Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver Program
- Katie Beckett Program
- Integrated Employment Initiatives Section

Birth to 3 Program

Description:

The Birth to 3 Program provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers throughout Wisconsin. This program is authorized under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C for Infants and Toddlers, and Chapter DHS 90 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), is the federal administering agency. Wisconsin's county Birth to 3 agencies operate the program at the local level, while the DHS Birth to 3 Program staff provide technical assistance and conduct county program oversight, monitoring, and enforcement activities.

The Birth to 3 Program provides early intervention services to help each child reach developmental outcomes and supports the child's family in meeting their child's unique developmental needs. For some children, the provision of developmental services may improve their delays, for others the delays may be lessened.

Eligibility:

Children eligible for the Birth to 3 Program must:

- Be between birth and 36 months of age
- Have a diagnosed developmental disability or a significant delay of 25% or more for their age, in one or more areas of development:
 - Learning
 - Movement
 - Communication
 - Social/emotional
 - Self-help skills
- Be a Wisconsin resident

The family's income is not a factor in determining eligibility; however, a "parental cost share" is determined. Eligibility is determined by a Birth to 3 Program early intervention team, which includes the child's parent(s). Once a child is determined eligible, services must be provided without delay; therefore, there are no wait lists.

Program Benefits:

Each eligible child has an individualized family service plan (IFSP) developed by the Birth to 3 Program team. The IFSP outlines specific developmental outcomes or goals for the child. Formal and informal supports and services to meet the outcomes are detailed on this plan. Formal services may include:

- Special instruction
- Physical, occupational, or speech therapy
- Transportation
- Family education and counseling
- Assistive technology services and devices
- Audiology
- Health or medical services, in a limited manner

Each eligible child and their family receive service coordination to assist with early intervention services. The service coordinator assists the family to identify and obtain needed services and supports outside the Birth to 3 Program (e.g., medical care, respite, specialized child care). Early intervention services are provided in the child's natural environment (child's home or other community settings where children without delays or disabilities participate), as federally required under IDEA, Part C.

Participants Served: As of the October 1, 2015, annual federal Part C point-in-time count, 5,614 children were enrolled in the Birth to 3 Program. Approximately 13,000 children received services at some point during the year. There is a constant transition of children out of the program at age three, and new children being identified and enrolled through child find activities.

Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/index.htm>

Care4Kids Program

Description:

The Department of Health Services and the Department of Children and Families have partnered to implement Care4Kids, an innovative program designed to offer comprehensive and coordinated health services for children and youth in foster care. The program launched January 1, 2014, in the six Southeastern Wisconsin counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, and Waukesha. Future phases will include children in out-of-home care across the state.

The Care4Kids Program creates a "medical home" team for children in foster care, ensuring that children receive individualized treatment plans in order to address their specific health care needs, including trauma-related care. A "medical home" concept was originally developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Today, a "medical home" means each child has a team that coordinates care to meet a child's needs. These needs can be medical in nature, but also include community-based supports and services. The "medical home" seeks to promote a partnership between team members, the child, and child's family, to ensure the best possible outcomes and best meet the needs of the child. As a result, children in community settings are expected to have improved physical and mental health, improved resiliency, and shorter stays in out-of-home care.

An enrollment specialist provides the child's parents with information regarding the voluntary nature of the program, the parent's right to disenroll at any time, and the Care4Kids benefits. If the parent agrees the child will be enrolled in the program, the Children's Hospital & Health System, Inc. provides the parent and the foster parent with member information.

Key benefits of Care4Kids include:

- Out-of-home care health screen within two business days of entering care
- Comprehensive initial health assessment within 30 days of entering care
- Mental health screening and, if needed, a mental health evaluation
- Medicaid-covered benefits
- Dental and vision care
- Ongoing routine check-ups
- Health care coordinator
- Preferred access to Child Advocacy Centers and Centers of Excellence
- Comprehensive health care plan tailored to the child's individual health needs
- Ongoing health care for an additional 12 months after discharge from out-of-home care

Program Goals:

- **Integrated, Comprehensive Health Service Delivery:** Delivery of coordinated, comprehensive health care, including physical, behavioral, and oral health care tailored to each child's individualized needs.
- **Timely Access:** The needs of the individual child are assessed during an initial health screening, which occurs within two business days of the child entering out-of-home care, followed by a comprehensive health assessment within 30 days of enrollment. Children receive well-child check-ups at recommended frequencies. All other medical, behavioral, mental health, and oral needs are met in a timely manner.
- **High Quality and Flexibility of Care:** Coordinates, organizes, and facilitates care to deliver services in an effective and efficient manner. Care4Kids providers utilize trauma-informed and evidence-informed practices.
- **Transitional Planning and Cross-System Coordination:** Children in out-of-home care receive transitional planning and follow-up services necessary to ensure continuity of health care after achieving permanency or aging out of foster care. The Care4Kids Program coordinates with other systems providing health and developmental services to the child, including county-administered Birth to 3 Program, Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program, and county-funded mental health services.
- **Well-Being Outcomes:** Support children for better health, improved behavior and mental health, and increase in positive permanency outcomes, and enhanced resiliency.

Participants Served: As of October 31, 2015, 2,854 children were enrolled in the Care4Kids Program.

Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/care-4-kids>

Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program

Program Description:

The Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program encompasses the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver that provides services and supports to children with disabilities who have substantial limitations in their daily activities. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is the federal administrative agency. Wisconsin's county waiver agencies operate the program at the local level; while the DHS CLTS Waiver Program staff provide technical assistance, and conduct program oversight, monitoring, and enforcement activities for the county operations.

The CLTS Waiver Program covers allowable services for eligible children residing in home or community settings with the following disabilities:

- Developmental disabilities
- Physical disabilities
- Severe emotional disturbances

CLTS Waiver funding can be used to support a range of community services that assist the child to live successfully at home and in the community. The selected services for the child are based on an individualized assessment completed by the county waiver agency, which identifies the child's needs, in consultation with the child's family. The Individualized Services Plan (ISP) is based on the child's identified needs, and lists the services that will be used to meet the identified needs. Examples of covered services include adaptive aids, communication aids, supportive home care, mentoring, and respite care.

Eligibility Criteria:

A child must meet all eligibility criteria listed below:

- Up to 22 years
- United States citizen or have acceptable immigration status
- Wisconsin resident
- Live at home or in an allowable community setting
- Requires a level of care typically provided at an institutional care facility for developmental disabilities (ICF-DD), nursing home, or psychiatric hospital
- Eligible for Medicaid State Plan services

County CLTS Wait List Placement:

Children who are eligible for the CLTS Waiver Program with an assessed need, may be placed on the wait list for available funding. Children are served on a first-come, first-served basis, as funding becomes available. If the child or family has a situation that meets the DHS crisis criteria, the child's name may be moved to the top of the wait list for enrollment.

Service Planning and Delivery

County Support and Service Coordinators (SSCs) develop a service plan that meets the needs of the child and family. This process includes the following:

- Assessment: A face-to-face meeting with the SSC, parents, child, possibly other family members, friends, and caregivers who know the child well, to talk about the child's abilities, needs, goals, and any supports currently in place.
- Identifying outcomes: During the assessment, the SSC creates a list of desired outcomes to be achieved. This helps determine the types of informal and formal services that may be available.
- ISP: The plan describes the services that the child will receive, including the provider who will deliver the services.

Participants Served: As of December 1, 2015, the total CLTS Waiver Program enrollment was 6,114.

Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/index.htm>

The Children's Community Option Program

Program Description:

Effective January 1, 2016, the Family Support Program funding is merging with the portion of Community Options Program allocated to children to form the Children's Community Options Program (COP). The statutory authority and program requirements for Children's COP are established in [2015 Act 55 46.272](#). The program is administered by the state with General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funding. County human/social service departments operationalize the Children's COP at the local level.

The Children's COP provides supports and services for children who are living at home or in the community who have severe disabilities, including:

- Developmental disabilities
- Physical disabilities
- Severe emotional disturbances

The disability is characterized by the need for individually planned and coordinated care, treatment, or vocational rehabilitation services, which has resulted in substantial limitation on the ability to function in at least two of the following areas:

- Self-care
- Receptive and expressive language
- Learning
- Mobility
- Self-direction

The Children's COP provides flexible funding to support families who need assistance caring for their child with long-term support needs who reside at home or in a community setting. The funding can be used to support a range of different community services that assist the family in caring for their child successfully at home. The services are based on an individualized assessment and service plan that is completed by the county service coordinator in consultation with the child's family.

The assessment identifies the child's needs and the service plan identifies which services will be used to meet the identified needs. Some examples of different services that could be covered include home modifications, home training and parent courses, respite care, vehicle modification, and specialized nutrition and clothing.

Eligibility Criteria:

Child must meet all eligibility criteria listed below:

- Up to 22 years
- Be a resident of the county where the family is applying for Children's COP
- Live at home or in an allowable community setting
- Requires a level of care typically provided at an institutional care facility for developmental disabilities (ICF-DD), nursing home, or psychiatric hospital
- Require a level of care typically provided at an ICF-MR, a nursing home, or a psychiatric hospital

Website: (pending)

The Katie Beckett Program

Program Description:

The Katie Beckett Program provides Wisconsin Medicaid coverage for children living at home who have substantial limitations in multiple daily activities due to one or more of the following:

- Developmental disabilities
- Severe emotional disturbances
- Physical disabilities/chronic medical illnesses

The Katie Beckett Program is included under Wisconsin's State Medicaid Plan. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, is the federal administrative agency. The Katie Beckett Program is administered statewide by the Bureau of Children's Services. The child's parents can contact Katie Beckett Program consultants who are located in six regions in Wisconsin.

The Katie Beckett Program is a special eligibility process that allows certain children with long-term disabilities, mental illness, or complex medical needs, living at home with their families, to obtain a Wisconsin ForwardHealth Medicaid card. Children who are not eligible for Medicaid coverage because their parent's income or assets are too high may be eligible through the Katie Beckett Program. A child's coverage under a private health insurance policy does not affect eligibility for the Katie Beckett Program; however, Medicaid is the payer of last resort.

If a child meets the Katie Beckett Program eligibility criteria, which is determined through the application review process, then the child will receive a ForwardHealth Medicaid card. This card can be used to pay for medically necessary services and equipment covered under the Wisconsin Medicaid Program.

All rules and benefits for card-covered services for the Wisconsin Medicaid Program apply to children who receive their card through the Katie Beckett Program. The Division of Health Care Access and Accountability administers the Medicaid Program and is responsible for ongoing assistance to families regarding allowable benefits and service provider questions.

Eligibility Criteria:

In order to be eligible for the Katie Beckett Program, a child must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

- Under 19 years of age
- Disabled according to standards under the Social Security Act
- United States citizen or have acceptable immigration status
- Wisconsin resident
- Live at home with their family
- Require a level of care at home that is typically provided in a hospital or nursing facility
- Not have income in their name in excess of the current standards for a child living in an institution
- Not incur a home cost of care to the Wisconsin Medicaid Program that exceeds the cost Medicaid would pay if the child resided in an institution.

Participants Served:

As of December 1, 2015: 2,932 participants were enrolled in the Katie Beckett Program.

Katie Beckett Program Website:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/long-term-care-support/services-children/katie-beckett>

Employment Initiatives Section

The Employment Initiatives section provides support across the Division of Long Term Care to support integrated employment outcomes for youth and adults with disabilities. We provide consultation to DHS internal and external partners by sharing evidence-based strategies, tools, and resources to address the barriers to employment and community living. Our team collaborates across other state agencies such as Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Department of Workforce Development/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), and Department of Children and Families (DCF) on the successful transition of youth with disabilities into the adult world with jobs and lives in the community.

Goals:

1. Develop integrated employment outcomes across the Division of Long Term Care, including youth and adults with disabilities, working with staff in each of the applicable program areas:
 - a. Bureau of Children's Services Programs
 - b. Family Care
 - c. IRIS
 - d. Legacy Waiver
2. Focus on youth transitioning into adult long-term care looking at current and anticipated needs and outcomes, as well as continuity of services to sustain progress toward integrated employment.
3. Identify data points that provide information on the impact of employment outcome initiatives across the spectrum of all DHS long term-care programs.
4. Support youth initiatives through grants received by DHS:
 - a. **Project SEARCH's** statewide coordinator is in the BCS. Project SEARCH is a 9-12 month educational and job training program for youth with disabilities. The collaboration includes a local business, school districts, employment provider (job coaching and job development) and DVR. This is a full immersion in a large business where students report to the host business, learn employability skills in the classroom, and job skills while participating in internships throughout the school year.
 - b. **Wisconsin Promise** is one of six sites participating in a national demonstration grant to demonstrate what services and supports are needed to move youth off Social Security Income (SSI) benefits by promoting employment and helping not only the youth, but also their family members to meet their educational and employment goals and help increase their financial self-sufficiency reducing poverty and thus decreasing their reliance on public benefits.
 - c. **Transition Action Guide (TAG)** is an interagency agreement between DHS, DWD, and DPI to support the collaborative efforts in which each is involved to promote integrated employment outcomes for youth transitioning from school to adult life.