

All in for Kids

A CLTS Program Family Newsletter

All in for Kids: CLTS Program is a newsletter created to keep you and your family informed about the supports and services available through the CLTS Program. The newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.



Katie Beckett Medicaid Is Health Insurance for Children With Special Needs

Katie Beckett Medicaid is a way for families to get Medicaid for their child when the family may not normally be eligible because the family's income is too high. Katie Beckett Medicaid provides health care coverage for children who qualify.

Katie Beckett Medicaid helps children who:

- Have complex medical needs.
- Have long-term disabilities.

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- Have mental health needs.
- Live in the community instead of in a hospital or institution.

Katie's Story

The name comes from a child, Katie Beckett, whose family advocated that the best treatments and services for her needs were available out of the hospital. Shortly after Katie was born, she got sick with a viral illness. The family worked with state representatives to create a way to get Medicaid to cover many of Katie's health care needs so she could be cared for at home.

Katie Beckett Medicaid was signed into law in 1981. Since 1981, over 500,000 children have been served in 24 states, where Katie Beckett Medicaid has been put into place.

How do I know my child is eligible?

Children eligible for Katie Beckett Medicaid in Wisconsin must:

- Be under 19 years old.
- Have a disability.
- Be a Wisconsin resident.
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualifying immigrant.
- Live at home, in a foster care setting, or in another eligible community-based setting.
- Meet the requirement based on the functional screen.
- Not have more than \$2,000 in income a month that is in the child's name. Income that is in the child's name includes, but is not limited to:
 - Social Security benefits
 - Child support payments
 - Trust payments

How do I apply for Katie Beckett Medicaid for my child?

All CLTS Program participants have Medicaid. Katie Beckett Medicaid is another way to get Medicaid, and if you are interested in learning about this or applying, here is what you do. You can call the Katie Beckett Line at 888-786-3246, and a Katie Beckett eligibility specialist will help you.

DID YOU KNOW?

What is Medicaid?

In Wisconsin, Medicaid helps people get:

- Health care coverage.
- Long-term care.
- Services for physical and mental health and well-being.

There are many different Medicaid programs. Each program has different requirements to enroll.

What is a functional screen?

A functional screen is a tool that collects information about the child's health, need for supports, and how they play and interact with others. It helps decide if a child is eligible for the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program, Katie Beckett Medicaid, or other similar programs.

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During the first step of the application process, you and a Katie Beckett eligibility specialist will work together to:

- Answer questions.
- Go over the application materials.
- Verify certain documents.
- Complete the functional screen.

Once the application and the functional screen have been completed, a team within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) will review the child's medical information to confirm that the child is eligible for Katie Beckett Medicaid.

After your application has been reviewed, your family will receive a decision in the mail. If your child is approved, a plastic ForwardHealth ID card will be mailed to you. You can use it to get Medicaid-covered services. ❖

COVID-19 Temporary Policies Will End for the CLTS Program

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CLTS Program allowed temporary changes to some policies to help families keep getting CLTS supports and services. The federal government is now ending these temporary policies. Over the next few months, the CLTS Program will start going back to its regular policies.

One example of an area that will change with the ending of the federal flexibilities is redetermining participants' eligibility. During the COVID-19 pandemic, redeterminations for children were paused for the CLTS Program. Starting in June of 2023, families will need to participate in an annual functional screen to make sure they are still eligible for the CLTS Program.

It is important that the support and service coordinator (SSC) has your up-to-date contact information. The SSC will contact your family when your next functional screen will need to be done. The functional screen is completed by the family and the SSC every year.

The SSC will be able to answer your questions about any changes and also help you and your family through the process.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Join the following email list at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=WIDHS_668 to get the latest information about Wisconsin Medicaid's return to its routine operations and regular policies.

Families can also go to the COVID-19: Information for Health Care Programs page on the DHS website at <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-medicaid.htm> for more information.

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Wisconsin Medicaid Renewals

Starting this spring, members of Wisconsin's Medicaid programs will need to renew their enrollment for the first time since March 2020. In March 2023, DHS will send a letter to families with Medicaid that will tell you when you need to renew and what the next steps are to do that. The letter will also tell you when your renewal due date will be over the next year. Members will then receive a renewal packet in the mail about 45 days before their renewal is due. DHS will use the updated information we get from you to determine whether you still meet the rules to stay in your state Medicaid program.

The SSC will be able to answer your questions about any changes and also help you and your family through the process. ❖

Preparing Youth for Employment

Having a job provides many benefits. It gives people an income, a connection to their community, a chance to socialize, and improves mental and physical health.

With the right supports and services, people with disabilities can work in competitive integrated employment (CIE). "Competitive integrated employment" means that a person with a disability can get a job in the community that is available to anyone else and pays the same amount. A CIE job can lead to another position when a worker gains skills or earns a promotion. A few examples include:

- Working at a restaurant, earning money for college, or gaining the skills needed to move up to a team leader position.
- Working in an office doing data entry or scanning documents. This could lead to future work in quality control, computer programming, or data management.
- Preparing youth for employment
- Having a job provides many benefits. It gives people an income, a connection to their community, a chance to socialize, and improves mental and physical health.

FAMILIES CAN APPEAL

It is natural for people to have differences of opinion from time to time. People, doing the best they can, may still disagree. If you disagree with a decision about a support or service in the CLTS program, you have the right to formally appeal a decision about supports and services with the Division of Hearings and Appeals. You can request a hearing using the form at doa.wi.gov/Pages/LicensesHearings/DHAWorkandFamilyServicesUnit.aspx or by letter. Mail your form or letter to: DHA, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Filing an appeal is not seen as a negative action. It is simply one way to work through differences.

Preparing a Child for a Future Job

Children are best prepared for adult life when families have clear expectations of them and are supportive. This is especially true for kids with a disability or special needs. Here are some ways you can help prepare a child for future employment:

- Start when the child is young. Give the child household chores based on their age and development, such as picking up toys, feeding pets, setting the table, or helping prepare a meal.
- If the child masters one chore, give them other chores that use the same skill. For example, sorting laundry and putting away clean dishes both use organizational skills to put similar items in the same place.
- Find chores that help develop the child's physical skills. For example, fine motor control is boosted by tasks like sorting and placing objects (for example, putting away silverware or matching and folding socks). Motor control can be improved by moving and carrying items (such as taking the trash to the outside bin).
- Find chores that use other skills the child needs to practice. For example, if the child struggles with memory, setting the table gives them a chance to practice by remembering where the plate goes, where the silverware is placed, and where the cup can go.

Your expectations about education, job training, and work play a major part in future work for the child. The more you encourage the child to achieve, the more they will. Think big and encourage them!❖

Take the Deciding Together Survey and Share Your Experience

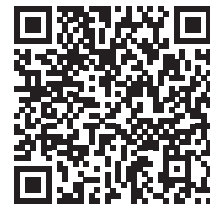
Deciding Together is the team approach used to make decisions about supports and services for the child and your family. In this approach, you are a key team member and the expert in your family's goals, strengths, and needs. The CLTS Program wants to hear about your experience with using Deciding Together with your team.

The CLTS Program looks forward to hearing your feedback!

Details about the Deciding Together process are available at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02246.htm.❖

HOW TO TAKE THE SURVEY

Scan the following QR code on your phone:



Or use this link to the Deciding Together survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7232295/Deciding-Together-Survey-All-in-For-Kids>.

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The 2023 Circles of Life Conference

The Circles of Life Conference is a yearly meeting for families with children who have disabilities. Providers and other professionals who support families and children also go to the conference.

At the conference, you can connect with other families, join educational sessions, and learn about new resources and providers. There are activities for the whole family, including:

- Workshop sessions for youth with disabilities
- Programs for brothers and sisters
- Respite care for young kids
- Family Fun Night and an ice cream social

Conference Details

This year's conference will be held on May 11–12, 2023. You can attend either in person or remotely (online). In order to provide a safe space for families who choose to attend the conference in person, face masks will be required for all planned sessions and events.

Attend in Person

The conference will be held at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. The Wilderness Resort is holding some rooms for conference attendees who want to stay at the hotel. We recommend making hotel reservations early.

Attend Remotely

You can attend remotely (or online) using a smartphone, tablet, or computer. The conference will be live-streamed on May 11–12, 2023. It will also be recorded so that you can watch it later. Check the Circles of Life website at www.circlesoflifeconference.com for more information.

If you are attending remotely, you can choose between two sessions for each workshop.

Register for the Conference

Registration for the conference is available. Instructions are on the Circles of Life website at www.circlesoflifeconference.com. ❖

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

For faster delivery, sign up to receive the electronic version of this newsletter and other emails about the CLTS Program. Families interested in getting the electronic version of this and future newsletters can go to public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=WIDHS_554. You can also sign up for other DHS long-term care program emails at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm.

Feel free to spread the word.

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CLTS Program Family Spotlight: Norah's Story

We heard from one family telling us how the CLTS Program has helped their daughter, Norah, grow.

Clare, Norah's mother, says that the CLTS Program has been a great source of support and helpful information for her daughter and the family as they navigate Norah's care and needs.

"CLTS has been a reminder that we are not alone on this journey, and that there does exist within our society a source of support for those with exceptional needs," says Clare. ❖

The CLTS Program Wants Your Family Stories and Photos!

The All in for Kids newsletter is for families, and we want to feature your photos and experiences for other readers to enjoy! You can share things like:

- A positive interaction with the CLTS Program or an example of how it has helped your family or child.
- A photo or story of an activity you did with your child.
- A photo of artwork or something else your child has made.

Email your family story or photo to dhsclts@dhs.wisconsin.gov with "All in for Kids" in the subject line. You can also send ideas for stories you would like to see in the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you! ❖

New Children and Youth With Special Health Care Needs Calendar Now Available

A new calendar from DHS' Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) is now available.

CYSHCN promotes quality care for young children and teens. They work to make sure kids and teens with special needs:

- Are identified early.
- Receive high quality care that works together.
- Receive access to the support they need with their families.



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The CYSHCN calendar contains important dates and events listed on it. The calendar can be found at: <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03381.pdf>. ❖

Helpful Resources for Families

Everyone 5 years and older needs an updated (bivalent) booster dose to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. Being up to date provides the best protection against severe illness associated with COVID-19. Information about booster doses:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-booster.htm

COVID-19 at-home testing program. Get free rapid COVID-19 tests sent to your home. Learn more at:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/021023.htm>

Latest information about COVID-19, including information about vaccinations for children, vaccine booster doses, and testing:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm

COVID-19 vaccines have been approved for younger children.

Now everyone aged **6 months and older** can get a free COVID-19 vaccination from their health care provider, community-based vaccination clinic, local or tribal health department, or pharmacy. Find out how at:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-get.htm

Previous issues of All in for Kids: CLTS Program:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/family.htm (Scroll down to the Family Newsletter section.)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent COVID-19. You can also help stop its spread by:

- Wearing a mask inside public buildings, on public transportation, or at crowded outdoor gatherings.
- Staying home when feeling sick.
- Getting tested if you have symptoms or after close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

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All in for Kids: CLTS Program is a newsletter published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for children and families in the CLTS Program.

The CLTS Program makes Medicaid funding available to support children with substantial limitations due to developmental, physical, or severe emotional disabilities who are living at home or in the community. Funding may be used to support a range of services based on an assessment of the child's and family's specific needs and identified goals or outcomes. For more information, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/index.htm.

Para leer este boletín en español, visite www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akids22.htm.

Xav nyeem tsab ntawv xov xwm no ua Lus Hmoob, mus xyuas www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akids22.htm.

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