

All in for Kids

A CLTS Program Family Newsletter

All in for Kids: CLTS Program is a newsletter that helps 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.



Helping Kids Keep Their Medicaid Coverage

A new federal law is helping most children under the age of 19 who are on Wisconsin Medicaid keep their health care coverage. Most children can keep their benefits for at least 12 months once enrolled, even if family circumstances change.

Keeping kids covered helps lead to better health outcomes, more stable access to health care providers and services, and less burden on families. Learn more at www.dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/p-03555.

Wisconsin's Medicaid program helps more than 1 million residents get:

- High-quality health care.
- Long-term care.
- Other services that promote physical and mental health and well-being.

What action do families need to take?

Your family should:

- Make sure to read any letters or notices you get because they will have information about keeping your child covered.
- Continue to report any changes in your contact information.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions about your child's health care:

- Contact your county or tribal agency. Find your agency's phone number and address at www.dhs.wi.gov/areaadmin/hsd-programs.htm.
- Covering Wisconsin can give you free, expert help with health insurance for you and your family. Go to WisCovered.com or call 211 (211wisconsin.communityos.org). ❖

Child Care Costs in the Children's Long-Term Support Program

Child care services in the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program can help support child care for children with a disability when their family members are working by:

- Paying for supplemental costs of child care to meet children's exceptional care needs for children under 12 years old.
- Paying the total cost of child care for children over 12 years old when they have aged out of traditional child care and their disability requires this continued child care need.

Helpful definitions for families when your child is under 12 years old:

- Basic cost of care—This is your payment to the child care provider. All families must pay their child care provider the basic cost of care when they are working.

QUALIFYING PROGRAMS

- BadgerCare Plus
- Emergency Services Medicaid
- Family Planning Only Services
- Foster Care Medicaid
- Home and Community-Based Waiver Medicaid
- Institutional Medicaid
- Katie Beckett Medicaid
- Medicaid Purchase Plan
- Medicare Savings Programs
- Special Status Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medicaid
- SSI-Related Medicaid
- Tuberculosis-Related Medicaid
- Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid

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- Supplemental payment—This is a payment the CLTS Program will make to support your child’s exceptional care needs while in child care.

Sometimes, it might be confusing for you and your child care provider to know what your basic cost of care should be when you have child care services in your home. We have updated the instructions that counties follow to help families understand how much they have to pay.

For more information about child care services, talk to the support and service coordinator (SSC) you work with. The CLTS Program may be able to support your child’s exceptional needs by paying your child care provider the supplemental payment.❖

Families Have the Right to Appeal

All children and families in the CLTS Program have rights and responsibilities. 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 with the Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA). It is one way to work through differences when you disagree with a decision.

You can request a hearing using the form at doa.wi.gov/Pages/LicensesHearings/DHAWFSRequestingaHearing.aspx or by sending a signed letter asking for a hearing to:

DHA
PO Box 7875
Madison WI 53707-7875

Hearing requests must include:

- The name of the person requesting a hearing.
- The mailing address of the person requesting a hearing.
- A brief description of why a hearing is needed.
- The county or state agency that took the action or denied the service.

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- A copy of the notice received from the county or agency denying the service.
- The signature of the person requesting a hearing and the date.

What happens at a hearing?

The administrative law judge (ALJ) will lead the hearing by phone.

At the hearing, the ALJ will ask why you disagree with the decision that was made. You have the right to submit documents that support your point of view before the hearing. These documents should be sent to DHA and to the county agency at least 48 hours before the hearing. The addresses are listed on the hearing notice.

Agency staff will also have an opportunity to explain their position and also present documents. The ALJ will then consider all information given and will make a decision at a later time. You'll get the decision in the mail. If you have questions about the appeal process, reach out to the SSC you work with.

(Note: This information is meant to help explain the appeal process. It is not a substitute for the legal advice and assistance of an attorney. This is a general explanation and does not cover all details in the law.)❖

The 2024 Circles of Life Conference: It's a time to learn, connect, and grow!

In its 39th year, Circles of Life is Wisconsin's annual conference for families who have children of any age with disabilities. Providers and other professionals who support families also go to the conference.

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

- Twenty-five family-focused workshops
- Gathering of Youth, a dynamic program for youth with disabilities

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- Family fun night
- Sibshop, a session for siblings of children with disabilities
- Resource vendors
- Spanish interpreters at all sessions

Conference Details

This year's conference will be held on May 16–17, 2024. You can attend either in person or remotely (online). To provide a safe space for families who choose to attend the conference in person, face masks are strongly encouraged for all planned sessions and events.

Attend in Person

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The Holiday Inn Convention Center 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 (online) using a smartphone, tablet, or a computer. Two sessions will be livestreamed over Zoom. The keynote speaker will also be livestreamed. The conference will be recorded so that you can watch other sessions for up to six months after the event.

Register for the Conference

Find more information and registration for the conference at familyvoiceswi.org/circles-of-life-conference/. ❖

The Children's Long-Term Support Council Wants Your Voice

The CLTS Council is looking for more members to join. Your voice is important. The council makes recommendations to the secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) on how the CLTS Program can help children with disabilities and their families. Most council members are parents from diverse backgrounds who have children with disabilities.

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Other council members include advocacy agencies, human service agencies, and provider agencies. The CLTS Council has up to 25 voting members appointed by the secretary of DHS:

- The council meets every three months.
- The council is fully remote but will have an in-person meeting on May 8, 2024, with the option of remote attendance.

Future meeting dates for the CLTS Council include:

- May 8, 2024
- August 14, 2024
- November 13, 2024

To find out more about the council and joining, visit the council's website at www.dhs.wi.gov/cltscouncil/index.htm. ❖

Family Spotlight: Meet Felix!

Felix is 16 years old and loves to go on bike rides. Felix's mom, Anna, said Felix used to have to ride in a bike trailer before the family was able to purchase a tandem e-bike through the CLTS Program.

Felix now gets to increase his independence by safely pedaling himself and enjoying the outdoors with the breeze in his face. The family goes biking every evening during the summer and are excited for the warmer weather in Wisconsin! ❖



The CLTS Program Wants Your Family Stories and Photos!

The All in for Kids newsletter is for families.

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.
- An example of how the CLTS Program has helped your family or child.

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- 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@wisconsin.gov with “All in for Kids” in the subject line. You can also send ideas for stories you would like to read in the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you!❖

Join Our Email List

For faster delivery, sign up to receive the electronic version of this newsletter and other emails about the CLTS Program.

Go to www.dhs.wi.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm and then scroll down and click the CLTS Information for Families and Participants link under the Children's Long-Term Care Subscription List Topics section. Don't forget to tell your family and friends in the program to sign up as well!❖

Wisconsin Wayfinder Helps Connect You to Resources

Families often have many questions after learning their child has one or more delays, disabilities, special health care needs, or mental health conditions. Wisconsin has five Children's Resource Centers that are devoted to supporting these families. The centers help both families and providers.

Each center has children's resource guides who are trained to help you and your family:

- Connect to community resources.
- Learn about and find supports and services.
- Get answers to questions.



You can call the toll-free phone number **877-WiscWay (877-947-2929)** to talk to a live person who will connect you with your children's resource guide.



You can go online at dhs.wi.gov/wiscway/index.htm for more information.❖

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Other Resources for Families

Previous issues of All in for Kids: CLTS Program:

www.dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids23.

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Correction: In the Winter 2023 newsletter of All in for Kids, we incorrectly indicated the CLTS Program purchased an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device for a family. The CLTS Program did not fund this purchase. Rather, the CLTS Program supported the family in receiving this device through other funding.



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.wi.gov/children/index.htm.

Para leer este boletín en español, visite www.dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids24.

Xav nyeem tsab ntawv xov xwm no ua Lus Hmoob, mus xyuas www.dhs.wi.gov/library/collection/AKids24.

For other languages (繁體中文, 简体中文, Deutsch, العربية, русский, 한국어, Tiếng Việt, Deutsch, ພາສາລາວ, Français, Polski, हिंदी, Shqip, Tagalog, Soomaali): 608-266-8560.