

Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2025 Wisconsin Act 13 [2025 Senate Bill 232]

Child Advocacy Centers

BACKGROUND

Prior law required the Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide grants in the amount of \$17,000 in each fiscal year to each of 15 child advocacy centers specified in statute for education, training, medical advice, and quality assurance activities.

2025 WISCONSIN ACT 13

2025 Wisconsin Act 13 removes the specific grant amount of \$17,000 to each child advocacy center, modifies the purposes for which the grant funds may be used, clarifies the titles of certain child advocacy centers listed as a recipient under prior law, and adds two new child advocacy centers as grant recipients.

Specifically, under Act 13, DOJ must award grants¹ to each of the following child advocacy centers to enhance the multidisciplinary response to suspected child maltreatment:

- Care House in Rock County.
- Milwaukee Child Advocacy Center in Milwaukee County.
- Safe Harbor in Dane County.
- Kenosha County Child Advocacy Center in Kenosha County.
- Fox Valley Child Advocacy Center in Outagamie County.
- Stepping Stones in La Crosse County.
- CARE Center in Waukesha County.
- Child Advocacy Center of North Central Wisconsin in Marathon County.
- Chippewa Valley Child Advocacy Center in Eau Claire County.
- Willow Tree Cornerstone Child Advocacy Center in Brown County.
- Racine County Child Advocacy Center in Racine County.
- Walworth County Child Advocacy Center in Walworth County.

¹ Under prior law, DOJ was required to provide grants in the amount of \$17,000 to each of the 15 statutory recipients totaling \$255,000 in each fiscal year using revenue from the justice information system surcharge. Act 13 eliminates any requirement that DOJ award a specific grant amount. 2025 Wisconsin Act 15, the 2025-27 Biennial Budget Act, continues to require that \$255,000 of the surcharge revenue be used for child advocacy center grants each fiscal year and further provides \$2,000,000 annually for grants to child advocacy centers in a new biennial appropriation funded by general purpose revenue. [s. 20.455 (5) (cs) and (ke), Stats.]

- Green County Child Advocacy Center in Green County.
- Marshfield Child Advocacy Center in Wood County.
- Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center in Ozaukee County
- Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center in Sheboygan County.
- Child Advocacy Centers of Wisconsin.

Effective date: July 4, 2025

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

AO:jal