

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Budget Summary						FTE Position Summary				
Fund	2022-23	Governor		2023-25 Change Over		2022-23	Governor		2024-25	
	Adjusted Base	2023-24	2024-25	Base Year Doubled	Amount		%	2023-24	2024-25	Number
GPR	\$504,827,800	\$682,124,500	\$839,206,200	\$511,675,100	50.7%	232.92	244.44	244.44	11.52	4.9%
FED	822,280,400	919,792,700	970,751,600	245,983,500	15.0	409.24	385.72	382.72	- 26.52	- 6.5
PR	120,919,100	123,723,500	123,836,600	5,721,900	2.4	179.51	181.51	181.51	2.00	1.1
SEG	9,274,700	9,274,700	9,274,700	0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N.A.
TOTAL	\$1,457,302,000	\$1,734,915,400	\$1,943,069,100	\$763,380,500	26.2%	821.67	811.67	808.67	- 13.00	- 1.6%

Budget Change Items

TANF and Economic Support

1. TANF AND CCDF-RELATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

This item presents an overview of the Administration's estimates of revenue available to fund economic support and TANF-funded programs in the 2023-25 biennium, and how funding for these programs would be budgeted under the bill. "TANF" refers to the federal temporary assistance for needy families program. "CCDF" refers to the Child Care Development Fund, which is comprised of funding the state receives under the federal Social Security Act and the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

Revenues. The Administration estimates total revenues for TANF-related programs at \$659.0 million in 2023-24 and \$662.6 million in 2024-25. State funding includes \$174.7 million annually consisting of: (a) \$160.4 million GPR (the state's TANF maintenance of effort amount) and a transfer of \$0.7 million GPR for state child care administration; (b) \$4.5 million PR; and (c) \$9.1 million SEG) annually. The program revenue includes the state's share of overpayment recoveries, child support collections that are assigned to the state by public assistance recipients, and child care licensing fees. The segregated revenue is from the utility public benefits fund. Ongoing federal funding is estimated at \$484.2 million in 2023-24 and \$487.9 million in 2024-25. Federal funds include monies from the TANF block grant, the child care development block grant, and recoveries of overpayments to Wisconsin Works (W-2) recipients. The carryover from the 2022-23 ending TANF balance is estimated at \$460.6 million.

The following table summarizes the Governor's recommendations for the Department's TANF- and CCDF-supported programs.

Summary of TANF/CCDF Budget Governor

	2021-22	2022-23	Governor's Budget Total		Change to Base		Item
	Actual	Adjusted Base	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	
Opening Balance (Carryover)	\$360,174,400		\$460,565,500	\$314,802,300			
Revenue							
GPR Appropriations Base Funding	\$160,848,400	\$160,381,400	\$161,070,100	\$161,070,100	\$688,700	\$688,700	
FED -- TANF Block Grant	312,846,000	311,009,600	307,336,800	311,009,600	-3,672,800	0	
FED -- CCDF	158,281,000	163,919,100	172,614,100	172,614,100	8,695,000	8,695,000	
FED -- CCDF & TANF Recoveries	2,240,500	4,287,600	4,287,600	4,287,600	0	0	
PR -- Child Support Collections	2,070,100	2,749,000	2,749,000	2,749,000	0	0	
PR -- Child Care Fees	1,661,300	1,530,800	1,500,000	1,500,000	-30,800	-30,800	27
PR -- Social Services Block Grant	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0	
PR -- Public Assistance Recoveries	38,800	160,600	160,600	160,600	0	0	
SEG -- Public Benefits Fund (SEG)	9,139,700	9,139,700	9,139,700	9,139,700	0	0	
Total Revenues	\$647,225,800	\$653,277,800	\$658,957,900	\$662,630,700	\$5,680,100	\$9,352,900	
Expenditures							
<i>Child Care</i>							
Direct Child Care Services	\$281,913,200	\$383,900,400	\$385,628,800	\$403,573,700	\$1,728,400	\$19,673,300	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Quality Care for Quality Kids	16,032,600	16,683,700	42,850,900	42,647,700	26,167,200	25,964,000	8, 9, 10, 11
State Administration and Licensing	36,802,200	42,877,700	45,957,600	46,043,900	3,079,900	3,166,200	12
<i>Employment Programs</i>							
W-2 Benefits	27,034,100	34,000,000	30,717,200	32,913,100	-3,282,800	-1,086,900	13
W-2 Worker Supplement	437,500	2,700,000	2,700,000	2,700,000	0	0	
W-2 Service Contracts	44,983,800	57,071,200	52,580,300	59,854,900	-4,490,900	2,783,700	14
Transitional/Transform Milwaukee Jobs	5,987,200	9,500,000	11,200,000	11,200,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	15
Children First	425,300	1,140,000	1,140,000	1,140,000	0	0	
<i>Child Welfare Programs</i>							
Kinship Care Benefits & Assessments	24,656,900	31,441,800	43,574,100	53,719,500	12,132,300	22,277,700	16
Child Welfare Safety Services	8,819,200	10,314,300	6,282,400	6,282,400	-4,031,900	-4,031,900	17
Child Welfare Prevention Services	6,789,600	6,789,600	6,789,600	6,789,600	0	0	
Child Abuse Prevention Grant	469,500	500,000	500,000	500,000	0	0	
Substance Abuse Prevention Grant	0	500,000	500,000	500,000	0	0	
<i>Housing Programs</i>							
Emergency Assistance	1,694,100	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	0	0	
Homeless Grants	0	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	18
Case Mgt. Services for Homeless --	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	0	0	
<i>Grant Programs</i>							
Boys & Girls Clubs of America	2,713,800	2,807,000	3,307,000	3,307,000	500,000	500,000	19
GED Test Assistance	229,300	241,300	241,300	241,300	0	0	
Adult Literacy	118,100	118,100	118,100	118,100	0	0	
Legal Services	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	20
Families and Schools Together	199,500	250,000	500,000	500,000	250,000	250,000	21
Jobs for America's Graduates	378,300	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	22
Wisconsin Community Services	371,200	400,000	400,000	400,000	0	0	
Fostering Futures	437,500	560,300	560,300	560,300	0	0	
Offender Reentry	229,200	0	0	0	0	0	
Child Support Debt Reduction	0	0	3,472,000	6,944,000	3,472,000	6,944,000	23
<i>Administrative Support</i>							
Public Assistance and TANF Admin.	15,272,900	17,820,700	19,160,100	19,569,100	1,339,400	1,748,400	24
Local Fraud Prevention	430,600	605,500	605,500	605,500	0	0	

	2021-22	2022-23	Governor's Budget Total		Change to Base		Item
	Actual	Adjusted Base	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	
<i>Funding Transfers to Other Agencies</i>							
DHS -- SSI Caretaker Supplement	18,564,700	18,145,000	12,762,400	12,188,900	-5,382,600	-5,956,100	25
DHS -- Social Services Block Grant	14,653,500	14,653,500	14,653,500	14,653,500	0	0	
DOR -- Earned Income Tax Credit	<u>53,850,000</u>	<u>66,600,000</u>	<u>109,020,000</u>	<u>111,260,000</u>	<u>42,420,000</u>	<u>44,660,000</u>	26
Total Expenditures	\$564,493,800	\$727,620,100	\$804,721,100	\$847,712,500	\$77,101,000	\$120,092,400	
Year-End Closing Balance	\$442,906,400		\$314,802,300	\$129,720,500			

Expenditures. Under the bill, the total amount that would be budgeted for TANF-related programs would be \$804.7 million in 2023-24 and \$847.7 million in 2024-25. These amounts include all funds, and represent an increase from the base budget of \$77.1 million in 2023-24 and an increase of \$120.1 million in 2024-25. Federal law allows the state to carry forward unexpended TANF funding without fiscal year limitation. The projected TANF-related balance at the end of the 2023-25 biennium would be \$129.7 million, which could be carried over into the 2025-27 biennium. Although not funded under the bill, the date by which DCF must submit its evaluation of the offender re-entry program would be extended from June 30, 2023, to June 30, 2024. Finally, the bill retitles TANF allocations for child welfare prevention services.

[Bill Sections: 1058, 1059, 1071, 1072, and 9406(4)]

2. DIRECT CHILD CARE SERVICES -- OVERVIEW

The following table summarizes the Governor's recommended funding that would be allocated, by statute, for direct child care services. The table includes the next four items: (a) the reestimated cost-to-continue base subsidies for the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program; (b) changing Wisconsin Shares authorizations based on full- and part-time authorizations, rather than on an hourly basis; (c) providing an exemption to the Wisconsin Shares income eligibility requirements for direct care workers; and (d) increased funding for tribal child care contracts.

Budget Items	Base Funding	2023-24	2024-25	Change to Base	
				2023-24	2024-25
Wisconsin Shares Reestimate	\$369,045,400	\$316,339,000	\$316,339,000	-\$52,706,400	-\$52,706,400
Part/Full-Time Authorization	0	53,459,800	71,279,700	53,459,800	71,279,700
Direct Care Income Disregard	0	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
County Contracts	14,855,000	14,855,000	14,855,000	0	0
Tribal Contracts	<u>0</u>	<u>375,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>375,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>
Total	\$383,900,400	\$385,628,000	\$403,573,700	\$1,728,400	\$19,673,300

[Bill Section: 1052]

3. DIRECT CHILD CARE -- WISCONSIN SHARES SUBSIDY REESTIMATE

FED	-\$105,412,800
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Governor: Decrease funding for direct child care services by \$52,706,400 annually to reflect estimates of the funding needed to fully support subsidies under the Wisconsin Shares

program in the 2023-25 biennium. Federal TANF and CCDF funding supports Wisconsin Shares subsidies.

The estimate is based on two factors which suggest that subsidy costs in the 2023-25 biennium will be less than the 2022-23 base allocation. First, Wisconsin Shares caseloads as of January, 2023, remain 15% below the pre-pandemic level in January, 2020. Second, current law restricts subsidies from exceeding a provider's market price, and thus Wisconsin Shares issuance has not yet fully reflected the subsidy increase provided under Act 58 (the 2021-23 biennial budget act). DCF estimates that approximately 1,000 providers raised their prices since January, 2022, whereas the subsidy "capped out" at 15,900 providers as of the end of July, 2022. [Under Wisconsin Shares, total reimbursement payments to any provider may not exceed the provider's market price.]

4. DIRECT CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES -- PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME AUTHORIZATIONS

FED	\$124,739,500
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Governor: Provide \$53,459,800 in 2023-24 and \$71,279,700 in 2024-25 to fund the full cost of implementing Wisconsin Shares authorizations based on part-time and full-time authorizations, instead of exact hourly authorizations. Under current practice, authorizations for child care may be for full-time care (between 35 and 50 hours per week) or part-time care (less than 35 hours per week). Additional time may also be authorized, although a child cannot be authorized for more than 75 hours per week.

Federal law requires that subsidy payments reflect generally accepted payment practices of child care providers who serve children who do not receive CCDF subsidies, including payments made based on full- or part-time reservations. The federal Administration for Children and Families conditionally approved the state's federal fiscal years 2022-2024 CCDF plan with the requirement that DCF develop new policies for rate authorizations using part-time and full-time authorizations.

According to DCF, under the new system, authorizations under 21 weekly hours would receive a part-time rate, and authorizations of 21 hours or more would receive a full-time rate. DCF estimates the cost of this change is \$71.3 million on an annualized basis, with the new authorizations beginning October, 2023.

5. DIRECT CHILD CARE -- INCOME DISREGARD FOR DIRECT CARE WORKERS

FED	\$1,200,000
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Governor: Increase funding by \$600,000 annually to support the estimated costs of disregarding up to \$10,000 of income of direct care workers when applying for, and calculating Wisconsin Shares subsidies.

Initial eligibility for the child care subsidy program is limited to families with gross income of no more than 185% of the FPL (\$45,991 for a family of three in 2023). In general, this includes all earned and unearned income of the individual, except: (a) assistance received for participation

in W-2; (b) federal and state earned income tax credits and any federal income tax refund; (c) certain types of loans, in-kind income, and vendor payments; (e) income earned by a dependent child; (f) child support payments, if less than \$1,250 per month; and (g) federal or state student financial aid or any scholarship used for tuition and books. However, under administrative rules, any income from sources that must be disregarded by federal or state law for purposes of determining eligibility for means-tested programs are not counted as income.

The bill contains no statutory changes relating the use of this disregard, as DCF would implement this change as a matter of policy. Although not specified in the bill, the Administration indicates that, for these purposes, a "direct care worker" would include a worker who is primarily paid for caregiving work, such as a personal care worker, home health aide, or certified nursing assistant.

According to DCF, the estimated cost of disregarding up to \$10,000 when calculating child care subsidies for current direct care workers who participate in Wisconsin Shares is \$600,000 annually. However, the income disregard policy would also apply to financial eligibility determinations. Thus, additional funding would be needed to fund the cost for subsidies paid on behalf of new families that otherwise would not be eligible. According to DCF, the fiscal effect of this policy change is indeterminate.

6. DIRECT CHILD CARE SERVICES -- TRIBAL CONTRACTS

FED	\$875,000
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Governor: Provide \$375,000 in 2023-24 and \$500,000 2024-25 to increase funding for tribal child care contracts. Nine of the state's 11 tribes currently have child care contracts with DCF to carry out state child care certification activities, Wisconsin Shares authorizations and administration, and fraud prevention and investigations. The Administration intends to increase each of the existing tribal child care contracts by \$55,555, which could support at least one additional FTE position per tribe.

7. CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

GPR	\$22,396,000
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Governor: Provide \$11,198,000 annually to create a child care partnership grant program, including \$10,000,000 annually to fund grants and \$1,198,000 annually to fund contracted services to administer the program. Create an annual GPR appropriation to fund the grants.

Authorize DHS to award grants to businesses that provide, or wish to provide, child care services for their employees. Specify that a grant may be used to: (a) reserve child care placements for local business employees; (b) pay child care tuition; and (c) fund other costs related to child care. Authorize DCF to promulgate rules to administer the program, including rules to determine eligibility for grants. Require grantees to provide matching funds equal to at least 25% of the amount awarded. Define "business" as any organization or enterprise operated for profit or a nonprofit corporation, and does not include a governmental entity.

[Bill Sections: 442 and 1018]

8. QUALITY CARE FOR QUALITY KIDS -- CHILD CARE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$303,108,700	4.00
FED	<u>38,000,000</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$341,108,700	4.00

Governor: Provide \$100,389,400 (\$81,389,400 GPR and \$19,000,000 FED) in 2023-24 and \$240,719,300 (\$221,719,300 GPR and \$19,000,000 FED) in 2024-25 to establish the Child Care Counts program as a permanent child care quality improvement program. The funding increases in the bill include: (a) \$100,000,000 (\$81,000,000 GPR and \$19,000,000 FED) in 2023-24 and \$240,000,000 (\$221,000,000 GPR and \$19,000,000 FED) in 2024-25 to fund payments to providers; and (b) \$389,400 GPR in 2023-24 and \$719,300 to fund DCF's costs of administering the program, including 4.0 GPR positions, beginning g in 2023-24.

Authorize DCF to establish a program to make monthly payments and monthly per-child payments to certified child care providers, licensed child care centers, and child care programs established or contracted for by a school board. Authorize DCF to promulgate rules to implement the program, including establishing eligibility requirements and payment amounts and setting requirements for how recipients may use the payments. Specify that DCF may promulgate the rules as emergency rules without providing a finding of an emergency.

Repeal an obsolete provision that prohibits DCF from increasing the maximum payment rates for child care providers before June 30, 2013.

The Child Care Counts stabilization payments program provides monthly payments to child care providers to support the costs of maintaining high quality care and to support workforce recruitment and retention. The payment period runs in two, nine-month blocks from August, 2022, through April, 2023, followed by a subsequent nine-month payment program from May, 2023, through January, 2024. Payments for provider costs are determined based on a per child amount by age (for example each full-time infant would increase the payment by \$175) plus an additional amount for each child who: (a) receives Wisconsin Shares; (b) attends during non-standard hours; or (c) participates in a Birth-to-3 child care pilot program. Payments for staff recruitment and retention are determined based on an amount per employee (\$150 for each full-time and \$75 per part-time worker) plus a quality incentive amount for YoungStar participating providers (for example, \$350 per full-time worker for 5-Star providers). The program is funded currently from one-time supplemental and emergency CCDBG funds the state received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

[Bill Sections: 441, 1019, 1027, 1028, 1054, 9106(1)]

9. QUALITY CARE FOR QUALITY KIDS -- WELLPOINT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER

GPR	\$840,000
FED	<u>840,000</u>
Total	\$1,680,000

Governor: Provide \$1,680,000 (\$840,000 GPR and \$840,000 FED) in 2023-24 to fund a one-time grant to the Wellpoint Care Network to establish an early childhood education center in the City of Milwaukee. Create a biennial GPR appropriation for this purpose, and repeal the appropriation effective July 1, 2025.

[Bill Section: 444, 445, 1054, 9106(3), and 9406(2)]

10. QUALITY CARE FOR QUALITY KIDS -- SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING INITIATIVE

FED	\$3,291,200
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Governor: Provide \$1,327,200 in 2023-24 and \$1,964,000 in 2024-25 to fund social emotional learning (SEL) for young children. Although not specified in the bill, the Administration indicates that this item would fund: (a) training and technical assistance to early childhood education programs provided by staff in each of five preschool development regions (\$864,000 in 2023-24 and \$1,152,000 in 2024-25); (b) regional lead staff that provide oversight of program coaches and trainers, support community integration teams, and support data collection and analysis (\$476,700 in 2023-24 and \$635,600 in 2024-25); (c) statewide management staff that would provide coordination and support for SEL and quality improvement, and represent SEL efforts on groups involved in child development issues (\$219,800 in 2023-24 and \$302,600 in 2024-25); and (d) statewide training, materials, an evaluation, technical support, and indirect costs (\$301,700 in 2023-24 and \$408,800 in 2024-25). In addition to the funding increase in the bill, base funding for SEL activities (\$535,000) would also be used to support these costs.

11. QUALITY CARE FOR QUALITY KIDS -- NEW PROVIDER GRANTS

FED	\$10,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$5,000,000 annually to provide grants for pre-licensing support, including start-up costs, to applicants interested in becoming child care providers. Although not specified in the bill, DCF would increase a current pre-licensing contract (currently \$340,000 annually) to offer greater technical assistance and guidance to applicants who wish to become licensed providers. Further, DCF would implement a grant targeted to new providers within the child care counts program to support new providers. The Administration indicates that this would include \$500,000 set aside to fund providers in tribal areas.

12. CHILD CARE -- STATE ADMINISTRATION

Governor: Increase funding by \$3,079,900 (\$688,700 GPR and \$2,391,200 FED) in 2023-24 and \$3,166,200 (\$688,700 GPR and \$2,477,500 FED) in 2024-25 for state administration of child care programs, including the following.

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$1,377,400	0.00
FED	<u>4,868,700</u>	<u>- 1.00</u>
Total	\$6,246,100	- 1.00

Online Licensing. Provide \$994,400 FED in 2023-24 and \$426,900 FED in 2024-25 for the costs of transitioning childcare provider licensing from a paper-based system to an online format.

Child Care Counts IT. Provide \$212,000 FED in 2023-24 and \$424,000 FED in 2023-24 for ongoing maintenance, ad-hoc requests, and other IT changes as needed for the Child Care Counts program.

Child Care Counts Call Center Operations. Provide \$100,000 FED in 2023-24 and \$200,000 FED in 2024-25 to support call center operations assist grant recipients troubleshoot issues with Child Care Counts applications, payments, and regulations.

Child Care Statewide Administration on the Web (CSAW). Increase funding by \$688,700

GPR annually to reflect the transfer of the administrative responsibilities for, and costs of, CSAW from the Department of Health Services to DCF. CSAW is used to create authorizations for families to receive Wisconsin Shares child care subsidies. A corresponding GPR reduction is reflected under "Health Services -- FoodShare and Public Assistance Administration."

CARES. Provide \$126,200 FED in 2023-24 and \$200,400 FED in 2024-25 to support administrative vendor contract costs for the Client Assistance for Re-employment and Economic Support (CARES) system.

Standard Budget Adjustments. Increase CCDF funding by \$958,600 FED in 2023-24 and by \$1,226,200 FED in 2024-25 to reflect standard budget adjustments, including: (a) turnover reduction (-\$376,700 annually); (b) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$968,100 annually); (c) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (-\$102,600 in 2023-24 and -\$128,300 in 2024-25); and (d) a realignment of funding and positions within the Department (-\$146,700 annually). Finally, a funding increase of \$616,500 in 2023-24 and \$909,800 in 2024-25 would be for staff costs associated with health insurance, retirement, and reserves.

[Bill Section: 1053]

13. WISCONSIN WORKS BENEFITS REESTIMATE

FED	- \$4,369,700
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Governor: Reduce funding for Wisconsin Works (W-2) benefits payments by \$3,282,800 in 2023-24 and by \$1,086,900 in 2024-25 to fund projected costs in the 2023-25 biennium. Base funding for W-2 benefits is \$34,000,000, so a total of \$30,717,200 in 2023-24 and \$32,913,100 in 2024-25 in TANF funds would be budgeted for W-2 benefits payments under the bill.

The Administration uses unemployment rates prepared by the National Association for Business Economics in a model that incorporates the relationship between unemployment rates and paid W-2 caseload as the basis for its projections.

[Bill Section: 1042]

14. WISCONSIN WORKS SERVICE CONTRACTS

FED	- \$1,707,200
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Governor: Decrease funding for W-2 contracts by \$4,490,900 in 2023-24 and increase funding by \$2,783,700 in 2024-25 to reflect estimates of funding that DCF will need to support W-2 service contracts in the 2023-25 biennium. Base funding for contracts is \$57,071,200, so a total of \$52,580,300 in 2023-24 and \$59,854,900 in 2024-25 would be budgeted for W-2 agency contracts under the bill. W-2 service contracts fund the costs of subsidized employment placements, work support services, education and training, and agency administration. The funding increase reflects the Administration's projections of W-2 agency caseload increases.

[Bill Section: 1043]

15. TRANSFORM MILWAUKEE AND TRANSITIONAL JOBS

FED	\$3,400,000
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Governor: Provide \$1,700,000 annually to fund projected costs of expanding eligibility for the Transform Milwaukee (TMJ) and Transitional Jobs (TJ) subsidized jobs programs. Repeal two participation qualifications for the programs: (a) the requirement that individuals be unemployed for at least four weeks prior to participating in the program; and (b) the requirement that program participants cannot be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. Instead, specify that applicants need only not have filed for such benefits or did file and were ineligible. DCF estimates an increase of up to 125 participants for each restriction removal.

The target populations for these subsidized job programs include individuals who are at least 18 years old but younger than 25 years old, parents with a child support order, parents under a reunification plan, parents who are ex-offender, and childless older youth under age 25. The programs also target services toward older youth in foster care between the ages of 18 and 24 who were in out-of-home care after age 16. To participate in TMJ, an eligible participant must reside in Milwaukee County, while participants in TJ must reside in a participating county.

[Bill Sections: 1030, 1031, and 1048]

16. KINSHIP CARE

FED	\$34,410,000
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Governor: Provide \$12,132,300 in 2023-24 and \$22,277,700 in 2024-25 to increase funding for monthly kinship care payments. In total, the bill would provide \$43,574,100 in 2023-24 and \$53,719,500 in 2024-25 to fund these payments.

As an alternative to foster care and other out-of-home care placements, monthly kinship care payments are provided by counties, tribes, and DCF (in Milwaukee County) to qualifying adults to support costs of caring for their relative children. The current kinship care rate -- \$300 per child per month -- equals the current Level 1 foster care payment rate.

The funding change in the bill reflects the following three adjustments.

First, decrease funding by \$4,130,700 in 2023-24 and \$4,208,000 in 2024-25 to reflect projected costs of kinship care payments and assessments under current law, based on projected kinship care caseloads and benefit payments.

Second, increase funding by \$8,436,300 in 2023-24 and \$16,824,400 in 2024-25 to fund the estimated costs of modifying the program so that kinship caregivers would receive monthly payment amounts based on the age of the child (similar to monthly payments to foster care parents), and other supplemental payments foster parents currently receive. The Administration's estimates of the cost of these changes are as follows: (a) \$8,264,700 in 2023-24 and \$16,482,300 in 2024-25 to fund age-based level monthly payment rates); (b) \$134,100 in 2023-24 and \$267,400 in 2024-25 to fund sibling exceptional payments; and (c) \$37,500 in 2023-24 and \$74,700 in 2024-25 to fund one-time clothing allowances)

Third, increase funding by \$7,826,700 in 2023-24 and \$9,661,300 in 2024-25 to expand eligibility for kinship care to like-kin relationships, first cousin once-removed, and tribal

designees. [For additional information on these proposals, see Child Welfare.]

[Bill Section: 1056]

17. CHILD WELFARE SAFETY SERVICES

GPR	\$8,063,800
FED	<u>-8,063,800</u>
Total	\$0

Governor: Increase funding for child welfare services in Milwaukee County by \$4,031,900 GPR annually and decrease FED (TANF) funding for child welfare safety services by a corresponding amount.

The Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services is currently budgeted \$3,637,880 FED to contract with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin-Community Service and Wellpoint Care Network, and a network other providers that offer intensive, in-home services for families. Federal law limits the use of TANF funding for these services to no more than four-month periods for families who are at risk of having their children removed from the home. Further, federal law prevents states from funding certain services, such as medical services, with TANF funds. By funding these intensive, in-home services with GPR rather than TANF, these current limitations on program services would not apply. TANF funding of \$394,020 that supports child welfare intake services in Milwaukee County would also be replaced with GPR as part of this item.

[Bill Section: 1057]

18. HOMELESS CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES GRANTS

FED	\$1,000,000
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Governor: Increase, from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 annually, funding for grants to shelter facilities to provide intensive case management services to homeless families. Funding for these services is budgeted in DCF and transferred to the Department of Administration (DOA), which administers the program.

Current law authorizes DOA to award up to 10 grants of up to \$50,000 each to any shelter program. Grantees may use these funds to provide case management services, including: (a) services related to financial management; (b) employment-related services; (c) services intended to ensure continuation of school enrollment for children; and (d) services related to the enrollment of unemployed or under-employed parents in the FoodShare employment and training program or the Wisconsin Works program. For additional information, see "Administration -- Housing and Homelessness."

[Bill Section: 1045]

19. BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS - GPR APPROPRIATION

GPR	\$2,600,000
FED	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total	\$3,600,000

Governor: Provide \$1,800,000 (\$1,300,000 GPR and \$500,000 FED) annually to increase a grant DCF provides to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Wisconsin. Create an annual GPR appropriation for this purpose.

Although not specified in the bill, the Administration indicates that the TANF funding

increase would support the Wisconsin After Three program, an after-school program designed to improve social, academic, and employment skills of low-income youth through tutoring in math and English, study habits, and exposure to career options and role models. The GPR funding is intended to support mental health and substance abuse prevention services. DCF indicates that that approximately 40% of program participants would not be meet TANF eligibility requirements, and therefore state funding is needed to provide services that cannot be funded with TANF.

[Bill Sections: 443, 1040, and 1059]

20. CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

FED	\$1,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$500,000 annually to increase, from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, annual funding DCF provides to the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, Inc. (WisTAF) to distribute grants to programs that provide legal services in certain civil matters.

Modify the program to: (a) permit grant recipients to use funding to provide eligible individuals civil legal services related to evictions; (b) repeal a provision that establishes a \$75,000 annual maximum award amount any program can receive in a year; and (c) repeal provisions that authorizes DCF to identify underspending in the federal block grant aids appropriation for TANF and provide up to \$100,000 of such funds to WisTAF under certain conditions, including that the funding be matched by private donations. [DCF indicates it does not currently make grants described under (c), as DCF would be required to underspend the statutory TANF allocations for other programs.]

WisTAF is a nonprofit organization established by the Wisconsin Supreme Court that provides grants to civil legal aid organizations that increase access to legal services. These grants may not be used for litigation against the state and, under current law, and may only be used to support specific civil legal services (related to domestic abuse, sexual abuse, or restraining orders for certain at-risk elderly and disabled individuals) for TANF-eligible individuals with household income less than 200% of the federal poverty level (\$49,720 per year for a family of three in 2023).

[Bill Sections: 1032 thru 1038, and 1047]

21. FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER

FED	\$500,000
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Governor: Provide \$250,000 annually to increase funding for the families and schools together (FAST) program from \$250,000 to \$500,000 annually. Specify that the additional funding would be distributed only if the recipient provides matching funds.

FAST is a prevention/early intervention program for elementary school-aged children that connects schools, families and communities in five elementary schools in Milwaukee Public Schools selected by DCF. Parents participate in monthly group meetings over a period of eight weeks to enhance family functioning, strengthen infant or scholastic development, and prevent substance abuse and delinquency.

[Bill Section: 1044]

22. JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES PROGRAM

FED	\$1,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$500,000 annually to expand the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program to up to five additional schools in rural and urban areas of the state. Total funding for the program would increase from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 annually, beginning in 2023-24.

JAG is a state-based national nonprofit organization that assists youth in reaching economic and academic success. Services involve classroom instruction, adult mentoring, leadership development, guidance and counseling, job and postsecondary education placement services, links to community services, and 12-month follow-up services. In 2020-21, the JAG program served 290 students (116 of whom were funded through DCF) in Chippewa, Clark, Dane, Jackson, Marathon, Milwaukee, Monroe, and Rock Counties.

[Bill Section: 1049]

23. CHILD SUPPORT DEBT REDUCTION PROGRAM

FED	\$10,416,000
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Governor: Create a new statutory TANF allocation and provide \$3,472,000 in 2023-24 and \$6,944,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 to support a new child support debt reduction program. Direct DCF to promulgate rules to implement the program, including how the debt reduction would be apportioned among multiple child support orders.

Specify that a noncustodial parent would qualify if all of the following apply: (a) the noncustodial parent completes an eligible employment program, as defined by DCF in its rules; and (b) the custodial parent agrees to reduce child support debt owed up to the amount of the benefit paid. Provide that a noncustodial parent may not receive debt reduction more than once in a 12-month period.

[Bill Sections: 1050, 1069, 9106(4) and 9406(3)]

24. STATE ADMINISTRATION OF WISCONSIN WORKS AND OTHER RELATED TANF PROGRAMS

FED	\$3,087,800
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Governor: Increase funding by \$1,339,400 in 2023-24 and \$1,748,400 in 2024-25 to support the costs of administering TANF-related programs, including the following.

BRITS. Provide one-time funding of \$118,300 in 2023-24 and \$322,900 in 2024-25 for enhancements and system upgrades for the Benefit Recovery Investigation Tracking System (BRITS). BRITS is an IT system used by DCF, DHS, and county income maintenance staff to assist in the recovery of overpayments made under several public assistance programs. The program became operational in 2017, and additional features to the system are in development.

HOPE. Provide \$187,200 annually to support a contracted position to manage implementation of a new Housing, Opportunity, Planning, and Empowerment (HOPE) program, DCF indicates that the program would provide financial literacy and empowerment services to families receiving Wisconsin Works benefits.

eWiSACWIS. Provide one-time funding of \$268,800 in each year of the biennium to support the vendor contract to develop mobile solutions and other advancements to the Wisconsin statewide automated child welfare information system (eWiSACWIS).

CARES. Provide \$199,200 in 2023-24 and \$316,400 in 2024-25 to support administrative vendor contract costs for the Client Assistance for Re-employment and Economic Support (CARES) system.

Homeless Case Management Services. Provide \$14,900 in 2023-24 and \$36,600 in 2024-25 to support staffing costs for the homeless case management services grant program.

Standard Budget Adjustments. Increase TANF funding by \$551,000 in 2023-24 and by \$616,500 in 2024-25 to reflect standard budget adjustments, including: (a) turnover reduction (-\$127,500 annually); (b) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$428,100 annually); and (c) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (\$22,300 in 2023-24 and \$11,800 in 2024-25). Finally, a funding increase of \$228,100 in 2023-24 and \$304,100 in 2024-25 would be for staff costs associated with health insurance, retirement, and reserves.

[Bill Section: 1046]

25. CARETAKER SUPPLEMENT

FED	- \$11,338,700
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Governor: Reduce funding by \$5,382,600 in 2023-24 and \$5,956,100 in 2024-25 to reflect a reestimate of TANF-supported program costs for the caretaker supplement program, a program administered by the Department of Health Services that provides monthly cash payments to individuals who receive supplemental security income (SSI) payments with dependent children. Under the program, in addition to receiving state and federal SSI benefit payments, SSI recipients with dependent children receive a caretaker supplement of \$250 per month for the first child and \$150 per month for each additional child.

Base TANF funding budgeted in DCF for benefits and administration of the caretaker supplement is \$18,145,000. DHS funds caretaker supplement payments with a combination of GPR and TANF transferred from DCF. The GPR budgeted for payments is provided to enable the state to continue to meet federal SSI maintenance of effort requirements.

Under the bill, a total of \$12,762,400 in 2023-24 and \$12,188,900 in 2024-25, funded from TANF, would be budgeted to fund caretaker supplement payments and program administration costs.

[Bill Section: 1055]

26. EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

FED	\$87,080,000
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Governor: Increase funding for the refundable portion of the earned income tax credit by \$42,420,000 in 2023-24 and \$44,660,000 in 2024-25. The funding would support modifications to the tax credit, which would increase the amounts qualifying individuals could claim. [See "General

Fund Taxes -- Refundable Tax Credits and Other Payments."]

Under the bill, the total TANF funding that would be budgeted to fund the refundable portion of the earned income tax credit would increase from \$66,600,000 to \$109,020,000 in 2023-24 and \$111,260,000 in 2024-25.

[Bill Section: 1061]

27. SKILLS ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

GPR	\$500,000
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Governor: Increase funding for skills enhancement grants by \$250,000 annually. Base funding for the program is \$250,000, so \$500,000 would be budgeted annually for DCF to provide as grants to community action agencies (CAAs).

CAAs use grant funds to assist eligible persons overcome barriers to employment and education, including access to transportation, child care, career counseling, job placement assistance, and financial support for education and training. These services are limited to individuals who work at least 20 hours per week and whose earned income is at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level (\$37,290 for a family of three in 2023).

28. CHILD CARE FEE REVENUE REESTIMATE

FED	\$61,600
PR	- 61,600
Total	\$0

Governor: Reduce child care licensing fee revenue (PR) by \$30,800 annually to reflect estimates of child care licensing fee revenue to support program costs. Further, increase funding from the TANF block grant (FED) for TANF-related programs in a corresponding amount. This reestimate of program revenue and reallocation of TANF is reflected as: (a) a reduction in PR expenditures, with corresponding FED increases, for administrative standard budget adjustments of \$112,200 in 2023-24 and \$97,500 in 2024-25; and (b) an increase of \$81,400 PR in 2023-24 and \$66,700 PR in 2024-25 budgeted for program administration (supplies and services), with corresponding decreases in federal spending.

29. TANF ALLOCATIONS

Governor: Redefine "allocate" to mean, with respect to any of the programs listed in the statutory schedule of TANF-funded programs that fund a contract for services, to designate an amount of money equal to the amount under the contract that DCF is obligated to pay.

According to DCF, contract vendors often bill for the final month or quarter after services are performed and after the end of the fiscal year. This has the effect of the state budget system accounting for the previous year's TANF expenditures at the beginning of the next fiscal year. As a result, the TANF allocation is underspent in the first year and overspent in the second.

With the proposed change, the timing of expenditures would not affect the allocations specified in the statutory schedule. DCF could contract to spend the exact amounts each fiscal year

without underspending caused by end of year billing cycles. Current law provisions requiring DCF to seek permission from the Joint Committee on Finance in order to reallocate funding between programs would continue to apply.

[Bill Section: 1041]

Child Welfare

1. DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

GPR	\$40,434,600
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Governor: Provide \$20,217,300 annually to increase grant funding for domestic abuse services.

First, create a new program, the Living Independently through Financial Empowerment (LIFE) program, to provide assistance to survivors of domestic abuse. Create an appropriation for the program, and authorize DCF to allocate up to \$14,000,000 annually to fund the LIFE program. Specify that DCF may contract with a Wisconsin Works agency to administer the program.

Second, provide the remaining \$6,217,300 per year to increase grant funding budgeted under the domestic abuse grant program DCF currently administers. Under current law, DCF provides grant funding to nonprofit organizations and public agencies that provide shelter, advocacy, counseling, 24-hour phone assistance, and community education related to domestic abuse. Under the bill, total annual funding for this grant program would increase from \$12,434,600 to \$18,651,900. Of this funding, the statutes currently require grants for specific purposes totaling \$1,648,900.

[Bill Sections: 428 and 1039]

2. INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$33,163,400	1.00
FED	<u>2,671,400</u>	<u>1.00</u>
Total	\$35,834,800	2.00

Governor: Provide \$17,889,000 (\$16,567,500 GPR and \$1,321,500 FED) in 2023-24 and \$17,945,800 (\$16,595,900 GPR and \$1,349,900 FED) in 2024-25 and 2.0 positions (1.0 FED and 1.0 GPR), beginning in 2023-24, to provide intensive services to promote children's safety and prevent removal from the home and stabilize children in out-of-home care and the juvenile detention system to support their placement in the least-restrictive setting appropriate. Create an appropriation for this purpose and authorize DCF to provide these services or to contract with another entity to do so, including providing training, oversight, data analysis, and funds for certification or licensing related to implementing these services. Authorize DCF to develop criteria and standards for administering these services, and exempt these criteria and standards from the administrative rulemaking process. Separately, authorize DCF to create, maintain, and require use

of a clearinghouse for group care referrals.

The Administration indicates that few in-home prevention services are currently available to families. The largest prevention programs funded by the state are the Family Foundations Home Visiting program and grant programs operated by the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board. DCF identifies the Intercept model developed by Youth Villages, which is listed as well-supported by evidence on the national Title IV-E prevention services clearinghouse, as an example of a service delivery structure that could be supported with this funding. The Intercept model would provide mental health interventions, 24/7 crisis support, guidance through school and legal challenges, and parent training.

This item includes \$17,718,400 (\$16,482,200 GPR and \$1,236,200 FED under Title IV-E) annually to reflect DCF's estimate of the cost to provide intensive services through 26 locations across the state, using the Intercept model as the basis for estimates. The position authority and remaining funding (\$170,600 in 2023-24 and \$227,400 in 2024-25) reflects DCF's intent to add two advanced program and policy analysts to administer the program, funded with 50% Title IV-E matching.

[Bill Sections: 426, 892, and 894]

3. KINSHIP CAREGIVER SUPPORTS AND SEARCH SERVICES

GPR	\$16,496,500
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Governor: Provide \$8,259,400 in 2023-24 and \$8,237,100 in 2024-25 to provide additional support for kinship care providers and to assist in identifying potential kinship care placements.

Authorize DCF and county child welfare agencies to provide additional payments or services to support kinship care providers and create a GPR appropriation for that purpose. Authorize DCF to promulgate rules implementing such supports, including specifying eligibility criteria and qualifying costs and services.

This item includes \$7,868,200 in 2023-24 and \$7,845,900 in 2024-25 to fund flexible supports for kinship care providers. DCF indicates that services and financial support could provide assistance with costs of care that may otherwise jeopardize a placement or potential placement, such as clothing, food, transportation, child care, and extra-curricular activities. The funding amount reflects DCF estimates that 41% of court-ordered and voluntary kinship care placements would receive supports, at an average annual cost of \$3,500 per child.

The remaining funding (\$391,200 annually) reflects DCF's intent to contract for access to a national database to identify relatives of a child. DCF and county child welfare agencies would use this service to improve their ability to identify potential kinship care placements.

[Bill Sections: 437, 933, and 938]

4. FOSTER CARE AND KINSHIP CARE RATES

GPR	\$1,176,100
FED	<u>618,500</u>
Total	\$1,794,600

Governor: Provide \$598,200 (\$392,000 GPR and \$206,200 FED) in 2023-24 and \$1,196,400 (\$784,100 GPR and \$412,300 FED) in 2024-25 to increase base monthly rates paid to foster care providers.

Increase the base monthly rates for basic foster care (level two) and treatment foster care (levels three through five) by 5%, to the amounts shown in the table below.

	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>
Up to Age Five	\$420	\$441
Ages Five through 11	460	483
Ages 12 through 14	522	548
Ages 15 and Over	545	572

Modify monthly rates paid to kinship care providers and foster care providers with child-specific (level one) licenses (typically relatives or others with a close relationship to the child they are fostering) so that, rather than receiving a flat \$300 payment regardless of the age of the child, the kinship care or relative foster care payment would equal the same age-based rates paid to basic and treatment foster care providers.

Specify that these rate increases would take effect January 1, 2024. Increase the statutory amount paid to counties under Children and Family Aids to account for the estimated cost to counties to provide increased foster care payments.

The funding amount reflects \$1,087,600 (all funds) per year for the 5% increase to basic and treatment foster care base rates and \$108,800 (all funds) per year for the increase of relative foster care rates to match the age-based rates, beginning January 1, 2024. The federal share of the funding reflects estimated reimbursements under Title IV-E. Kinship care payments are fully supported by TANF funds. As summarized under an item in "TANF and Economic Support," the bill would increase FED TANF funding by \$8,264,700 in 2023-24 and \$16,482,300 in 2024-25 to reflect the Administration's estimate of the cost of implementing these changes in kinship care payments.

While counties, other than Milwaukee, are financially responsible for foster care payments, child welfare operations, and related services, DCF distributes Children and Family Aids (CFA) to counties to support these costs. Of the funding provided, the bill appropriates \$396,200 (\$259,600 GPR and \$136,600 FED) in 2023-24 and \$792,400 (\$519,300 GPR and \$273,100 FED) to increase CFA payments by the estimated cost counties would incur to provide the increased rates. Base CFA funding on an all-funds basis is \$101,162,800 per year.

[Bill Sections: 916, 920, 944, 970, 9406(1)]

5. EXCEPTIONAL PAYMENTS FOR KINSHIP CARE AND RELATIVE FOSTER CARE

GPR	\$12,800
FED	<u>6,900</u>
Total	\$19,700

Governor: Provide \$9,400 (\$6,100 GPR and \$3,300 FED) in 2023-24 and \$10,300 (\$6,700 GPR and \$3,600 FED) in 2024-25 to increase rates paid to foster care providers with child-specific (level one) licenses, who are typically relatives or others with a close relationship to the child they are fostering, to include exceptional payments to allow siblings or a minor parent and their child to be placed together and an initial clothing allowance. Modify administrative code related to exceptional payments made to basic foster care (level two) and treatment foster care (levels three through five) providers to permit these payments to relative foster care providers.

Separately, modify statutes to permit the same exceptional payments to be made to kinship care providers, and authorize DCF to promulgate rules implementing these payments. Create administrative rules specifying that these exceptional payments may be made, subject to a maximum amount determined by DCF.

Authorize emergency payments to kinship care providers, subject to DCF approval and in amounts determined by DCF, if any of the following apply to the location where the kinship care provider lives: (a) the Governor has declared a state of emergency; (b) the federal government has declared a major disaster; (c) the state has received federal funding for child welfare purposes due to an emergency or disaster; or (d) DCF determines that conditions such as a pandemic or other public health threat, a natural disaster, or unplanned school closures of five or more consecutive days have resulted in a temporary increase in care costs. Authorize DCF to promulgate administrative rules to implement these emergency payments.

The federal share of the funding provided reflects estimated reimbursements under Title IV-E. Kinship care payments are fully supported by TANF funds. As described under "TANF and Economic Support," the bill would provide an additional \$171,600 FED in 2023-24 and \$342,100 FED in 2024-25 in TANF funds to make these supplemental payments to kinship care providers, beginning January 1, 2024.

While counties, other than Milwaukee, are financially responsible for foster care payments, child welfare operations, and related services, DCF distributes Children and Family Aids (CFA) to counties to support these costs. Of the funding provided, the bill provides \$5,700 (\$3,800 GPR and \$1,900 FED) in 2023-24 and \$6,400 (\$4,200 GPR and \$2,200 FED) to increase CFA payments by the estimated cost counties would incur to provide the exceptional payments. Base CFA funding on an all-funds basis is \$101,162,800 per year.

[Bill Sections: 916, 928, 932, 939, 940, 956, 963, 964, 3397, and 3398]

6. ELIGIBILITY OF LIKE-KIN FOR KINSHIP CARE

Governor: Provide \$7,826,700 in 2023-24 and \$9,661,300 in 2024-25 in TANF funding, as described under "TANF and Economic Support," to expand eligible placements under the kinship care program to include adults with a strong relationship to the child similar to a familial

relationship. Make statutory changes to implement this expansion, as detailed below.

Kinship care is one potential court-ordered or voluntary out-of-home care placement setting, similar to foster care or congregate care. Under current law, children can be placed with any descendant of their great-great-grandparents other than third cousins, cousins once removed, or more distant cousins, including step-siblings, -uncles, and -aunts, and including the spouse or former spouse of any such relative. Relatives providing kinship care do not need to be licensed as foster care providers, although they may be required to pursue licensure to continue receiving monthly kinship care payments.

The bill would permit kinship care placements with first cousins once removed and with like-kin, defined as people with a significant emotional relationship to the child or their family that is similar to a familial relationship. The bill excludes former foster parents from the definition of like-kin for this purpose, but specifies that current and former foster parents may still participate in permanency planning for children placed in a qualified residential treatment program, as under current law. For Native American children, the bill specifies that like-kin can include people identified by the child's tribe or band according to tribal law, code, resolution, or tradition.

The bill further modifies statutes to expand provisions that apply to kinship care placements with a relative to also apply to placements with like-kin, including provisions of the Children's Code and Juvenile Justice Code.

The state assumes financial responsibility for kinship care payments in every county, tribe, and band and funds monthly kinship care payments with TANF funding. DCF estimates that the expansion of kinship care to include like-kin will increase non-tribal placements by 20%, that the inclusion of caregivers identified by a tribe or band will increase tribal placements by 40%, and that the inclusion of first cousins once removed would increase all placements by half a percent. Summarized separately, the bill would increase kinship care rates to use the same age-based rates and supplements paid under non-relative foster care. The table below summarizes the estimated cost of each eligibility expansion in this item under current rates and under the proposed rates.

<u>Included Group</u>	<u>Cost Under Current Rates</u>		<u>Cost Under Proposed Rates</u>	
	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
Like-Kin	\$5,462,200	\$5,446,700	\$6,614,700	\$8,126,400
Tribal Designees	864,200	892,600	1,046,600	1,331,700
1st Cousins Once Removed	<u>136,600</u>	<u>136,200</u>	<u>165,400</u>	<u>203,200</u>
Total	\$6,463,000	\$6,475,500	\$7,826,700	\$9,661,300

[Bill Sections: 437, 820, 822, 826 thru 829, 842 thru 849, 851 thru 868, 870, 881 thru 884, 917 thru 919, 921 thru 937, 939, 941 thru 943, 945 thru 962, 964 thru 969, 993 thru 998, 1024, 3237, 3239, 3240, 3244, 3245, 3248 thru 3253, 3260, 3263 thru 3282]

7. DIVISION OF MILWAUKEE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES -- AIDS PAYMENTS AND CONTRACTED SERVICES

GPR	\$5,035,100
FED	<u>3,504,000</u>
Total	\$8,539,100

Governor: Provide \$4,274,300 (\$2,521,100 GPR and \$1,753,200 FED) in 2023-24 and \$4,264,800 (\$2,514,000 GPR and \$1,750,800 FED) in 2024-25 to reflect reestimates of the cost of Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) aids payments and contracted services. Base funding for these costs is \$111,112,300 (\$70,591,000 GPR, \$23,601,300 PR, and \$16,920,000 FED).

This item includes the following: (a) an adjustment to the division of costs between GPR and FED to reflect updated claiming and federal matching rates (-\$694,700 GPR and \$694,700 FED annually); (b) a decrease in funding for out-of-home care and wraparound services, to reflect expected caseloads and service costs lower than the base budget, of \$3,327,200 (-\$3,175,000 GPR and -\$152,200 FED) in 2023-24 and a decrease of \$3,336,700 (-\$3,182,100 GPR and -\$154,600 FED) in 2024-25; and (c) an increase in funding for aids contracts costs, such as funding for case management, court services, placement services, and foster parent training, of \$7,601,500 (\$6,390,800 GPR and \$1,210,700 FED) annually.

8. MILWAUKEE CARE AND TREATMENT SERVICES

GPR	\$15,463,000
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Governor: Provide \$4,381,000 in 2023-24 and \$11,082,000 in 2024-25 for services provided by DMCPS. DCF intends to use this funding to fill gaps they have identified in the continuum of care and treatment services currently available in the county. The funding reflects the following: (a) \$1,820,000 in 2023-24 and \$3,640,000 in 2024-25 to expand and improve access to mental, behavioral, and crisis health care services ; (b) \$1,261,000 in 2023-24 and \$2,522,000 in 2024-25 to expand the capabilities of assessment and stabilization centers to work with children with high needs; (c) \$2,320,000 in 2024-25 to contract for a dedicated qualified residential treatment program (QRTP) facility; and (d) \$1,300,000 in 2023-24 and \$2,600,000 in 2024-25 to provide expanded aftercare supports for children transitioning from a residential treatment setting to a foster family home or other less restrictive setting.

DCF indicates that many children in out-of-home care currently face waitlists and restrictions to access needed mental health care and behavioral health care. All children enrolled in out-of-home care receive health care coverage through the Medical Assistance (MA) program. DMCPS additionally contracts for mobile crisis services, but does not currently have dedicated contracts for other mental and behavioral health care that could prevent crises or provide transitional support once a child in crisis has been stabilized. The provided funding reflects estimated costs to contract with additional mental, behavioral, and crisis care providers to deliver urgent services to approximately 140 children per year, beginning in calendar year 2023, for periods of 60–90 days while access to long-term service providers is secured.

Assessment and stabilization centers provide a temporary placement for youth age 12 through 17 when they first enter care, experience a crisis, or otherwise need stabilization and an assessment of what subsequent placement would best meet their needs. DMCPS currently contracts with three centers providing 20 beds total. DCF indicates that ASCs do not currently

have sufficient staff, medical professionals, and physical configurations to stabilize and assess children in severe crisis or with complex needs.

QRTPs provide short-term, intensive, residential treatment to children with the highest level of mental health care need. DCF indicates that Milwaukee children with this level of need are often placed out of state or in areas of the state far from family and other supports. DCF estimates that contracting for a dedicated QRTP for DMCPs would have ongoing costs of \$2,320,000 per year. The provided funding reflects \$1,160,000 for start-up costs over six months beginning July 2024 and \$1,160,000 for operating costs for the final six months of 2024-25.

QRTPs currently provide limited aftercare services to facilitate children's transitions back into family settings, but not all other congregate care placements do. DCF intends to use the provided funding to expand aftercare services, including maintaining contact with the same providers, extending the time over which interventions are tapered off, providing therapy, and training foster parents in medication management and crisis intervention. The funding provided reflects DCF's estimates of service costs of \$26,000 per discharge from congregate care and providing expanded aftercare services for 100 discharges per year beginning in calendar year 2023.

9. MILWAUKEE CASE AIDES, MONITORING, AND ON-SITE CARE

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$1,252,500	4.60
FED	<u>61,300</u>	<u>0.40</u>
Total	\$1,313,800	5.00

Governor: Provide \$510,900 (\$484,600 GPR and \$26,300 FED) in 2023-24 and \$802,900 (\$767,900 GPR and \$35,000 FED) and 5.0 positions (4.6 GPR and 0.4 FED), beginning in 2023-24, to improve DMCPs operations. The Administration intends to convert LTE case aide positions that assist initial assessment specialists into permanent positions (\$125,700 in 2023-24 and \$167,600 in 2024-25 and 2.0 positions), contract for child care services while initial assessments are being conducted (\$183,000 GPR in 2023-24 and \$366,000 GPR in 2024-25), and increase contract and performance monitoring capacity (\$202,200 in 2023-24 and \$269,300 in 2024-25 and 3.0 positions). Under this item, 8% of the costs would be supported with federal funds DCF claims under Title IV-E, which is the rate currently applied to DMCPs staff.

DCF currently uses temporary project positions to hire assistants to support the work of initial assessment specialists. These aides require less expertise and training than assessment specialists require, and allow specialists to work more quickly and efficiently by taking on tasks such as transporting and supervising children, collecting information, and clerical tasks. DCF describes the temporary nature of these positions as creating a barrier to recruiting and maintaining these staff and increasing costs of hiring and training.

Currently, when a child is removed from their home, immediate care for that child is the responsibility of the initial assessment specialist (or case aide, if available) while they complete the assessment and identify an out-of-home placement. DCF intends to contract with a child care center to provide 24/7 access to professional child care with staff and facilities equipped for children that may be distraught or have other behavioral responses to being removed from their family home. The funding in this item reflects an estimated annual cost of \$366,000, beginning in calendar year 2024, for the contract.

When DMCPs places a child in out-of-home care, the case is assigned to a contracted agency to provide case management and ongoing services to the child and their family. Currently, four program and policy analysts and one manager oversee these contracts, including measuring performance and working to reduce the use of congregate care. In addition, the quality improvement section for DMCPs as a whole consists of seven staff that collect program data, analyze system needs, and assist in policy development. DCF intends to add three program and policy analysts to these sections to meet increased contract oversight workload, improve data analysis and reporting, and work to improve the quality of care in DMCPs.

10. MILWAUKEE PREVENTIVE RESPITE SHELTER

GPR	\$1,098,300
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Governor: Provide \$366,100 in 2023-24 and \$732,200 in 2024-25 for services provided by DMCPs. The Administration intends to use this funding to offer short-term respite child care and shelter for families in emergencies.

DCF describes short-term disruptions, such as medical appointments, evictions, or domestic violence, as contributing to many referrals to child protective services. As an alternative to removing children to out-of-home care in these situations, DCF intends to use this funding to contract for a 24/7 center that could provide respite child care for 10 to 12 children, or family shelter care, for up to 72 hours. The funding in the bill reflects an estimated cost of \$732,200 per year, beginning in January, 2024.

11. TRIBAL HIGH-COST PLACEMENTS AND PREVENTION

GPR	\$7,925,000
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Governor: Provide \$3,825,000 in 2023-24 and \$4,100,000 in 2024-25 to increase state support for unusually high-cost out-of-home care placements ordered by tribal courts and for family services. Create two separate GPR appropriations for these purposes, to supplement existing allocations of federal grant funds and tribal gaming revenue. The funding includes: (a) \$3,000,000 annually budgeted for high-cost placements; and (b) \$825,000 in 2023-24 and \$1,100,000 in 2024-25 for tribal family services.

Currently, counties, tribes, and bands may request funding on a case-by-case basis from the tribal high-cost pool, funded with \$717,500 annually in PR from tribal gaming receipts. These funds can support (a) unexpected or unusually high-cost out-of-home care placements, such as congregate care placements, ordered by tribal courts; and (b) out-of-home placements of Native American juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent by tribal courts. DCF restricts reimbursement to the portion of costs for a single placement that exceed \$50,000 in a year. DCF indicates that typical annual requests exceed the available funding by approximately \$3,000,000.

Under current law, the tribal family services program (FSP) provides annual allocations to each tribe and band that can be used to supplement a variety of human services, including domestic abuse prevention, child welfare, self-sufficiency, teen parenting, youth services, and child care. In 2023, DCF distributed \$2,631,400, comprised of \$1,867,500 PR from tribal gaming revenues, \$408,700 FED from the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, and \$355,200 FED from the community services block grant

(CSBG). DCF provides FSP funding to tribes and bands on a federal fiscal year basis. The funding provided in this item reflects an average increase of \$100,000 per tribe or band, beginning in federal fiscal year 2024.

[Bill Sections: 424 and 427]

12. TRIBAL SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIPS

GPR	\$539,200
FED	<u>292,600</u>
Total	\$831,800

Governor: Provide \$395,800 (\$256,600 GPR and \$139,200 FED) in 2023-24 and \$436,000 (\$282,600 GPR and \$153,400 FED) in 2024-25 to reimburse tribes and bands for the cost of subsidized guardianships. Modify the GPR and FED appropriations currently used to reimburse counties for these costs to authorize reimbursements to tribes and bands. Authorize DCF to enter into agreements with tribal governments to provide reimbursement for subsidized guardianships, but require that such agreements require tribes and bands to comply with all requirements for administering subsidized guardianships that apply to counties, including eligibility. Make modifications to the statutes related to subsidized guardianships to expand provisions that apply to counties to also apply to tribes and bands. Specify that a county may continue to make payments, and receive state reimbursement, for subsidized guardianships ordered by a tribal court if that county has entered into an agreement with the tribal government to do so.

The subsidized guardianship program funds payments to court-appointed guardians who provide permanent care for children with whom they have a familial or other significant emotional relationship. Subsidies are capped at the level of the foster care maintenance payment the guardian was receiving prior to the guardianship agreement. Financial responsibility for subsidized guardianships was transferred from local child welfare agencies to the state under 2021 Act 132, but the Act did not apply to subsidized guardianships ordered by a tribal court.

[Bill Sections: 432, 440, 891, 971 thru 990, 999, 1014, and 1015]

13. INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

GPR	\$7,705,000
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Governor: Provide \$3,852,500 annually to maintain and enhance services provided to assist youth age 18 through 23 who were formerly in out-of-home care, such as foster care, transition to independent living.

Currently, the program assists young adults in obtaining a high school diploma, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, training in daily living skills, training in budgeting and financial management skills, substance abuse prevention, preventive health activities, and other services to support self-sufficiency. The program also provides financial assistance with costs related to room and board for youth age 18 through 23 who aged out of out-of-home care. DCF currently contracts with seven regional transitional resource agencies to provide these services statewide, and five tribes and bands. These contracts are funded with federal funds received under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and totaled \$1,994,500 in federal fiscal year 2022. Federal law requires that states spend no more than 25% of their total

Chafee grant on room and board expenses.

The funding increase in the bill is intended to fund the following: (a) \$314,200 for an inflationary increase to contract amounts; (b) \$464,800 to allow service providers to hire additional independent living coordinators to reduce the average caseload; (c) \$225,400 to expand the availability of assistance with room and board costs to meet demand exceeding the limit on federal funds; (d) \$1,942,900 to expand eligibility to all youth who have been in out-of-home care at any time since age 16, regardless of their placement setting when they turn 18; and (e) \$905,200 to maintain eligibility for young adults ages 22 and 23. The age limit for services was extended from 21 to 23 in 2021 using a one-time increase in Chafee grant funds provided in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summarized separately, the budget also provides for the consolidation of the programs and appropriations of the DCF Bureau of Youth Services, including the independent living program. The funding under this item would be provided under the consolidated appropriation. This item would increase consolidated GPR funding for youth services from \$4,840,100 to \$8,692,600 annually.

14. HOME VISITING

GPR	\$5,096,000
FED	<u>104,000</u>
Total	\$5,200,000

Governor: Provide \$1,200,000 GPR in 2023-24 and \$4,000,000 (\$3,896,000 GPR and \$104,000 FED from Title IV-E) in 2024-25 to expand the Family Foundations Home Visiting (FFHV) program.

Under current law, DCF provides FFHV grants to county agencies, cities, nonprofit agencies, tribal organizations, and collaborations to provide voluntary home visiting services to at-risk families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Services generally follow one of three national models, known as Healthy Families America, Parents as Teachers, and Nurse-Family Partnership, each of which offer supportive in-home consultations beginning as early as pregnancy, hands-on parent guidance and training, screenings for health, development, and maltreatment risks, and early interventions to prevent maltreatment. The program is primarily supported by the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant, which provided \$8,564,700 in 2023. DCF is also currently budgeted \$1,985,700 GPR and \$6,212,100 FED from TANF per year for the program, and requires local matching funds for each grant. DCF currently contracts with 22 agencies to provide home visiting services, covering 40 counties and six tribes and bands.

DCF intends to use the additional funding in the bill to expand the geographic reach of the home visiting program by contracting with approximately 12 additional organizations to provide these services in new locations. DCF indicates that each new location could serve multiple counties, tribes, or bands. The funding reflects \$100,000 per new agency in 2023-24 for start-up costs and an average of \$333,300 per new agency in ongoing funding, beginning in 2024-25, for full service costs.

Prevention services such as home visiting are eligible for a 50% federal match under Title IV-E when they are provided for children who are at imminent risk of removal to out-of-home care or are pregnant or parenting while in out-of-home care. Based on available data, DCF estimates

that 5.2% of children currently served by the home visiting program had an investigated allegation of maltreatment, and that a similar share would be eligible for IV-E prevention matching funds. Hence, the funding in the bill includes a 50% federal match for 5.2% of the service expenditures.

15. INFORMATION SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

GPR	\$3,010,200
FED	<u>1,827,600</u>
Total	\$4,837,800

Governor: Provide \$2,418,900 (\$1,505,100 GPR and \$913,800 FED) annually, consisting of \$1,935,100 (\$1,204,100 GPR and \$731,000 FED) in one-time funding and \$483,800 (\$301,000 GPR and \$182,800 FED) in ongoing funding, for child welfare program operations. The Administration intends to use this funding for enhancements to the electronic Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWiSACWIS).

DCF and local child welfare agencies use eWiSACWIS as the database and case management system for all children involved in the child welfare system. DCF currently funds operation of the system with \$5,375,500 per year, consisting of \$2,321,500 GPR, \$1,935,200 FED matching funding received under Title IV-E, \$581,300 PR from counties assessed as their share of costs, and \$537,500 FED received under TANF corresponding to the share of costs related to the kinship care caseload. The one-time funding reflects a 50% funding increase to provide system modifications to meet new federal standards and improve functionality, including implementing mobile support and improving data exchanges with local agencies. The ongoing funding reflects a 10% increase to provide ongoing maintenance and improvements. Both increases are distributed among GPR, Title IV-E, and TANF funding in proportion to their current share of costs; no increase is made to the costs assessed from counties. This item reflects only the GPR and Title IV-E funding changes, while the TANF funding (\$215,000 annually in one-time funding and \$53,800 annually in ongoing funding) is shown under "TANF and Economic Support."

16. STATE OUT-OF-HOME CARE AND ADOPTIONS RE-ESTIMATE

GPR	-\$7,174,900
FED	<u>3,024,600</u>
Total	-\$4,150,300

Governor: Reduce funding by \$2,739,700 (-\$4,055,700 GPR and \$1,316,000 FED) in 2023-24 and by \$1,410,600 (-\$3,119,200 GPR and \$1,708,600 FED) in 2024-25 to reflect a reestimate of adoption assistance, subsidized guardianship, and state foster care payments, changes in federal claiming rates in the 2023-25 biennium, and an increase to state adoption services contract costs to meet new federal requirements. The state claims federal matching funding for these costs under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

The state adoption assistance program funds payments to families who adopt children with special needs. Basic maintenance payments are based on uniform foster care rates specified in statute, and additional payments are based on each child's individual needs.

The subsidized guardianship program funds payments to court-appointed guardians who provide permanent care for children with whom they have a familial or other significant emotional relationship. Subsidies are capped at the level of the foster care maintenance payment the guardian was receiving prior to the guardianship agreement. Financial responsibility for subsidized

guardianships was transferred from local child welfare agencies to the state under 2021 Act 132. The base funding shown in the table below reflects GPR funding transferred through a request approved by the Joint Committee on Finance; the corresponding federal appropriation was not reestimated to include base funding specific to subsidized guardianships.

The state foster care program provides temporary care for children in the custody of the state. Custody may be transferred from local child welfare agencies (or DMCPS) for children who are awaiting adoption and whose parents' parental rights have been terminated, including children who have been placed in out-of-home care for 15 of the most recent 22 months.

DCF provides pre-adoption services under the public adoptions program including case management, identification of potential adoptive families, and training, and provides post-adoption supports, services, and information under the Wisconsin adoption and permanency support (WiAPS) program. The request includes an increase in funding for these services to meet federal requirements related to re-investing savings under the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

The following table summarizes, by source, the base funding for these payments and services, the funding changes under this item, and the total funding provided.

	2023-24			2024-25		
	GPR	FED IV-E	All Funds	GPR	FED IV-E	All Funds
Adoption Assistance						
Base Funding	\$44,783,900	\$46,811,900	\$91,595,800	\$44,783,900	\$46,811,900	\$91,595,800
Reestimate	<u>-2,909,800</u>	<u>-853,100</u>	<u>-3,762,900</u>	<u>-2,903,500</u>	<u>-846,100</u>	<u>-3,749,600</u>
Subtotal	\$41,874,100	\$45,958,800	\$87,832,900	\$41,880,400	\$45,965,800	\$87,846,200
Subsidized Guardianship						
Base Funding	\$5,200,000	\$0	\$5,200,000	\$5,200,000	\$0	\$5,200,000
Reestimate	<u>197,700</u>	<u>2,927,500</u>	<u>3,125,200</u>	<u>745,700</u>	<u>3,224,600</u>	<u>3,970,300</u>
Subtotal	\$5,397,700	\$2,927,500	\$8,325,200	\$5,945,700	\$3,224,600	\$9,170,300
State Foster Care						
Base Funding	\$6,503,700	\$3,333,800	\$9,837,500	\$6,503,700	\$3,333,800	\$9,837,500
Reestimate	<u>-2,414,900</u>	<u>-1,183,500</u>	<u>-3,598,400</u>	<u>-2,246,700</u>	<u>-1,095,000</u>	<u>-3,341,700</u>
Subtotal	\$4,088,800	\$2,150,300	\$6,239,100	\$4,257,000	\$2,238,800	\$6,495,800
State Adoption Services						
Base Funding	\$2,615,300	\$1,633,700	\$4,249,000	\$2,615,300	\$1,633,700	\$4,249,000
Reestimate	<u>1,071,300</u>	<u>425,100</u>	<u>1,496,400</u>	<u>1,285,300</u>	<u>425,100</u>	<u>1,710,400</u>
Subtotal	\$3,686,600	\$2,058,800	\$5,745,400	\$3,900,600	\$2,058,800	\$5,959,400
Total						
Base Funding	\$59,102,900	\$51,779,400	\$110,882,300	\$59,102,900	\$51,779,400	\$110,882,300
Reestimate	<u>-4,055,700</u>	<u>1,316,000</u>	<u>-2,739,700</u>	<u>-3,119,200</u>	<u>1,708,600</u>	<u>-1,410,600</u>
Total	\$55,047,200	\$53,095,400	\$108,142,600	\$55,983,700	\$53,488,000	\$109,471,700

17. RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES

GPR	\$4,040,000
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Governor: Provide \$2,020,000 annually for programs that provide services to runaway and

homeless youth. Although not specified in the bill, the Administration indicates that the funding increase would be allocated as follows: (a) \$820,000 per year for grants to organizations that provide emergency shelter, crisis supports, and case management to youth generally ages 12 through 17; and (b) \$1,200,000 annually to expand a program that provides temporary housing and supportive services to youth, generally ages 17 through 21, who are at risk of becoming homeless when they age out of out-of-home care such as foster care.

Currently, DCF provides grants on a regional basis to organizations that provide residential, counseling, and other services to protect youths who have run away, are homeless, or are at risk of running away or becoming homeless and, when possible, to reunite them with their families. All programs serve youth age 12 through 17, and some serve youth as young as 10 or as old as 21. DCF currently funds this program from an appropriation of \$400,000 GPR per year—which also partially supports the housing supports for youth aging out of care described below—and approximately \$350,000 FED from the state's grant under the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program, a federal grant that can be used to support a variety of child welfare services. DCF intends to use the funding increase to offer new grants to expand the capacity and geographic reach of the program, and to increase GPR funding for the current grantees to account for an anticipated decline in federal grant funding and to support an increase to grant amounts. DCF notes that grant amounts were increased beginning in 2022 with one-time funding available under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Current law requires DCF to distribute at least \$231,700 to assist youth who turn 18 while in out-of-home care to transition to a successful adulthood. DCF currently provides temporary housing and transitional supports to youth formerly in out-of-home care under the PATHS (Permanent connections, Academics, Training and employment, Housing, and Social and emotional well-being) program. This program is funded from the GPR appropriation noted above as well as a separate GPR appropriation supporting PATHS and a foster care placement continuation program. As of 2021, DCF provides PATHS grants to two organizations, totaling \$481,000 GPR per year. One grantee serves north-central Wisconsin while the other serves Milwaukee County. The funding reflects the cost of additional grants of \$240,000 each to provide PATHS services in each of the remaining five youth services regions of the state.

Summarized separately, the budget also provides for the consolidation of the programs and appropriations of the DCF Bureau of Youth Services, including the programs affected by this item. The funding under this item would be provided under the consolidated appropriation. This item would increase consolidated GPR funding for youth services from \$4,840,100 to \$6,860,100 annually.

18. QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM TRAINING

GPR	\$400,000
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Governor: Provide \$200,000 annually to purchase specialized training for qualified residential treatment program (QRTP) staff. QRTPs are congregate care providers that meet federal qualifications to treat youth with serious mental or behavioral needs. The 2021-23 budget provided \$140,000 GPR and \$60,000 FED (Title IV-E) in 2022-23 on a one-time basis for this

purpose. This item would continue providing trainings on an ongoing basis.

Recent federal and state law changes created the QRTP designation and restricted reimbursement for out-of-home care placements with the intent of reducing placements in congregate care except for short-term, treatment-focused placements for the highest-acuity children. DCF indicates that these shifts will require more advanced skills from care providers, and the federal law requires QRTPs to implement trauma-informed methods. Using the one-time funding provided in 2022-23, DCF currently provides trainings related to safely reducing the use of restraints, understanding child sex trafficking, effectively responding to trauma, and other skills that make treatment more effective. DCF indicates that other topics that could be pursued with this funding include how psychotropic and other medications affect care and facility safety and management.

19. SIBLING CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

GPR	\$150,000
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Governor: Provide \$75,000 annually to support costs of reuniting adopted children with their biological siblings who do not reside in the same home by providing them with opportunities to socialize through programs designed for this purpose, such as summer camp programs. Create an appropriation for this purpose and a statutory requirement that DCF distribute this funding.

Separately, codify a nonstatutory grant program that provides funding to counties, nonprofit organizations, or tribes for the purpose of supporting foster parents and providing normalcy for children in out-of-home care. Maintain current funding of \$400,000 per year for this program.

[Bill Sections: 425, 433, 901, and 914]

20. CONSOLIDATE FUNDING AND PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE BUREAU OF YOUTH SERVICES

Governor: Consolidate several appropriations and programs administered by the Bureau of Youth Services by: (a) repealing three GPR appropriations that currently fund services for sex trafficking victims (-\$3,000,000 annually), the Brighter Futures teen services program (-\$864,900 annually), and services for homeless and runaway youth (-\$400,000 annually); (b) transferring base funding from these appropriations (\$4,264,900 annually) to an appropriation that currently funds grants for children's community programs; and (c) expanding the purposes of that appropriation to include activities and goals of the repealed appropriations.

Modify a Department of Health Services (DHS) appropriation that currently transfers \$865,000 GPR annually to DCF for the Brighter Futures program to designate the purpose of the funds as grants for youth services under the newly combined youth services grants program. Similarly, modify the DCF PR appropriation that receives the transferred funds to replace references to the Brighter Futures program with references to the newly combined program. These GPR funds constitute the state match to a portion of the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) that DHS transfers to DCF for the Brighter Futures program, typically \$1,575,000 FED annually.

Modify the purpose of an allocation of \$500,000 per year in federal TANF funding, currently designated for substance abuse prevention grants under the Brighter Futures program, to fund the newly combined youth services grants program.

Create statutory language establishing the newly-combined program that requires DCF to distribute grants to state or local government agencies, nonprofit corporations, or Native American tribal governments for any of the following purposes: (a) increasing youth access to housing; (b) increasing youth self-sufficiency through employment, education and training; (c) improving youth social and emotional health by promoting healthy and stable adult connections, social engagement, and connection with necessary services; (d) preventing sex trafficking of children and youth; (e) providing treatment and services for documented and suspected victims of child and youth sex trafficking; (f) preventing and reducing the incidence of youth violence and other delinquent behavior; (g) preventing youth alcohol and other drug use and abuse; (h) preventing and reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect; and (i) preventing and reducing the incidence of teen pregnancy.

Repeal statutory descriptions of the following programs, which would be consolidated under the newly combined program: (a) services for children who are documented victims of sex trafficking; (b) foster care placement continuation to avoid institutionalization when youth turn 18; (c) assistance for youth who turn 18 while residing in foster care to transition to successful adulthood; (d) the Brighter Futures teen services program; and (e) services for homeless and runaway youth. The activities and goals of these programs would be included in the purposes of the combined youth services grant program, as identified above, but specific requirements to operate these programs, funding allocations, and other program parameters specified in current law would be repealed. Retain a specific requirement to distribute \$55,000 per year to Diverse and Resilient, Inc., a health services and youth support organization, currently specified under the Brighter Futures program. Retain a prohibition, which would now apply to all of the consolidated funding, against funding programs that provide, promote, encourage, or make referrals for abortion care.

[Bill Sections: 410, 423, 434 thru 436, 438, 568, 893, 895 thru 900, 915, 1020, 1051]

Juvenile Justice

1. JUVENILE JUSTICE AIDS FOR 17-YEAR-OLDS

GPR	\$10,000,000
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Governor: Provide \$5,000,000 annually in a new, sum sufficient appropriation for youth aids-related purposes, but only to reimburse counties, beginning on January 1, 2024, for costs associated with juveniles who were alleged to have violated a state or federal criminal law or any civil law or municipal ordinance at age 17.

[Bill Sections: 430 and 912]

2. YOUTH JUSTICE TRAINING

GPR	\$3,665,500
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Governor: Provide \$1,563,500 in 2023-24 and \$2,102,000 in 2024-25 to create a state training program for new county youth justice workers and additional training on the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument for current youth justice workers. Funding is estimated to provide training to 145 new county youth justice workers and additional training to 270 youth justice workers.

3. JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM REVIEW COMMITTEE

Governor: Create a Juvenile Justice Reform Review Committee with members appointed by the Governor in the Department of Children and Families (DCF). [The bill does not specify the size or membership of the Committee.] Require the Committee to study and, prior to September 16, 2024, provide recommendations to DCF and the Department of Corrections (DOC) on how to do all of the following:

1. Increase the minimum age of delinquency.
2. Eliminate original adult court jurisdiction over juveniles.
3. Modify the waiver procedure for adult court jurisdiction over juveniles and incorporate offenses currently subject to original adult court jurisdiction into the waiver procedure.
4. Eliminate the serious juvenile offender program and create extended juvenile court jurisdiction with a blended juvenile and adult sentence structure for certain juvenile offenders.
5. Prohibit placement of a juvenile in a juvenile detention facility for a status offense and limit sanctions and short-term holds in a juvenile detention facility to cases where there is a public safety risk.
6. Sunset long-term post-disposition programs at juvenile detention facilities.
7. Create a sentence adjustment procedure for youthful offenders.
8. Conform with the U.S. Constitution the statutes that mandate imposing sentences of life imprisonment without parole or extended supervision to minors.

For the 2025-27 biennial budget bill, require that DCF and DOC each include a request to implement the Committee's recommendations. Sunset the Committee on September 16, 2024.

[Bill Section: 9106(2)]

4. YOUTH JUSTICE DATA SYSTEMS

GPR	\$1,882,200
FED	<u>870,200</u>
Total	\$2,752,400

Governor: Provide \$936,700 GPR and \$435,100 FED in 2023-24 and \$945,500 GPR and \$435,100 FED in 2024-25 to develop a youth justice data and reporting system and to support continued licensing costs for the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument.

5. SRCC BONUS FUNDING FOR QUALIFYING COUNTIES

GPR	\$750,000
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Governor: Provide \$750,000 in 2024-25 to fund the estimated bonus payment to Racine County for operational costs associated with operating a Secure Residential Care Center (SRCC) for Children and Youth. Funding would be provided to the "Community Youth and Family Aids; Bonus for County Facilities" appropriation created under 2017 Act 185.

6. YOUTH AIDS FUNDING MODIFICATIONS

Governor: Modify youth aids statutory provisions and transfer \$697,200 GPR annually to the Youth Aids appropriation from the Community Intervention Program (CIP) appropriation. Base funding for youth aids is \$93,305,700 GPR and funding for CIP is \$3,712,500 GPR. Allow youth aids funding currently statutorily allocated for aftercare services (\$2,124,800), alcohol and other drug abuse services (\$1,333,400) and emergency funding for counties with a population under 45,000 (\$250,000) to be allocated in the same manner as base funding for youth aids. The Department indicates that current youth aids funding includes a -\$72,000 structural imbalance. The recommended changes are intended to increase total youth aids, eliminate the structural imbalance, and provide more flexibility in distribution and use of youth aids funding.

Further, rename the CIP appropriation, the Youth Justice System Improvement Program (YJSIP) appropriation. Modify YJSIP to allow use for the following purposes: (a) programs that enhance prevention, early intervention, diversion, and innovative delivery of services reduce the use of out-of-home placements and promote successful outcomes for all youth; (b) emergencies related to youth justice placement costs; and (c) activities of DCF specified under statute including: (1) development of procedures to implement youth aids; (2) development of standards for the delivery of community-based juvenile delinquency-related services; (3) provision of consultation and technical assistance to aid counties in the implementation and delivery of community-based juvenile delinquency-related services; and (4) establishment of information systems and monitoring and evaluation procedures to report periodically to the Governor and Legislature on the statewide impact of youth aids.

Repeal the current statutory provision related to youth aids which allows DCF to: (a) carry forward \$500,000 or 10% percent, whichever is greater, of its funds allocated for youth aids and not encumbered or carried forward by counties by December 31, to the next two calendar years; (b) transfer moneys from or within youth aids to accomplish the carry forward; and (c) allocate these transferred moneys to counties with persistently high rates of juvenile arrests for serious offenses during the next two calendar years to improve community-based juvenile delinquency-related services. Instead, allow DCF to transfer underspending in youth aids to YJSIP. Create a continuing program revenue appropriation for receipt of monies transferred from youth aids for use in YJSIP.

[Bill Sections: 429, 431, 439, 902 thru 911, and 913]

Child Support and Departmentwide

1. LOCAL CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

GPR	\$10,000,000
FED	<u>19,411,800</u>
Total	\$29,411,800

Governor: Provide \$14,705,900 (\$5,000,000 GPR and \$9,705,900 FED) annually to increase state support for local administration of the child support enforcement program. Base GPR support for local child support enforcement programs is \$11,060,000. With this increase, GPR support for the program would increase to \$18,010,000 in calendar years 2024 and 2025. The source of the federal funding would be matching funds under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.

Local child support enforcement agencies operations are supported from several funding sources, including state GPR allocations, federal incentive payments, state medical support incentive payments, county funds, and federal matching funds. Most administrative and enforcement costs incurred by counties are reimbursed by the federal government based on a federal financial participation (FFP) rate of 66% of eligible costs.

If the funding increase provided under this item results in counties increasing their spending on child support activities, the state would claim additional federal matching funds. However, if the effect of the funding increase is to increase the state's share of child support enforcement costs and reduce local costs of these services by a corresponding amount, no additional federal funding would be claimed by the state. The federal funding that would be provided under this item reflects the Administration's estimate of additional federal Title IV-D funds the state would claim.

2. CHILD SUPPORT IT MODERNIZATION PROJECT

GPR	\$9,411,500
FED	<u>18,269,400</u>
Total	\$27,680,900

Governor: Provide \$7,163,700 (\$2,435,600 GPR and \$4,728,100 FED) in 2023-24 and \$20,517,200 (\$6,975,900 GPR and \$13,541,300 FED) in 2024-25 to support replacing the Kids Information Data System (KIDS) with a modern web-based information technology (IT) system. The federal funding would be 66% matching funds under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.

KIDS is a mainframe system made using COBOL programming that was implemented statewide in September, 1996. It is the primary IT system used for child support enforcement case and financial management functions by state, local, and tribal staff. DCF indicates that the aged architecture in KIDS is difficult to maintain and enhance, thereby increasing the complexity and expense of upgrading IT systems to meet federal performance standards. Further, according to DCF, the system is limited in terms of user interface, is unintuitive, lacks access to modern communication methods, and its automated data reporting is insufficient. DCF indicates that the total cost of the IT system, including upgrades, is estimated to be \$270 million for the 12-year period from 2018-19 through 2029-30, including: planning, development, statewide implementation, hardware, software, operation, and maintenance.

3. OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Governor: Provide \$246,100 (\$124,600 GPR, \$10,900 FED (Title IV-E funds), and \$110,600 PR) in 2023-24 and \$328,100 (\$166,100 GPR, \$14,500 FED (Title IV-E funds) and \$147,500 PR) in 2024-25 and 2.0 (0.92 GPR, 0.08 FED and 1.0 PR) positions, beginning in 2023-24, for the Office of Legal Counsel to address increased workloads.

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$290,700	0.92
FED	25,400	0.08
PR	<u>258,100</u>	<u>1.00</u>
Total	\$574,200	2.00

4. STANDARD BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Governor: Decrease funding by \$1,294,600 (-\$795,200 GPR, \$387,300 FED, and -\$887,300 PR) in 2023-24 and \$2,803,800 (-\$779,400 GPR, -\$1,213,300 FED, and -\$811,100 PR) in 2024-25 to reflect the following standard budget adjustments: (a) turnover reduction (-\$339,100 GPR, -\$102,800 FED and -\$339,800 PR annually); (b) removal of non-continuing items (-\$508,000 FED and 24.0 FED positions in 2023-24 and -\$2,036,900 FED and 27.0 FED positions in 2024-25); (c) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (-\$521,600 GPR, \$813,700 FED, and \$604,700 PR annually); (d) overtime (\$736,900 GPR, \$20,600 FED, and \$4,200 PR annually); (e) night and weekend differential pay (\$129,700 GPR, \$11,300 FED, and \$1,300 PR annually); and (f) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (-\$801,100 GPR, \$153,100 FED, and -\$1,157,700 PR in 2023-24 and -\$785,300 GPR, \$80,800 FED, and -\$1,081,500 in 2024-25); and (g) minor transfers between appropriations (\$0).

	Funding	Positions
GPR	-\$1,574,600	0.00
FED	- 825,400	- 27.00
PR	<u>- 1,698,400</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	-\$4,098,400	- 27.00

These amounts do not include adjustments for administrative costs of the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program or the Wisconsin Works (W-2) program (\$816,100 FED and -\$112,200 PR in 2023-24 and \$816,100 FED and -\$97,500 PR in 2024-25), which are included in separate entries under "Economic Support and TANF-Funded Programs."

5. FUNDING AND POSITIONS REALIGNMENTS

Governor: Increase funding by \$111,900 (-\$1,000 GPR, \$700 FED, and \$111,900 PR) annually, and provide 1.0 PR position, beginning in 2023-24, to more accurately reflect the current needs and organizational structure of DCF. The net increase of 1.0 position and associated funding shown in this item are offset in a separate item under "Economic Support and TANF-Related Programs."

	Funding	Positions
GPR	-\$2,000	0.00
FED	1,400	0.00
PR	<u>223,800</u>	<u>1.00</u>
Total	\$223,200	1.00

6. PROGRAM REVENUE AND FEDERAL REVENUE REESTIMATES

Governor: Provide \$3,621,100 (\$121,100 FED and \$3,500,000 PR) annually to reflect the net effect of adjustments to several program revenue and federal appropriations, as summarized in the following table.

FED	\$242,200
PR	<u>7,000,000</u>
Total	\$7,242,200

Program Revenue and Federal Funding Reestimates

	Source	Base	2023-24			2024-25		
			Reestimate	Other Items	Total	Reestimate	Other Items	Total
Children and Family Services								
Federal Program Aids	FED	\$12,264,400	-\$262,600	\$0	\$12,001,800	-\$262,600	\$0	\$12,001,800
Federal Project Aids	FED	3,843,300	56,700	0	3,900,000	56,700	0	3,900,000
Economic Support								
Community Services Block Grant	FED	8,717,000	327,000	-5,000	9,039,000	327,000	-5,200	9,038,800
Child Care Worker Background Checks	PR	0	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Interagency and Intra-Agency Programs	PR	4,583,800	-500,000	-43,700	4,040,100	-500,000	-40,300	4,043,500
General Administration								
Interagency and Intra-Agency Programs	PR	17,986,400	2,000,000	0	19,986,400	2,000,000	0	19,986,400
Subtotal FED			\$121,100			\$121,100		
Subtotal PR			<u>3,500,000</u>			<u>3,500,000</u>		
Total			\$3,621,100			\$3,621,100		

7. CYBERSECURITY

GPR	\$2,371,600
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Governor: Provide \$1,185,800 annually to develop and implement a comprehensive cybersecurity plan for critical infrastructure, data, systems, and user accounts. The plan would include the following areas: (a) proactively managing, monitoring and tracking IT systems; (b) backup and recovery of critical systems and data; (c) strengthening digital data integrity and interoperability; (d) a contracted privacy officer to review data confidentiality; (e) cybersecurity supervision and coordination; and (e) implementation of a single "MyWisconsin" ID and authentication across state IT system.

8. EQUITY OFFICER POSITION

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$171,500	1.00

Governor: Provide \$75,100 in 2023-24 and \$96,400 in 2024-25 to create a 1.0 FTE agency equity officer position, beginning in 2023-24. The agency equity officer would be responsible for coordinating with other agency equity officers and identifying opportunities to advance equity in government operations. For additional information, see "Administration -- General Agency Provisions."