partnering to improve lives

Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies is the united voice for more than fifty member agencies and leaders in the human services field serving more than 250,000 individuals and families throughout Wisconsin.

We promote public policy, best practice and partnerships that support our member agencies in pursuing their mission to improve the lives of children and families.
2021 Legislative & Biennial Budget Priorities

• Putting Family First

• Moving Forward on Mental Health

• Adopting Regulatory Reforms for Streamlined Services
Putting Family First

• Invest in home visiting expansion and early care and education opportunities to strengthen and support families at the earliest stages of a child’s development.

• Advance access to evidence-based services by funding targeted initiatives to support equitable access to Family First prevention services in all regions of the state.
Cont.

• Support increases in kinship care and foster care rates to continue growing family-based and local community options for children who cannot safely remain at home.

• Support foster youth transition to adulthood by removing barriers to obtaining a driver’s license.

• Return 17-year-olds to the youth justice system and adopt meaningful reforms to increase community-based resources for system-involved youth.
Moving Forward on Mental Health

• Support Medicaid expansion to extend coverage and access for individuals up to 138% of FPL. In the midst of the pandemic, expanded coverage becomes even more essential.

• Target additional mental health resources to support students and school staff as they continue to experience heightened levels of pandemic-related depression and anxiety by increasing funding for school mental health initiative grants.
• Support initiatives to remove mental health service access barriers including advancing insurance parity for teletherapy services.

• Increase Medicaid Day Tx rates to recover from stagnant rates & to adjust for recent changes to day treatment rules.
Cont.

- Support an increase in the clinical supervision grant program to grow the MH workforce

- Support expanded staff capacity & technology investments at DSPS to address delays & inefficiencies in the process for licensing behavioral health practitioners
Adopting Regulatory Reforms for Streamlined Services

• Improve training tools and safety in youth congregate care settings by permitting the use of video recording in common areas.

• Adopt liability reforms for private child placing agencies, GH & RCC’s to reduce risk exposure & enable more providers to care for youth, esp. those placed out of state.

• Require DHS & DCF to recognize national accreditation when renewing out of home care licenses & clinic licenses.