



La Crosse Area Family Policy Board

300 4th Street North, La Crosse, WI 54601

To: Joint Committee on Finance
From: La Crosse Area Family Policy Board
Date: June 25, 2025
Re: **2025-2027 Biennial Budget Priorities**

Who We Are

The La Crosse Area Family Policy Board (LFBP) is a local coalition of over 30 area agencies and stakeholders who serve children, youth, and their families. Together, we provide for the needs of several thousand La Crosse County residents. Our purpose is to have a more effective human services system through practicing four “Cs”: communication, coordination, collaboration and connectedness.

Community Priorities

Our coalition supports inclusion of the following items in the 2025-2027 Biennial Budget to advance the wellbeing of children and families in our state.

- Return 17-year-olds to the Juvenile Justice System
- Support Working Families through Childcare
 - Fund Childcare Counts and an employer-sponsored childcare grant program
 - Create start-up grants and services for existing childcare providers
 - Improve WI Shares Program to increase participation from low-income households
 - Support for childcare workforce development programs
- Establish a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) to provide care and treatment to children and youth from Wisconsin, and create a PRTF Medicaid benefit
- Increase support for public schools, including: increasing general revenue per pupil and increasing the revenue level for special education
- Increase annual funding to counties for Children and Family Aids, Youth Aids and Basic County Allocation to help offset inflation
- Create a “Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids” program to fund school breakfast and lunch for all K-12 kids
- Fund the nonfederal share of the Community Support Program (CSP), which serves people who would otherwise be institutionalized
- Advance key family support initiatives, such as:
 - Expand Medicaid postpartum coverage from 60 days to 12 months

- Enhance earned income tax credit for families with children and eliminate the sales taxes on basic needs items

We Are a Resource

Attached to this letter are local stories and data that support our priorities. Please know that LFPB is a resource for you and your constituents. Please let me know if we can provide data, information or services for you and your constituents.

Sincerely,

Hetti Brown, Chair
La Crosse Area Family Policy Board

Family Policy Board Member Agencies:

APTIV

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the 7 Rivers Region

Bikers Against Child Abuse

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse

Caravel Autism Health

Catholic Charities

Coulee Council on Addiction

Couleecap

County of La Crosse Health & Human Services Board

Emplify Health by Gundersen

Family & Children's Center

Garrison Counseling

Goodwill Industries

The Good Fight Community Center

Great Rivers 2-1-1

Great Rivers United Way

Head Start (La Crosse)

La Crosse County Mediation & Family Court Services

La Crosse Area Community Foundation

La Crosse County Human Services

La Crosse County Health Department

La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium

La Crosse County Judicial

La Crosse County UW-Extension

Mayo Clinic Health System

New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers, Inc.

Next Chapter of La Crosse

ORC Industries

The Parenting Place

Partners in Excellence

Planned Parenthood of WI

Salvation Army

School District of La Crosse

School District of Onalaska

Western Technical College

Workforce Connections, Inc.

Workforce Development Board

La Crosse Area Family YWCA

YWCA La Crosse

CC: Senator Brad Pfaff
Representative Jill Billings
Representative Steve Doyle
Representative Tara Johnson