



## ***La Crosse Area Family Policy Board***

300 4<sup>th</sup> Street North, La Crosse, WI 54601

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To: Joint Committee on Finance  
From: La Crosse Area Family Policy Board  
Date: April 14, 2025  
Re: **2025-2027 Biennial Budget Priorities**

**DRAFT**

### **Who We Are**

The La Crosse Area Family Policy Board 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 funding for school-based mental health services
- 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*

*Bikers Against Child Abuse*

*Boys & Girls Club*

*Caravel Autism Health*

*Catholic Charities*

*Coulee Council on Addiction*

*Couleecap*

*County of La Crosse HHS Board*

*Family & Children's Center*

*Garrison Counseling*

*Goodwill Industries*

*Great Rivers 2-1-1*

*Great Rivers United Way*

*Emplify Health by Gundersen*

*Head Start (La Crosse)*

*ORC Industries*

*Partners in Excellence*

*Planned Parenthood of WI*

*The Good Fight Community Center*

*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*

*Next Chapter of La Crosse*

*ORC Industries*

*The Parenting Place*

*Salvation Army*

*School District of La Crosse*

*School District of Onalaska*

*Western Technical College*

*Workforce Connections, Inc.*

*Workforce Development Board*

*YWCA*

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