

Children's Supports

DRW supports the principle that families with children with disabilities should be able to participate in their communities like all other families. They should be able to plan and live a life, with supports where necessary, that is consistent with their vision for their entire family, including the member with a disability. Children should be free from abuse and neglect.

***Why:** Approximately 36% of identified children with disabilities currently eligible for Children's Long-Term Supports (CLTS) are waiting for supports in Wisconsin. Families (particularly children with emotional behavioral disabilities and mental health needs) report problems meeting eligibility for the program and have difficulty getting necessary supports approved. Access to quality supports for all families of children with disabilities, coupled with training for Child Protective Services workers, will provide better protection for children and decrease the stressors that can lead to abuse and neglect.*

- **Proposal:** End the waiting list for home and community based supports for children with significant disabilities by maintaining 2016 funding levels for the CLTS waiver and Kids COP programs while intensive autism and other specialty supports transition out of the CLTS program and are covered by the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. (Maintain current funding levels).
- **Proposal:** Invest in additional resources and training supports for Child Protective Services workers to enhance the capacity for investigations of child abuse and neglect involving children with disabilities. (\$1 million over the biennium).