

The State Budget Request: Child Health & Well-Being

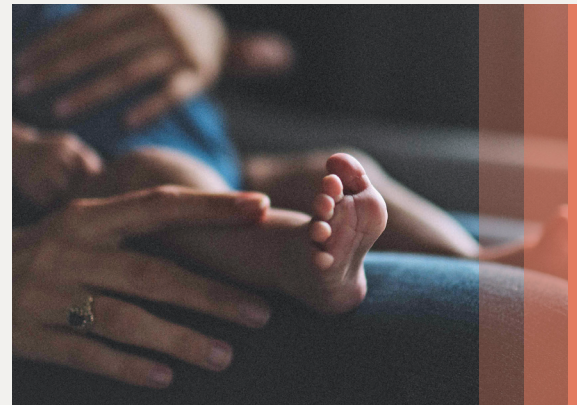


Raising Wisconsin calls for the state Legislature to prioritize child health and well-being in the 2023-25 biennium through **\$8.79 million for children's mental health**, **\$10 million for the expansion of the Family Foundations Home Visiting Program**, and the **extension of Medicaid coverage in the postpartum period** so individuals can maintain coverage for 12 months after the birth of an infant.

Mental health: Investments in the earliest years have resounding returns long into adulthood. Action is especially critical now as we look to emerge from the devastating effects of the pandemic, which exacerbated mental and physical health challenges for young children and families. When untreated, challenges can take root early, worsen over time, and prompt serious consequences for early learning, social competence, and lifelong health.

Home Visiting: Supporting expectant and new mothers' postpartum period helps infants, young children, and their families thrive. The Family Foundations Home Visiting Program is an evidence-based and completely voluntary service that links pregnant women with prenatal care and new mothers with important tools. In the long term, home visiting assists with educational development, school-readiness, and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Medicaid Extension: Medicaid extension to 12 months after the birth of an infant will improve the health of young children by improving and protecting the health of new mothers. The continued infant mortality crisis particularly underscores the need. While the last state budget extended postpartum care to 90 days, it is not sufficient to meet the maternal and infant health crisis in Wisconsin, where there are unacceptable rates of infant mortality for babies of color.



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