

All in for Kids

Empowering Families Through the Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program

All in for Kids is a newsletter created to keep you and your family informed about the supports and services available through the CLTS Waiver Program. The newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.



THE ALL IN FOR KIDS NEWSLETTER ABOUT COVID-19

The information provided in this All in for Kids newsletter is published in accordance with State of Wisconsin public health emergency Executive Order 72.

Important information for children and families about COVID-19

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) understands the uncertainty families are going through during the COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) pandemic. Although this is a difficult time, DHS is committed to helping families keep life as normal as possible, while keeping their families safe and protected.

Communities throughout Wisconsin, like ones around the world, have been asked to limit their contact with people outside their own homes. Governor Tony Evers issued a “Safer at Home” order that emphasized limited travel for essential needs to further slow and stop the spread of COVID-19. Support and services for children and families are still a priority for the Children’s Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program during this global pandemic.

Some services will now be provided over the phone or online to reduce the risk and prevent the spread of COVID-19 to families, as well as CLTS waiver staff and service providers. Support and service coordinators (SSCs) and service providers will connect with families to determine the best way to stay in touch so that access to needed supports and services remains unchanged.

Face-to-face support and service coordinator contacts suspended

Due to COVID-19, the CLTS Waiver Program has suspended all face-to-face SSC contacts with families.

This change includes any contacts made in the home by the SSC, such as:

- Any contacts required to complete a child's functional screen and determine a child's eligibility for the program
- Service coordination (monthly contacts), which includes any regular contact families may have with an SSC
- Any contacts required to maintain a child's eligibility in the program

We will continue to evaluate the suspension of in-person contacts.

How families can stay connected

Families and the SSC will work together to find the best ways to connect during this time and determine the types of contact that work best for the family. For example, in-person contacts with the SSC may be replaced by phone or online contact.

To help support children and families, SSCs will make frequent and regular contact with all families during this pandemic. Unless families prefer less contact, SSCs must contact families at least once per month. Families and the SSC should work together to make a plan to stay connected that works best for each family.

Families are encouraged to stay closely in touch with the SSC and talk with the SSC about their family and child's health and safety needs.

Supports and services now available remotely for families

Families, service providers, and the SSC will work together to find the best ways to connect during this time and determine the types of contact that works best for the family. The CLTS Waiver Program offers flexibility for services that were previously provided face to face and that can now be provided through technology to continue to support children and families.

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This change is temporary. The following CLTS Waiver Program supports and services can now be provided remotely during Governor Evers' "Safer at Home" order:

- Community integration services
- Counseling and therapeutic services such as:
 - Art therapy
 - Music therapy
 - Other activities or therapies that can be done by phone or video call
- Daily living skills training
- Housing counseling
- Mentoring
- Support and service coordination
- Individual supported employment
- Training for unpaid caregivers

If you have any questions about other services, talk with the SSC and service providers.

Connecting essential workforce families to child care

Providing child care to the essential workforce is critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin. Child care centers across the state are staying open to support [essential workforce](#) families, such as those working in health care, grocery stores, and other critical jobs, who are still reporting to work during the pandemic. To find local, safe child care, use the Department of Children and Families' (DCF's) new tools to:

- View the [new child care map](#) to see which child care providers are available across the state.
- Submit a [request for care](#) through DCF's updated Child Care Finder.
- See DCF's list of [tips for parents](#) using child care during COVID-19.



Protecting Families From Fraud

Families need to be aware of potential COVID-19 scams during this pandemic. If a family is offered COVID-19 testing or treatment through telemarketing calls, social media, or door-to-door visits, ignore them. These services, or any requests that ask for personal information, are false. If a family receives a phone call asking for personal information and is unsure who they are talking to, they should hang up and call the SSC to confirm the call.

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Helpful COVID-19 resources for families

If you have questions or need help, talk with the SSC for assistance.

General COVID-19 information

Visit the following links for updates and current information about COVID-19:

- [How to stay healthy, and what to do when you're sick](#)
- [DHS program updates on COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 video](#)

Supporting families through COVID-19

These useful links can help families cope with the situation surrounding COVID-19:

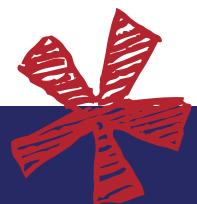
- [COVID-19 fact sheet](#)
- [Resilient Wisconsin](#)
- [You are safer at home](#)
- [Information for and by people with disabilities](#)
- [Supporting individuals with autism](#)
- [Staying connected with social distancing](#)
- [Instructional videos on distance learning—create a free account](#)

Supports and services benefits for children and families

Children enrolled in the CLTS Waiver Program receive individualized services and supports identified through a joint decision-making process between the family and the SSC. The [Supports and Services Benefits at a Glance handout](#) is an easy to understand, comprehensive list of supports and services the CLTS Waiver Program may provide to eligible children.

Families may use this handout when speaking with the SSC about deciding what services and supports best serve the child's needs and goals.

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Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program Family Bulletin is a newsletter published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for children and families in the CLTS Waiver Program.

The CLTS Waiver Program makes Medicaid funding available to support children with substantial limitations due to developmental, physical, or severe emotional disabilities who are living at home or in the community. Funding may be used to support a range of services based on an assessment of your child's and family's specific needs and identified goals or outcomes.

For more information, visit the [Services for Children With Delays or Disabilities](#) webpage. For help with translation of this Bulletin, call the Bureau of Children's Services at 608-266-8650.