

Child Disability Resources

A modest investment in families results in the most efficient use of formal and informal resources. Families are asking for help with supports, skills and information so they can effectively support their child with disabilities. Provide funding that includes:

- ⇒ Information, assistance and resource navigators to help families find available community resources, programs and services
- ⇒ Children's disability benefits specialists
- ⇒ Advocacy services for children
- ⇒ A *front door* to eligibility for children's long-term supports including Katie Beckett Medicaid

Medicaid

Medicaid is a critical funding source for acute, primary and long-term supports for children with disabilities.

- ⇒ Preserve funding in the program and use any surplus to provide adequate reimbursement to ensure services are available including direct care services
- ⇒ Expand eligibility from 100% to 138% of people living in poverty
- ⇒ Expand the pool of professionals who can provide basic dental care by allowing dental therapists to provide dental care

Special Education

After a decade long freeze, the funding for special education increased from 24% to 26% in the last budget, still a fraction of what is needed. This forces school districts to make tough choices in order to make up the difference.

- ⇒ Increase special education categorical aid funding from 30% to 60%
- ⇒ Increase the high cost special education fund from 90% to 100%

Children's Mental Health

Create a separate children's mental health code in statute that ensures a more holistic approach to child and family services.

- ⇒ Establish a task force, or a legislative council study committee
- ⇒ Ongoing funding for a statewide family-run organization to provide peer support with fidelity to best practice
- ⇒ Include a minimum of \$250,000 per year in 2021-23 budget for a *Systems of Care* initiative