

# All in for Kids

*A CLTS Program Family Newsletter*

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



## End of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Will Stop Temporary CLTS Program Policies

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program allowed temporary changes to some policies to help families during the pandemic. The federal government ended the COVID-19 public health emergency on May 11, 2023. The CLTS Program will be returning to its regular policies over the next several months.

Starting in June 2023, children and youth who get Wisconsin Medicaid will need to make sure they are still eligible. This process was paused during the COVID-19 pandemic. Another thing that will change with the return to regular policy is

that every child will need a functional screen to make sure they still meet CLTS Program eligibility requirements. During the COVID-19 pandemic, functional screens were also paused. They will restart in June 2023.

Let's start with Medicaid renewals and then we will discuss functional screens.

## Medicaid renewals

Beginning in June 2023, families will need to renew Medicaid coverage for their child. The renewal process will determine if children are still eligible for Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, or other Medicaid programs. This was paused during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Families received a letter in March that told them the month that their child's Medicaid renewal date would be due over the course of the next year. This letter told families to expect another letter with specific instructions. If you didn't receive a letter, talk to the support and service coordinator (SSC).

When it's time to renew, families will receive a letter with a renewal packet. These will come in the mail about two weeks before their child's Medicaid renewal month. We strongly encourage families to act right away when they get their packet and return it before the date shown in the letter. Families must respond to this request if they want to renew their Medicaid enrollment.

Families should wait to renew coverage until they get their renewal packet in the mail. Once a family sends updated information to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), DHS will check whether their child still meets the rules to stay in their state Medicaid program.

## Functional screens for the CLTS Program

Another thing that changes as DHS goes back to regular policy is that children will need an updated functional screen to make sure they are still eligible for the CLTS Program. During the COVID-19 pandemic, functional screens were paused. These will restart in June 2023.

Learn more about completing a functional screen below. ❖

## DID YOU KNOW?

### What is Medicaid?

In Wisconsin, Medicaid helps people get:

- Health care coverage.
- Long-term care.
- Services for physical and mental health and well-being.

There are many different Medicaid programs. Each program has different requirements to enroll.

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## What is a Functional Screen in the CLTS Program?

Now that the CLTS Program is going back to its regular policies, the child in your care will need a new “functional screen.” The functional screen is what helps determine if a child is eligible for supports and services from the CLTS Program. The screen will help gather information such as:

- How is the child in your care developing?
- Can they dress, bathe, speak, or move on their own?
- Do they need help with dressing, bathing, speaking, and moving?

### How is a CLTS functional screen completed?

Someone from your county human services agency will meet with your family. They will ask you about your child’s diagnoses, needs, and abilities. Your family can share with them the ways you help the child in your care throughout their day in the following areas:

- What help do they need with their care? (For example, do they need help getting dressed? Do they need help getting into the bath or shower? Do they need help using the toilet?)
- How do they move around their environment? (For example, do they need help getting from one room to another? Do they need help getting outside to play?)
- Do they understand what others say to them? (For example, do they respond to questions? Can they follow directions?)
- How do they talk to you? (For example, are they able to say words? Are they able to hear you?)
- How do they play or interact with others? (For example, do they share toys? Do they notice when another child is upset?)
- Do they have any behaviors that happen regularly? (For example, do they bite themselves? Do they run away from caregivers?)

The SSC will ask for your family’s permission to get other documents from school, therapy, or medical providers (if needed). These documents help show a complete picture of the child in your care.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### What is a functional screen?

A functional screen is a tool that collects information about the child’s health, need for supports, and how they play and interact with others. It helps decide if a child is eligible for the Children’s Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program, Katie Beckett Medicaid, or other similar programs.

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## How can you prepare for the screen visit?

- Before the meeting, think about the questions above for the child in your care.
- List details about the ways you help them during their day (For example, setting out clothes, setting the water temperature in the bath, helping them play with or talk to other children, asking a question a certain way)
- Review records that might help you with this process (For example, school, medical, daycare, physical therapy)
- Talk to others who your child is around (For example, childcare, school, family members)

Your family should give honest details about what your days are like with the child in your care when you talk with the SSC. It can be hard to talk about a child's challenges because their needs do not say everything about them. The child in your care is unique and has many strengths. For the functional screen, though, the SSC will need to ask questions such as, "What would happen if you did not help your child that way?" and "What happens when things just don't go right?" You and your child's caregivers do things to help them be as successful as possible throughout the day. It is important to explain what you do to help your child be successful. You should also talk about what would happen if those things weren't done. For this part of the conversation, you may wish to consider if you want the child in your care to be present.

## What happens if the child in my care continues to be eligible for the CLTS Program?

You will continue to work with and receive services and supports from the CLTS program.

## What happens if the child in my care is not eligible for the CLTS Program?

Some children in the CLTS Program make gains in development and they no longer need the services of the CLTS Program. However, if you believe the decision of ineligibility is a mistake or have more information that wasn't reviewed, you have the option to appeal. Look for appeal information in the letter you get.

## FAMILIES CAN APPEAL

It is natural for people to have differences of opinion from time to time. People, doing the best they can, may still disagree. If you disagree with a decision about a support or service in the CLTS program, you have the right to formally appeal a decision about supports and services with the Division of Hearings and Appeals. You can request a hearing using the form at <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LicensesHearings/DHAWorkandFamilyServicesUnit.aspx> or by letter. Mail your form or letter to: DHA, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Filing an appeal is not seen as a negative action. It is simply one way to work through differences.

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If the child in your care is found not eligible for the CLTS Program, there might be other programs to fit their needs. You can find more information and resources at your local human services agency and on the CLTS Program website at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/family.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/family.htm). You should continue monitoring your child's development. If your child's care needs change, you can always re-apply.

### **Completing the functional screen and Medicaid renewal**

Discuss the functional screen and Medicaid renewal timing with the SSC. They can answer your questions about any changes.

Refer to the following resources for information and guidance about moving back to regular policies:

- CLTS COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Ending Q&As:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/clts-faq.htm>
- Medicaid News for Members: Post-COVID Changes page:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-medicaid.htm>
- Member Health Care Renewal page:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/renewals.htm> ❖

## **Please take the National Core Indicator (NCI) Survey**

DHS is part of a nationwide survey project called the National Core Indicators (NCI) Child Family Survey. The goal is to measure and improve disability services for children. It is open to families with a child who:

- Lives in the family's home
- Has a developmental or intellectual disability
- Is enrolled in the CLTS Program

Your family may have been selected to participate in this national survey. If you received a letter in May about the survey and choose to fill it out, please be assured that your responses and information will remain confidential.

A family's services and supports will **not** be affected by completing the survey. The survey takes about 20 minutes. DHS appreciates families' direct input. The feedback helps DHS understand family and

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child needs and improve services in Wisconsin. For questions about the survey, families should call Addie Blanchard at 608-471-3901 or email her at [adelaide.blanchard@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:adelaide.blanchard@dhs.wisconsin.gov).❖

## CLTS Program Family Spotlight: Ben's Story

Last summer, Ben was able to finally feel ready to be an independent cyclist with the help of the CLTS funded program ICanBike Camp hosted by the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin.

Daysi, Ben's mom, told us, "Biking for us is more than just a recreational activity. It is a means of transportation that can open doors for Ben as he gets older."

Mama needs to keep up as Ben enjoys biking the trails for long periods of time!!❖

## The CLTS Program Wants Your Family Stories and Photos!

The All in for Kids newsletter is for families, and we want to feature your photos and experiences for other readers to enjoy! You can share things like:

- A positive interaction with the CLTS Program or an example of how it has helped your family or child.
- A photo or story of an activity you did with your child.
- A photo of artwork or something your child has made.

Email your family story or photo to [dhsclts@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsclts@dhs.wisconsin.gov) with "All in for Kids" in the subject line. You can also send ideas for stories you would like to see in the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you!❖

## Take the Deciding Together Survey and Share Your Experience

The CLTS Program wants to hear about your experience with using Deciding Together with your team.



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Deciding Together is the team approach used to make decisions about supports and services for the child in your care and your family.

In this approach, you are a key team member and the expert in your family's goals, strengths, and needs. The CLTS Program looks forward to hearing your feedback!

Details about the Deciding Together process are available at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/p-02246>. ❖

## Helpful Resources for Families

### Ticks in Wisconsin

Ticks are found in many areas throughout Wisconsin in the spring, summer, and early fall. They can spread diseases to people and animals by biting them. Remember that when family members, including pets, spend time outside:

- Do daily tick checks.
- Shower or bathe within two hours after being outdoors.
- Use insect repellent.
- Wear long sleeves and pants to prevent ticks from getting on family members.

Other tick bite prevention tips can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tick/bite-prevention.htm>.

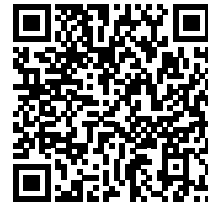
### Transition to Adulthood Resources

The Wisconsin Integrated Transition Planning Project helps families and youth with disabilities get information about health care, education, and employment services. This information can make the transition to adulthood easier.

- Wisconsin Integrated Transition Planning Project website: <https://integratedtransition.waisman.wisc.edu/>
- Key transition to adulthood resources: <https://integratedtransition.waisman.wisc.edu/resources/key-transition-resources/>

## HOW TO TAKE THE SURVEY

Scan the following QR code on your phone:



Or use this link to the Deciding Together survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7232295/Deciding-Together-Survey-All-in-For-Kids>.

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- Ways to get involved with the project:

<https://integratedtransition.waisman.wisc.edu/wisconsin-transition-planning-coalition/>

## Other Resources for Families

Latest information about COVID-19, including information about vaccinations for children, vaccine booster doses, and testing:

- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

DHS and CDC recommend the following steps to protect yourself and your community from the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay up to date on recommended COVID-19 vaccinations for the best protection: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>
- Know the level of COVID-19 in your community and follow appropriate guidance, including masking in public places, when levels are high: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>
- Know the symptoms, get tested, and stay home if you're sick:
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
  - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/testing.htm>
- Seek treatment as soon as you develop symptoms: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/telehealth.htm>

Previous issues of All in for Kids: CLTS Program:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/family.html> (Scroll down to the Family Newsletter section.)❖

## JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

For faster delivery, sign up to receive the electronic version of this newsletter and other emails about the CLTS Program. Families interested in getting the electronic version of this and future newsletters can go to [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WIDHS\\_554](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=WIDHS_554). You can also sign up for other DHS long-term care program emails at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm>. Feel free to spread the word.

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All in for Kids: CLTS Program is a newsletter published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for children and families in the CLTS Program.

The CLTS 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 the child's and family's specific needs and identified goals or outcomes. For more information, visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/index.htm).

Para leer este boletín en español, visite [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akids22.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akids22.htm).

Xav nyeem tsab ntawv xov xwm no ua Lus Hmoob, mus xyuas [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akids22.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akids22.htm).

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