

# 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.



## Children's Long-Term Support Program Renewal Brings New Services

The Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program is renewed by the federal government every five years. The latest renewal took effect on January 1, 2022. Each time the program is renewed, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) looks for ways to improve services and supports for children and families.

Last year, DHS collected family and participant feedback through a survey and online input sessions to get ideas for CLTS Program improvements. Two improvements were announced in the December 2021 All in for Kids: CLTS Program newsletter:

- Reducing providers' use of restraint and seclusion with children in the CLTS Program

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- Improving guidance for families with youth transitioning to adulthood

You can read about those program changes in the December 2021 issue of All in for Kids at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akids21.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akids21.htm).

In this issue, we are announcing even more program improvements: new services that are available to children and families.

### New Services Are Now Available

The CLTS Program is excited to announce the new services listed in the table below. DHS and county agencies are working to find and sign up providers across Wisconsin for these new services. If you are interested in one of these services, you can talk with the support and service coordinator (SSC) for help in finding providers.

New Service	What It Does
Health and wellness	Maintains or improves the health, well-being, socialization, and inclusion of the child with your family and peers in the community
Safety planning and prevention	Provides items or services that reduce risk or danger to help keep the child safe in their home or community
Virtual equipment and supports	Allows the child to receive CLTS Program services that are delivered remotely (over smart phone, tablet, or computer)
Discovery and career planning	Develops skills that help the youth get a job
Participant- and family-directed goods and services	Provides services, supports, and items your family cannot get through another CLTS Program service or Medicaid that help the child meet a long-term goal
Participant- and family-direction broker services	Provides information and help so that your family can find and manage your own CLTS Program providers
Grief and bereavement counseling	Helps the child and family cope with the child's possible death and supports your family after the child's death

## 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. Every family has 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 [doa.wi.gov/Pages/LicensesHearings/DHAWorkandFamilyServicesUnit.aspx](http://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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The CLTS Benefits at a Glance document has also been updated with information about the new services. You can find it at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02570.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02570.htm).

You can talk with the SSC about these new services and whether they might help the child or your family meet a goal. You can use the Deciding Together process to figure out if any of these services are right for you.

### **Providers Are Needed for New Services**

DHS and counties are working to make sure there are enough providers for these new services in your area. You can help spread the word. If you know a provider who might be interested in delivering these services, please refer them to the SSC or to the online flyer at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03182.pdf](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03182.pdf). Thank you for your help! ❖

## **The 2022 Circles of Life Conference**

The Circles of Life Conference is a yearly meeting for families with children who have disabilities. Providers and other professionals who support families and children also go to the conference.

At the conference, you can connect with other families, join educational sessions, and learn about new resources and providers. There are activities for the whole family, including:

- Sessions for youth with disabilities
- Programs for brothers and sisters
- Respite care for young kids
- Family Fun Night and ice cream social

### **Conference Details**

This year's conference will be held on May 12–13, 2022. You can attend either in person or remotely (online).

#### ***Attend in Person***

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The Holiday Inn is holding some rooms for conference attendees who want to stay at the hotel. We recommend making hotel reservations early.

## **REMINDER**

Deciding Together is the team approach used to make decisions about supports and services for the child and your family. In this approach, you are a key team member and the expert in your family's goals. Details about the Deciding Together process are at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02246.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02246.htm).

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## Attend Remotely

You can attend remotely using a smartphone, tablet, or computer. The conference will be live-streamed on May 12–13. It will also be recorded so that you can watch it later. Check the Circles of Life website at [www.circlesoflifeconference.com](http://www.circlesoflifeconference.com) for more information.

## Register for the Conference

Registration for the conference will open on March 1, 2022. Instructions are on the Circles of Life website at [www.circlesoflifeconference.com](http://www.circlesoflifeconference.com). ❖

## Parent Members Are Needed for the CLTS Council

### What is the CLTS Council?

The CLTS Council makes recommendations to DHS about how the CLTS Program can help children with disabilities and their families. The council's suggestions help shape DHS policy.

Most CLTS Council members are parents from different backgrounds who have children with disabilities. Parent members provide information about their experiences and the needs of families. They share their thoughts and ideas about:

- What parts of the CLTS Program work well.
- What parts of the program could be improved.
- Ways the program could be changed to better meet families' needs.
- Ways the program could reach new families.

Other council members come from advocacy agencies, county human services or social service agencies, and provider agencies. The CLTS Council has up to 25 voting members.

### Join the CLTS Council

The CLTS Council is looking for more parent members. Members usually serve on the council for 2–3 years.

Council meetings in 2022 will be held on April 13, July 13, and October 12. Meetings usually start at 9 a.m. and end around 2:30 p.m. Right now, due to the pandemic, the council meetings are held remotely over videoconference/teleconference. Future meetings will be held in person in Madison, Wisconsin, with the option to attend remotely. Council members

## DID YOU KNOW?

The CLTS Program may be able to pay for your conference fees. Talk to the SSC for more information. Other programs, such as the Children's Community Options Program (CCOP), can cover hotel costs.

## JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

For faster delivery, sign up to receive the electronic version of this newsletter and other emails about the CLTS Program. Go to [public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WIDHS\\_554](http://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 [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm). Feel free to spread the word if you have friends or family who might be interested in the newsletter or the CLTS Program.

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who attend in person may be able to be reimbursed for meals, mileage, or hotel costs.

Parents' input on the council is very valuable! To learn more about the council and the meeting schedule, visit the council's website at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cltsCouncil/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cltsCouncil/index.htm). If you are interested in becoming a council member, you can find information on how to apply at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cltsCouncil/parent-appointment-letter-2019.pdf](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cltsCouncil/parent-appointment-letter-2019.pdf). ❖

## Spring Family Fun Activities

Spring is almost here! As the days get longer and warmer, you may want to add some different activities to your family time. Here are some ideas that can boost the fun factor as well as the child's learning and development:

- **Visit a playground**—Head outside to enjoy the spring air after the long, cold winter! Playgrounds have a lot of ways for children to use their motor skills. They are also one of the best places for children to practice social skills with the other kids who are sure to be there! You might want to:
  - Find a balance beam or a line on an unused basketball or tennis court to see who can walk heel-to-toe the farthest.
  - Practice hanging and climbing on the monkey bars.
  - Play in the sand or gravel. Dig, pour, bury things, or even create an imaginary town with roads and hills.
  - Have a picnic with your family's favorite lunch or snacks.
- **Spring yard clean up**—Work can be fun if you are spending time together! Picking up sticks, pulling weeds, or planting flowers are good ways to bond and feel proud of your efforts afterward. They are also great exercise!
- **Sidewalk chalk**—Sidewalk chalk is fun whatever your age. It also boosts fine motor skills. Draw pictures, practice writing numbers or letters, play hopscotch, or draw a maze for the family to find their way through!
- **Recreate indoor games outside**—Get creative and make an outdoor version of an indoor game. Here is one idea: use pool noodles or jump ropes to create a tic-tac-toe grid on the ground, then play using rocks for the O's and twigs for the X's.
- **Go for a walk**—Find different surfaces such as sand, gravel, or wood chips—talk about how they feel different under your feet. Pick



**SPRING FAMILY  
FUN**

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dandelions (the more, the better!). This is also a great time to tell stories to each other, sing, or play “follow the leader.” ❖

## Helpful Resources for Families

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

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm)

Everyone age 5 and older can get a free COVID-19 vaccination from their health care provider, community-based vaccination clinics, local and tribal health departments, or pharmacies. Find out how at:

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-get.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-get.htm)

Information about COVID-19 booster doses for fully vaccinated people age 12 and older:

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-dose.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-dose.htm)

Children 2 years and older are encouraged to protect against COVID-19 by wearing a mask. Learn more at:

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/parents.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/parents.htm)

Tips for talking about COVID-19 vaccinations with family and friends:

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-talk.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-talk.htm)

Information about food assistance during the pandemic:

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-foodshare.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-foodshare.htm)

Previous issues of All in for Kids: CLTS Program:

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/family/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/family/index.htm) (Scroll down to the Resources section.)

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent COVID-19. You can also help stop its spread by:

- Wearing a mask inside public buildings, on public transportation, or at crowded outdoor gatherings.
- Staying home when feeling sick.
- Getting tested if you have symptoms or after close contact with someone who has COVID.

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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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