

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.



Support and Service Coordinators Help Families

Support and service coordinators (SSCs) are here to help! These professionals are your family's main contacts in the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program. SSCs work with your family to help decide what services and supports will help achieve your family and child's unique goals. The SSC will meet with you and your family to learn about your child's needs, strengths, and goals. The SSC will also learn about your family's traditions, values, and what the child in your care needs to be most successful.

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The team will work together to develop the Individual Service Plan (ISP). The team will use an approach called Deciding Together to develop the ISP.

SSCs help your family develop the ISP by:

- Thinking through what the goals are for your child and family **together**. This is a very important step. The team must understand what the goals are to begin planning supports and services.
- The SSC will ask you questions and help you brainstorm short-term and long-term goals for your child.
- Thinking creatively about options to meet the goals that are identified. The team looks at the big picture and values every idea.
- Weighing which options:
 - Most likely meet the goals you identified.
 - Are important to your family's culture and values.
 - Are cost-effective while meeting the goal.
- Developing the ISP together. The team will decide together the supports and services that will help your child reach their goals. The team also works together to decide when supports and services will begin and how often they will happen.

The SSC also helps you and your family in other ways. The SSC:

- Helps you figure out what providers are available for your child. These providers can be professionals or people you already know, such as friends, neighbors, or other family members.
- Authorizes supports and services through the CLTS Program that the team has chosen to help your child meet their goals.
- Helps coordinate support and services, as well as providers.
- Checks in with you on a regular basis to find out if the selected supports and services for your child are meeting the goals you identified. The SSC will ask if things are working well or if there are concerns you and the SSC need to solve together. If things are not working for you or your child, the team will review the goals and the current supports and services in place and can help make any necessary changes.
- Helps connect you to other services and programs that can help support your family.

DID YOU KNOW?

What is Deciding Together?

The CLTS Program uses a team approach called Deciding Together to make decisions. In this approach, you are a key team member and the expert on your family's goals, strengths, and needs. Deciding Together considers your family's experiences when developing the ISP, which is the unique plan of supports and services for your family and child.

Learn more at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/p-02246.

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- Talks to you about your rights. Disagreements are natural and listening to each other's viewpoints can help you and the SSC reach a solution. ❖

CLTS Program Highlights Respite and Mentoring Services

The CLTS Program has many supports and services to help your child stay safe and healthy, build new skills, and develop more independence. In this newsletter, we'll learn more about two of these services: respite and mentoring.

What is respite?

Respite is a short-term break for your family when a trained person provides care for your child. Respite care can help ease the stress of caregiving.

For example, a trusted and trained neighbor comes into your home and provides care for your child, so you, the caregiver, can have a break to take time for yourself.

What is mentoring?

Mentoring helps your child build skills so they can interact and play with friends and be active in their community.

For example, a mentor may bring your child to the library or career center to work on job building skills such as writing out applications or help your child explore hobbies that might help them look for a current or future job.

Reach out to the SSC to find out if these services may help your child and family meet goals that were identified. ❖

Family Spotlight: Elia's Story

Elia (pictured left on the next page) has a partial trisomy of her ninth chromosome. Elia uses an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device to communicate. The family got the AAC device through the CLTS Program to meet Elia's goals.

Elia is nonverbal, and her mom, Liza, explains that the AAC device is very important for Elia to be able to communicate. It helps Elia with

IN THE KNOW?

Learn more about respite, mentoring, and other CLTS Program services with the Children's Long-Term Support Program Supports and Services at a Glance at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/p-02570.

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signing, pointing, and different vocalizations. The AAC device also allows Elia to clearly state her wants, feelings, and experiences!

Liza said that the family's SSC has become a very important part of Elia's support team over the past year.

Liza writes, "The SSC always sends us information on upcoming events that we might be interested in and also let us know about the Inclusive Fall Festival that took place in Madison."

At the Inclusive Fall Festival, Elia and her sister, Emery (pictured right), got to hang out with other kids who use AAC devices. They played fun games like pumpkin bowling and leaf pile digging. ❖



The CLTS Program Wants Your Family Stories and Photos!

The All in for Kids newsletter is for families. 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.
- An example of how the CLTS Program has helped your family or child.
- A photo or story of an activity you did with your child.
- A photo of artwork or something else your child has made.

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

Available Now: Introducing Wisconsin Wayfinder

Families often have many questions after learning their child has one or more delays, disabilities, special health care needs, or mental health conditions.

Wisconsin Wayfinder is a resource to help connect you to your area's Children's Resource Centers (previously known as the Children and

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 <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dms/ltc-email-signup.htm> and then scroll down and click the "CLTS Information for Families and Participants" link on the left side. Don't forget to tell your family and friends in the program to sign up as well!

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Youth with Special Health Care Needs Regional Centers). You will be able to call Wisconsin Wayfinder and talk to a live person or go online and use the website if you prefer. It is free, confidential, and supportive to your family!

What are the Children's Resource Centers and how can they help?

Wisconsin has five Children's Resource Centers that are devoted to supporting families of children and youth with delays, disabilities, special health care needs, or mental health conditions. The centers help both families and providers.

Each center has children's resource guides who are trained to help you and your family:

- Connect to community resources.
- Learn about and find supports and services.
- Get answers to questions you have.

How do I connect with Wisconsin Wayfinder?



You can call the toll-free phone number **877-WiscWay (877-947-2929)** and talk to a live person. They will help connect you to your children's resource guide.



You can go online at www.dhs.wi.gov/wiscway to find information and resources and reach out to your children's resource guide.

If you choose to go online to the Wisconsin Wayfinder webpages, you will find:

- Videos about Wisconsin Wayfinder.
- More information and resources for you to make your own decisions and decide what steps you want to take next.
- Answers to common questions you may have if your child has delays, disabilities, special health care needs, or mental health conditions.
- A contact form you can fill out to have a children's resource guide in your region reach out to you at your preferred time. ❖

REMINDER



You can call this toll-free number to connect with Wisconsin Wayfinder: **877-WiscWay (877-947-2929)**.

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New Online Resource for Families to Learn More About CLTS Program Enrollment

Have you ever wondered how many children are enrolled in the CLTS Program in the state? Are you curious about the time it takes to enroll a child in the CLTS Program by county?

A new online resource developed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is here to help!

Through this new resource, you can learn about:

- How many children are in the CLTS Program right now, both in the entire state and in your county.
- How long it usually takes to get a child into the CLTS Program based on the county selected.
- How many children can join the CLTS Program but haven't yet.

To use the new resource, go to <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/enrollment-dashboard.htm>. ❖

Other Resources for Families

Keep your family healthy this winter by getting and staying up to date with vaccines for COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and the flu:

- Find available COVID-19 and flu vaccines: www.vaccines.gov/
- Learn about the causes, treatments, and prevention of various respiratory illnesses: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/respiratory.htm>

Previous issues of All in for Kids: CLTS Program: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/AKids23. ❖

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 with the Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA). You can request a hearing using the form at 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 your right. It is simply one way to work through differences when you disagree with a decision.



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.

Para leer este boletín en español, visite www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/AKids23.

Xav nyeem tsab ntawv xov xwm no ua Lus Hmoob, mus xyuas www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/AKids23.

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