

## 2025-27 State Budget Request

# Strengthening Services & Support for Children

## Foundational Funding for Specialized Residential Care Centers (RCCs) & Youth Crisis Stabilization Facilities (YCSFs)

Over the past decade, our state has lost treatment capacity for serving children, which has resulted in increased utilization of out-of-state placements and increased risk for children. The daily rate payment model imposes excessive financial risk on providers, leaving agencies financially fragile. Meanwhile, rates of youth mental/behavioral health struggles are on the rise.

According to DCF data, **more than 400 Wisconsin youth were placed out of state over the past decade**, negatively impacting children and resulting in **millions of dollars of county expenditures** outside of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's lack of capacity to provide the right service at the right time has **pushed children into hospitals, detention centers, and county offices.**

**Our continuum of care for children needs intentional state investment in higher levels of care to reduce inequities and support timely access to necessary services.**

Residential Care Centers (RCCs) and Youth Crisis Stabilization Facilities (YCSFs) are part of the statewide infrastructure of children's behavioral health services. Contracting for these resources will provide for a more well-planned approach, investing in the quality and capacity that is needed for the current future design on our children's services.

## What We Need to Strengthen Services & Support for Children



Provide **\$5 million** to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to contract to expand capacity in **Qualified Residential Treatment Facilities**.



Provide **\$2 million** in annual funds to the Department of Health Services (DHS) to ensure **Youth Crisis Stabilization Facilities** remain part of our continuum.



Adopt legislation modeled on 2023 SB 914: **Video Recording in Youth Settings**.

- Additional security tools—such as allowing video recording in residential care centers, group homes, and shelters—would help agencies serve youth with more intensive needs.
- Video recordings can support staff training, assist with debriefing incidents, and expedite incident review processes. It is possible to balance the privacy interests of youth while also enhancing the safety and quality of youth care.