

# Raising Wisconsin

## Optimal Health and Well-Being 2023-25 State Budget Request

### Key Talking Points

Raising Wisconsin calls for the state Legislature to prioritize children's health and well-being in the **2023-25 biennium** by:

#### **Supporting young children's mental health - \$8.79 million to support and enhance training and coaching, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, and endorsement work.**

- Early investments are proven to pay dividends long into adulthood.
- The pandemic significantly worsened mental and physical health challenges of young children and families.
- People of all ages, including infants, experience mental health challenges. No one is too young, including infants and young children.
- If untreated, challenges start early, worsen, and create roadblocks for learning, social competence and difficult behaviors (i.e. aggression and bullying, anxiety, depression, social withdrawal).
- Challenging behaviors are the No. 1 reason children and families are asked to leave a child care program.

#### **Expanding Family Foundations Home Visiting Programs - \$10 million to increase counties served and number of home visitors.**

- Home Visiting is evidence-based and completely voluntary.
- It links pregnant women with prenatal care, and new mothers receive tools to promote strong parent-child attachment and activities, which foster their child's development and their role as their first and most important teacher.
- Proven to foster educational development and school-readiness and play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect over the long-term.

#### **Extending Medicaid coverage to 12 months in the postpartum period.**

- The current mandate covers mothers for 60 days while their babies are covered for a year.
- Medicaid extension reduces maternal and infant mortality and decreases uninsured rates for pregnant and new moms.
- Wisconsin has an infant mortality crisis. The state's Black babies are three times more likely to die before their first birthday than white babies.