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CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT
Prevention Board

Newsletter

ISSUE DECEMBER 2025

WI Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board Updates

Providing you with the latest news and updates from the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board



As 2025 is coming to a close, we reflect back on the changes and challenges. This year included a new strategic plan, ending a 3-year funding cycle and starting a new 3-year funding cycle. Thank you for your partnership and your work to strengthen families.

From the Field

Annually, the Prevention Board creates a Community Investment Plan reflecting its policy, program, professional development, and public awareness priorities. Throughout State Fiscal Year 2025, the Prevention Board has cultivated and maintained meaningful relationships with various Wisconsin entities to fund and promote evidence-informed, family-strengthening practices that strive to support parents and caregivers. The programs and services available for funding are grounded in strengths-based approaches that make up the Family Strengthening continuum: community engagement, parent leadership development, resource and navigation support, child development activities,

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investing in community-based prevention. The intended focus of these funds is to provide resources to community-based agencies to serve and strengthen families directly through programming.

Around \$3.6 million was provided to various entities across the state to provide parent education, parent support, and a myriad of services, which aim to strengthen protective factors in families. Over 14,000 Wisconsin families accessed family strengthening services this year. From play groups, parent cafes, or rigorous parent education courses, families attended programming for a host of reasons: to better understand their child's developmental milestones, to connect with other parents, increasing their parenting strengths, or to get connected to local resources. An additional 2,600 families also received concrete supports through Prevention Board funding.

The Prevention Board continues to support and celebrate the achievements of the family-serving agencies we work with and applaud their service and commitment to strengthening Wisconsin families. To review all of Prevention Board's state fiscal year 2025 investments and families served, view the [report](#).

Research: New Nationwide Research Study on Family Resource Center Services for Young Families

Child Trends is a nonpartisan; nonprofit research organization focused on issues affecting children's well-being. In November, it released [Exploring How Family Resource Centers Work with Young Parents](#). The study expands existing research on the vital role of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) in supporting young families by examining how FRCs across the country assist parents age 25 and under.

Child Trends surveyed FRCs in 32 states about:

1. how they help young parents access public benefits, and
2. whether and how they support young families involved with child welfare.

States reported on the services their FRCs offer, funding sources, and approaches to working with young parents, including those in the child welfare system.

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- **68%** of FRCs conduct targeted outreach to young parents; others serve them but without specific outreach efforts.
 - Of those conducting outreach, only **9%** said young parents make up more than half of the families they serve; most reported they make up less than 25%.
 - Centers targeting young parents are more often **community-based** than **school-based**.
 - The most common categories of services for young families include: resource navigation, parenting supports, direct concrete assistance (food, clothing, transportation), child development activities, and assistance accessing public benefits.
 - FRCs that outreach to young families are significantly more likely to offer navigation support for accessing public benefits.
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Celebrate Children Foundation

The Celebrate Children Foundation(Foundation) offered a grant opportunity focused on strengthening Wisconsin families through books and concrete supports. This competitive grant opportunity will provide funding to agencies for two objectives:

- **Building brains and bonds with books:** Research has shown that having books in the home can boost child literacy. In addition to increasing literacy, when caregivers read to children it boosts the caregiver-child connection, builds protective factors, and helps foster healthy child development.
- **Concrete supports:** Research has shown economic and concrete supports help families address basic needs and create safer environments for children to thrive. There is also emerging evidence that the effects of economic and concrete supports reduce the risk for child maltreatment.

Congratulations to the 10 agencies awarded the funding: 4C for Children, Betty Brinn Children's Museum, Burnett Family Resource Center, Community Coordinated Child Care, Family Resource Center of Iowa County, Inc., Northwest Connection Family Resources, The Parenting Place, River Source Family Center, Safe Families for Children WI, and Watertown Family Connections, Inc.

Results from the previous year's grants:

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FOUNDATION INVESTMENT

\$45,000 distributed to 9 agencies

103 community events offered	469 concrete support items distributed	4,025 children's books shared with 2,746 families
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Grant funding supported the distribution of children's books and concrete support items, such as diapers. Books fosters parent-child reading, one of the most effective ways to build strong family relationships and nurture children's emotional security. Access to concrete supports reduces family stress, allowing parents to focus more fully on their children's growth and well-being, including reading time.

To learn about Celebrate Children Foundation or make a donation, visit www.celebrate-children.org or email information@celebrate-children.org

2024-25 Awardees:

Bay View Community Center; Childcaring; Children's Service Society of Wisconsin; Family & Childcare Resources of NEW; Indianhead Community Action Agency; Lakeland Family Resource Center, Inc.; Northwest Connection Family Resources; Tree House Child and Family Center, Inc.; and United Way of Sheboygan County.

Upcoming Webinars:

Fresh Start, Bright Future: Helping Families Save and Invest for the Year Ahead: January 7, 2026 from 1- 2pm.

Kick off the new year by empowering families with practical tools to build financial stability and invest in their children's future. This 45-minute webinar will guide professionals through strategies to support families in setting savings goals, exploring education savings programs like EdVest, and leveraging other accessible savings tools. Learn how to make financial conversations approachable and impactful for the families you serve.

Presenters:

Carol Bralich: Associate Professor, Human Development & Relationships Educator

UW-Madison, Division of Extension, Fond du Lac County

Jenny Abel: Center for Financial Literacy, Financial Security Outreach Program

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Extension

Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/NF-C4G_kTnClIRjAn1CFdg

Other Professional Development opportunities

Check out the Professional Development Network, Family Support Professional offerings on their [website](#).

Upcoming conferences:

Fulfilling the Promise, March 16, 2026 – March 18, 2026. Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells

The Power of Joys: The Professional Development Network, a program of Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System (WCWPDS-Milwaukee), has coordinated this year's conference around exploring how we can actively cultivate joy to foster growth and well-being in the families we serve, the organizations we work within, and the communities we call home.

Cultivating Connections: Wisconsin Maternal & Child Health Conference, April 13–14, 2026. Glacier Canyon Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells

Cultivating Connections: Wisconsin Maternal and Child Health Conference is a two-day, statewide gathering dedicated to advancing maternal and child health. This free conference brings together health care providers, community partners, families, patients, and all who are passionate about creating healthier futures for Wisconsin families.

Registration: <https://www.pediatrics.wisc.edu/cultivating-connections-wisconsin-maternal-child-health-conference/>

Together for Children, April 22-24, 2026. Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Annual conference aimed at providing information and skills that support a multidisciplinary approach to improve prevention, treatment, investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect.

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Raising Wisconsin's Children Conference 2026 - UW Madison, February 4, 2026 9 AM to 4:30 PM, Online - join live via Zoom or watch later

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Cost: Free!

Conference Theme: Helping Children Thrive When Life Gets Tough

The Raising Wisconsin's Children Conference is a free online event for parents, caregivers, teachers, and anyone who works with children. Experts share practical, research-based tips and strategies to support children's growth, learning, and well-being.

Register: <https://go.wisc.edu/raisingwi>

Additional information

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), public health officials in several states, the California Department of Public Health Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are investigating a multistate outbreak of infant botulism linked to ByHeart Whole Nutrition infant formula.

The recall includes all lot numbers, sizes of cans and single serve sticks of ByHeart Whole Nutrition infant formula. **Parents and caregivers should stop using all ByHeart Whole Nutrition infant formula immediately.** View more information on this outbreak and FAQs for parents on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services [outbreak webpage](#).



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