

Leadership Council on the Early Years (LCEY)

Survey Results

September 2021



Purpose of Survey

In June–July 2021, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) sent out a survey to members of the cross-agency LCEY to inform next steps for the group's collaboration and goal-setting. Survey participants were reminded of the overarching mission to support each other's current work and innovate to better serve all Wisconsin children and families.

The survey had three main objectives:

1. To gather information about data available across all agencies that might help LCEY evaluate its progress and set goals for the future.
2. To offer participants an opportunity to reflect on their agencies' use of data to evaluate their equitable support for children and families (where relevant) and brainstorm new ideas on new opportunities to serve and/or collect data on this demographic.
3. To gather feedback on the relevance and work of LCEY to date.

Participation

12 total responses

9 out of 19 agencies responded*

* Department of Children and Families not included in agency count

Participants

- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
- Department of Corrections (3)
- Department of Financial Institutions
- Department of Safety and Professional Services
- Department of Veteran Affairs
- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
- Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Authority
- Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health
- Anonymous (1)



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families



LCEY Survey Questions:

1. How are you meeting the needs of Wisconsin's children and families? Please name programs, services, or initiatives. If possible, please focus on those directed toward families with young children ages 0-5.
2. What data do you collect and analyze to evaluate your success? How frequently?
3. What do you hope to learn (or what decisions do you hope to drive) with the data you collect and/or analyze? Are there any decisions you must make that would be supported by increased access to data on children and families?
4. How does your agency evaluate whether its work promotes equitable outcomes for ALL children and families?

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board Responses

Programs Supporting Children and Families:

- Funding to community-based agencies for primary prevention programming and services to strengthen families
- Professional development for family support professionals

Data Collected/Reported:

- Number of families served
- Pre- and post-assessments for professional development participants
- Annual evaluation from grantees on CANPB support of funding

Potential Future Uses of Data:

- Want to increase understanding of effectiveness of some of the programs
- Want to understand reach of its funding
- Want to explore quality improvement trajectories

Equity Focus:

- Offering trainings to grantees on equity
- Developing plan and would like to learn from others



Department of Corrections Responses

Programs Supporting Children and Families:

- Independent living program for minor parents involved in juvenile correctional system
- Multimedia family resource kit for incarcerated parents and their children (produced by Sesame Street)
- Child/incarcerated parent in-person and/or Zoom visiting opportunities
- Work release and vocational program allowing incarcerated men to provide for their families and pay child support
- Fatherhood, parenting classes
- Public library partnership teaching incarcerated men to read to their children

Data Collected/Reported:

- On state level by DCF and on national level (about Independent Living program)

Current Uses of Data:

- Monitoring whether participants are thriving in Independent Living program

Equity Focus:

- Independent Living program offered to all who qualify; needs and goals are all youth driven

Department of Financial Institutions Responses

Programs Supporting Children and Families:

- DFI and Department of Public Instruction joint initiative to create curriculum for schools on financial literacy

Data Collected/Reported:

- DFI reports that DPI monitors use of curriculum for schools on financial literacy

Potential Future Uses of Data:

- Want to understand how many children are education by financial literacy programs in schools

Department of Safety and Professional Services Responses

Programs Supporting Children and Families:

- Building safety and plan review for structures serving children and families
- Employee safety supports all public sector workers, including parents/families

Data Collected/Reported:

- None for children and families specifically



Department of Veteran Affairs Responses

Programs Supporting Children and Families:

- Grants, benefits, programs, and services for veterans that benefit their whole family

Data Collected/Reported:

- Quarterly program quality data on grants, benefits, programs, and services

Potential Future Uses of Data:

- As a result of LCEY, has discussed adding direct services for children and families
- Would like access to others' data to evaluate needs and consider ways to assist with programming

Office of Children's Mental Health Responses

Programs Supporting Children and Families:

- Tools including Feelings Thermometer
- Accessing Children's Mental Health Services map
- Online workshops

Current Uses of Data:

- Use Child Well-Being Indicators Dashboard and create monthly Fact Sheets to disseminate data collected by others

Equity Focus:

- Examine data for equity of outcomes
- Actively engage with diverse stakeholders



Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Responses

Programs Supporting Children and Families:

- Business and community development, which includes support for early care and education businesses and others that serve families of young children, all businesses that offer jobs

Data Collected/Reported:

- Quantitative and qualitative data presented at monthly Board meetings

Current and Potential Future Uses of Data:

- Interested in low pay and lack of advancement opportunities for child care workers
- Want to see increasing quality and affordability of child care for families
- To attract businesses to some areas with affordable, high quality child care and work together on building it up in areas that don't yet have that as a selling point
- To develop new business models involving collaboration and financial support for families and better wages for child care employees to ensure Wisconsin parents/families can enter the workforce

Equity Focus:

- Focused evaluations and discussions around diversity, equity and inclusion
- Internal goals for our staff and external goals for projects we support

Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Authority Responses

Programs Supporting Children and Families:

- Affordable housing for low to moderate income households (renters and home owners)
- Business loan and guarantee products to stimulate small businesses and create job opportunities

Data Collected/Reported:

- Single family tracks loan recipient demographics to ensure equity, including household size
- Multifamily tracks income levels, unit statuses, safety and sanitation, number of beds and units

Current Uses of Data:

- Compliance with federal requirements
- Who is being served and whether they live in satisfactory conditions

Potential Future Uses of Data:

- Set priorities and target family properties that offer high-impact amenities, locations, and unit sizes for families
- Future innovation

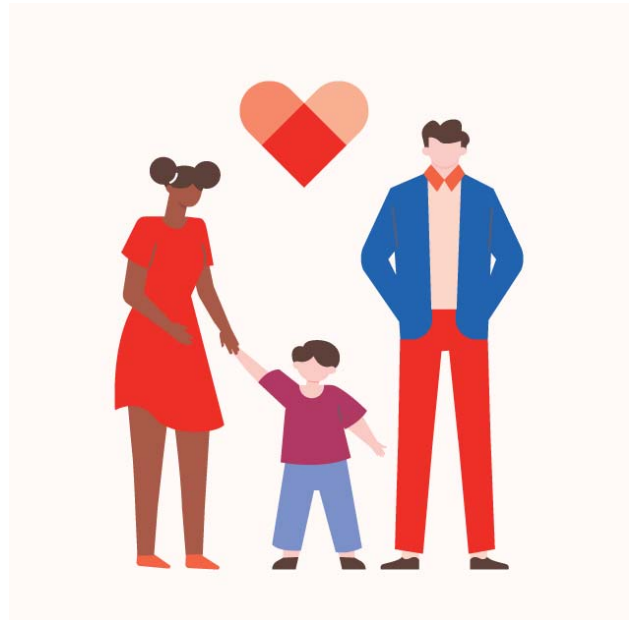
Equity Focus:

- Policy and procedures aligned with federal and state regulations to ensure equitable loans
- Ensure all affordable housing rules and regulations are met per IRS standards



As LCEY’s coordinating agency, DCF appreciates the time and ideas shared by all member groups in this survey and via other communication channels. In the final question of the survey, DCF asked,

What are your reactions to the work of LCEY to date? What might it look like for your agency to enhance its participation and/or contributions of ideas and resources to support children and families? How can DCF facilitate that?



Reactions from Agency Respondents

- The work of LCEY is important.
- Agencies appreciate being involved.
- The direction of this group is “spot on.”
- “The conversations are becoming increasingly robust.”
- One agency would like to engage in more detailed discussions around ways they could act as a resource for DCF and others supporting children and families.
- One agency expressed willingness to support other LCEY members more by disseminating more information across its network.
- “LCEY is a fabulous entity. Having each of the State's agencies involved makes a ton of sense and adds to the effectiveness.”

Conclusion

DCF appreciates the commitment and contributions of all member agencies, which is what has resulted in the level of success described above despite many challenges faced in 2020-21. The coordinating team is equally excited about the future of LCEY, and is open to all ideas for future topics, speakers, and/or processes.

For corrections or if your agency did not contribute responses to the survey but would still like to, please reach out to DCF Strategic Initiatives Advisor Andrea Cammilleri via email (andrea.cammilleri@wisconsin.gov).

