



# Putting Families First Playbook Mission and Vision

Every family needs help sometimes, and we all play a key role in helping build a system supportive of healthy, thriving families and communities.

Since 2018, Wisconsin has been working toward transforming the child welfare system to become more family-focused, collaborative and to support children and families in their homes. These efforts to Put Families First were bolstered by federal legislation such as the Family First Prevention Services Act.

## *Vision*

All Wisconsin children and youth are safe loved members of thriving families and communities



**Putting Families First** aims to dramatically reduce the proportion of child protective services (CPS) and youth justice (YJ) children and youth who are placed into out-of-home care, especially those that are served outside of their community or in congregate care settings. This shift in the system began when research indicated that children and families served by both the youth justice and child protection system have better results when supported in their family homes.

This transformation is focused on keeping families and children together by serving them in-home with resources and services.

Consider watching [this video](#), which outlines the key goals of Putting Families First in Wisconsin.

# Three Transformation Priorities

***Supporting families  
in-home***



***Keeping children in  
family settings***

***Supporting our workforce***



In support of this transformation, DCF has invested an additional \$10 million for 2022-2023 and \$5 million annually starting in 2024 for in-home services. These funds went directly to local agencies to support families in their communities. Building a shared understanding in local communities of everyone's role in supporting families is critical for success. Additional information to support this understanding can be found throughout the [Putting Families First Playbook](#).

