

Putting Families First

Milwaukee Parentship Council




Wisconsin Department of Children and Families



Vision

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

**We strive for justice in the
child welfare system
through addressing
systemic oppression,
inequity and racism.**



**Putting Families First means
keeping families together and
children with those who know
and love them.**

In Wisconsin, relative placements represent **one half of family setting placements.**



In Milwaukee, relative placements represent 42% of family setting placements.

**Children first placed
with relatives are
more likely to be
placed **with their
siblings . . .****



**In Milwaukee, 57% of children placed with relatives are
placed with a sibling.**

To have **fewer**
placements moves . . .



**And 9 out of 10 children who discharge
from a relative placement achieve
permanency
with **family**.**

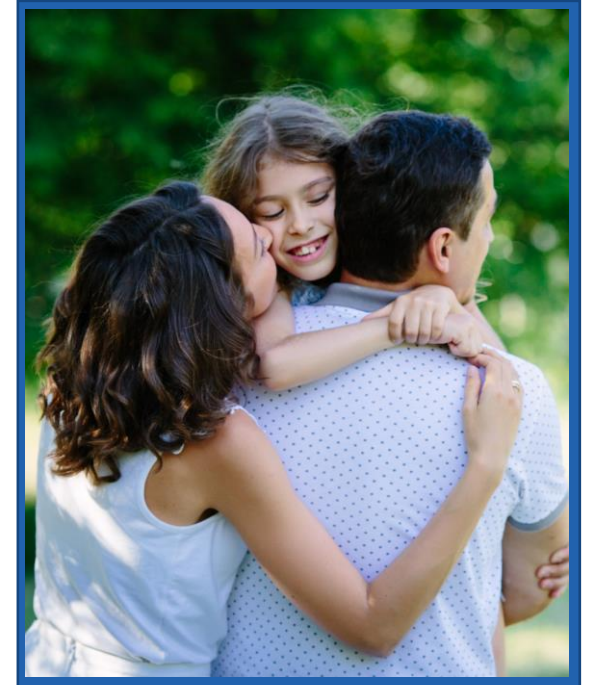


A photograph of a family of three—a mother, a father, and a young child—playing together on a grassy lawn in a park. The mother, with long blonde hair and wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt, is crouching on the left, holding a blue sippy cup and smiling. The father, with dark hair and wearing a dark brown t-shirt, is crouching on the right, holding the child. The child, a young boy with dark hair wearing a striped shirt and jeans, is sitting between them, looking up and smiling. They are all focused on a small orange object the mother is holding. The background shows trees with autumn foliage and a bright, hazy sky. The text "Partnering with families." is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

**Partnering with
families.**

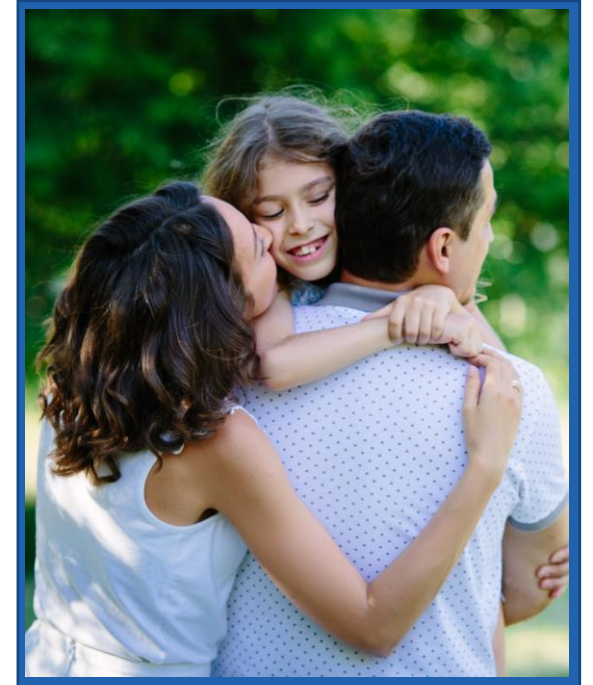
Supporting Families through Kinship Legislation

- **Current law** limits who is considered a “relative” under state statute.
- **Proposed legislation** would expand definition of a “relative” to include “first cousin-once removed” and “like-kin.”
 - Would impact voluntary and court-ordered kinship.
 - For court-ordered kinship, child welfare agencies could consider like-kin caregivers as long-term placement option even if the provider is unable to become licensed.



Supporting Families through Kinship Legislation

- 48.02 (12c) “Like-kin” means an individual who has a significant emotional relationship with a child or the child’s family that is similar to a familial relationship . . . For an Indian child, “like-kin” includes individuals identified by the child’s tribe according to tribal tradition, custom or resolution, code, or law.
- “Kinship care provider” was altered to include an Indian child’s extended family according to the law or custom of the Indian child’s tribe.
- Federal rule – Separate Licensing or Approval Standards for Relative or Kinship Foster Family Homes – effective November 2023.



Here's how you can help:



Take a look at the Kinship Definition Legislation Summary.

- Find it here: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/familyfirst/expanding-the-kinship-definition.pdf>.



Have conversations with your legislators.

- Write a letter of support or request a meeting.
- Find your legislator here: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>.



Share your stories with us!

- Email us: FamilyFirst@wisconsin.gov.





**Partnering with the
workforce.**

Improving Child Welfare

Initial
Assessment
Improvement
Project (IAIP)

Reducing
redundancies and
providing clearer
guidance on
documentation

Safety Revisions
(SR)

Creating a process
that is streamlined,
easier to implement,
leads to greater
statewide
consistency

Quality Case
Planning (QCP)

Simplifying and
supporting case
planning so
families and child
welfare
professionals
report plans meet
their needs

Independent
Living Transition
to Discharge
(ILTD) Plan

Refining the plan to
make it more user-
friendly, relevant to
the needs of young
people and rooted
as a youth-driven
and -centered
process

Streamlined work to increase engagement with families.



Putting Families First Communication Tools

For these resources, visit:

www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first/toolbox.



Town halls



“Understanding Wisconsin’s Child Protection System” – a new resource



Putting Families First Newsletter



Putting Families First Playbook



Wisconsin is transforming – let's keep going!



Share your stories with us!



Reach out to your legislators.



Continue to support families and seek innovative partnerships – because we're **stronger together**.



Questions?



Thank you!

Have additional questions? Don't hesitate to reach out!

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