



Agency Description

The secretary administers the department with the assistance of an appointed deputy secretary, assistant deputy secretary, and administrators for the department's five divisions. Key program areas include child welfare, child support, child care, and domestic abuse services.

Vision and Priorities

Our department's vision is that all Wisconsin children and youth are safe and loved members of thriving families and communities. To reach our goal, we are focused on reducing racial and ethnic disparities in our programs and services, focusing on five key priorities:



- Systematically increasing access to quality early care and education programs that support the needs of children and families statewide;
- Putting families in the center of successful child support and good-paying jobs programs;
- Safely transforming the child welfare and youth justice system to dramatically increase the proportion of children supported in their homes and communities;
- Dedicating additional resources to support vulnerable and historically underserved youth, specifically teen-age girls, kids with complex care needs, and youth transitioning out of the foster care system; and,
- Fostering a workplace where agency staff feel engaged, valued, and connected to our vision.

Division of Early Care and Education

The Division of Early Care and Education (DECE) has five bureaus whose mission is to provide families in Wisconsin with access to affordable, high-quality child care and early education experiences to enhance their children's development and support families in work and parenting roles.

Activities include:

- Licensing and certification – regulation and monitoring of child care programs
- Wisconsin Shares – overseeing the child care subsidy program, program integrity, and administration in Milwaukee County
- Quality ECE programming– managing YoungStar and child care quality rating and improvement system activities
- ECE workforce – overseeing initiatives related to recruitment and retention for ECE programs
- Leading the Head Start State Collaboration Office

Division of Management Services

The Division of Management Services is responsible for providing the administrative support services including the following key functions: budget, finance, information technology, performance management, regional operations, agency operations, and continuity of operations (COOP).

Division of Family and Economic Security

The Division of Family and Economic Security (DFES) has 4 bureaus whose mission is to ensure families and individuals achieve financial and social stability. The division oversees the following programs:

- Wisconsin Works (W-2)
- Transform Milwaukee Jobs and Transitional Jobs
- Emergency assistance
- Community Services Block Grant funding
- Refugee programs
- Child support

Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services

The Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) has responsibility for providing child protection functions in Milwaukee County. The division's vision is safe children and healthy families in Milwaukee County. DMCPS provides direct services to families and children in Milwaukee County by receiving and responding to calls of child abuse and neglect, evaluating the safety of children in their homes, and taking measures to control for safety as needed. The division also contracts with external providers including Children's Wisconsin, WellPoint Care Network, and Milwaukee County Wraparound to provide child welfare services to families in need of formal safety intervention and services.

Division of Safety and Permanence

The Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) has the program responsibility to oversee the statewide child welfare system and the youth justice system. DSP efforts are guided by the following vision and priorities. Putting Families First Vision: All children and youth are safe and loved members of thriving families and communities. This effort has three key priorities:

- To strengthen local communities and build services to support families in their homes.
- To keep children in family settings whenever possible.
- To support the child welfare workforce with solutions and improvements.

A brief video overview of this effort can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=OrtFEgnDI-M. The child welfare system in Wisconsin is county-administered, with the exception of Milwaukee County where the state runs child welfare through the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS). The youth justice system is county-administered throughout the state.

