



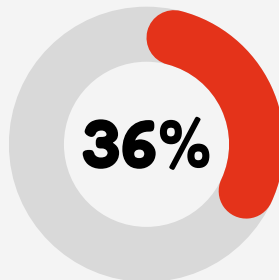
# INVEST IN BIRTH TO THREE, BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES

## OVERVIEW

The Birth to 3 program is a federally-mandated program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, requiring that all eligible children with developmental delays or disabilities be provided with critical services to support their early development. **Current funding does not meet the increasing demand and costs.**

### CRITICAL FUNDING GAP

The \$49 million budget relies heavily on **county tax levy for 36% of funding**. With Medicaid and private insurance rates declining, the state's funding allocation is **insufficient to fill the gap**.



### MORE BABIES IN NEED, LESS PROVIDERS

#### Growing Need

**Enrollment in Birth to 3 has increased** over the last few years, with the state seeing sustained growth – a **17% increase in children enrolled** while funding remained flat.

#### Shrinking Provider Network

Statewide rate increases are **essential to stabilize the provider network** and retain quality providers.

### Statewide Early Intervention and Prevention Investment

#### Why Invest in Birth to 3?

By investing in Birth to 3, Wisconsin can build a stronger foundation for its K-12 system, **reducing the need for costly special education services later** and significantly improving a child's readiness for kindergarten.

#### Impact of Funding Request

- Enhances access to services during the critical early stages of life while also increasing the number of eligible children who benefit from these services.
- Boosts provider rates, improves provider retention, and **eases financial burden on local government.**

### Proposal:

- Increase funding by \$5 million in SFY 2026 and \$10 million in SFY 2027, totaling \$15 million over the biennium.
- Implement statutory language to align future funding with actual program costs.