



EMBARGOED UNTIL
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FURTHER INFORMATION
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The State of Brown County's Kids: An Uncertain Future

A new report released today by the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) finds that Brown County's kids are faring relatively well – for now.

The report, *From Capitol to Community: Green Bay and Brown County*, builds upon data from Start Smart Brown County's *Report to the Community: 2001*. *From Capitol to Community* outlines programs and corresponding state policies that have improved local outcomes for children, particularly children from low-income households. In light of the state's \$3.2 billion deficit, the future looks less promising for vulnerable families in Brown County and the rest of the state.

"The future hinges on the state budget," said Anne Arnesen, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. "We know that the programs outlined in *From Capitol to Community* are important to the success of vulnerable families. We know that no program is safe from potential cuts. We need legislators to remain committed to the well-being of the state's children."

Due to the state budget deficit—the largest in decades—important supports like the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program and the popular BadgerCare health insurance program are at risk of losing funding and being scaled back to serve fewer families. *From Capitol to Community* reports that 2,185 Brown County children were subsidized through Wisconsin Shares in 2001 while over 3,000 Brown County residents were enrolled in BadgerCare in 2002.

Other programs are at risk of being eliminated entirely, such as the Emergency Assistance program, which is used for eviction prevention and to help homeless families secure housing. Governor Doyle is expected to unveil his budget proposal tomorrow.

From Capitol to Community: Green Bay and Brown County was released this morning at Start Smart Brown County's annual State of Brown County's Children Breakfast held at the Holiday Inn City Centre. Copies of the report are available on-line at www.wccf.org/pdf/c2cGB.pdf or by contacting WCCF at (608) 284-0580.

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