



WISCONSIN STATE TREASURER TAXPAYER REPORT

2021-23
BIENNIUM

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LETTER FROM THE STATE TREASURER

Dear Wisconsinites,

As your State Treasurer, I take great pride in my role serving as Wisconsin's fiscal watchdog. When I took office, it was clear that there was not an accessible, easy-to-understand outline of the state's budget for Wisconsinites to learn about how their tax dollars are being spent. Budget documents are available to the public, but they are hundreds of pages long and full of government jargon and confusing calculations. That's why my office worked to create a practical, digestible look at how taxpayer dollars are spent, and produced our first biennial Taxpayer Report last year.

Now with a new biennial budget for 2021-2023, it's time for a new report to provide a clear summary of the state budget. Transparency and accountability are crucial in public finance, and citizens have the right to know how their tax dollars are being spent without having an accounting degree or sifting through hundreds of pages of complicated tables and numbers.

I strongly believe that a budget is a reflection of values. In this report, you will see how Wisconsin allocates, or in some cases doesn't allocate, funding to support families, farmers, students, industries, environment, and most importantly, you. I hope the 2021-23 Taxpayer Report provides you with greater clarity as to where your money goes and how it shapes the policies and programs that help our communities thrive.

Given the scope of the state budget, this is by no means an exhaustive report. Instead, it is a starter guide for you to learn more about some of the things our state government funds. Our report breaks down all state agencies receiving funding into ten sectors and highlights a few programs within each. We hope this report serves as a document to facilitate a deeper understanding of the process and programs your tax dollars go to fund.

As always, my office is open and here to serve you. If you have any questions, give my office a call at (608) 266-1714 or email treasurer@wisconsin.gov.

Forward,

Sarah Godlewski

Sarah Godlewski
Wisconsin State Treasurer



INTRODUCTION

The State of Wisconsin's 2021-23 Biennial Budget went into effect on July 8, 2021 as 2021 Wisconsin Act 58. When the budget is passed, each state department or agency is given an appropriation (or provision of funds). These appropriations are made up of:

- (1) General purpose revenue (GPR) - money raised by the state primarily through tax dollars
- (2) Federal revenue (FED) - money received from the federal government
- (3) Program revenue (PR) - money generated by state programs and user fees
- (4) Segregated revenue (SEG) - money kept separate from GPR for specific purposes

In drafting the 2021-23 Taxpayer Report, the Office of the State Treasurer classified state agencies and departments by their missions. We have called these groupings "Sectors". For example, the Department of Health Services, Board on Aging and Long Term Care, and the Board for People with Disabilities are grouped together based on their overarching health-focused mission into the Healthcare Sector. Under each Sector, the report provides an overview of the appropriated funds, their total in comparison to the overall budget, and a narrative section highlighting key programs or new proposals.

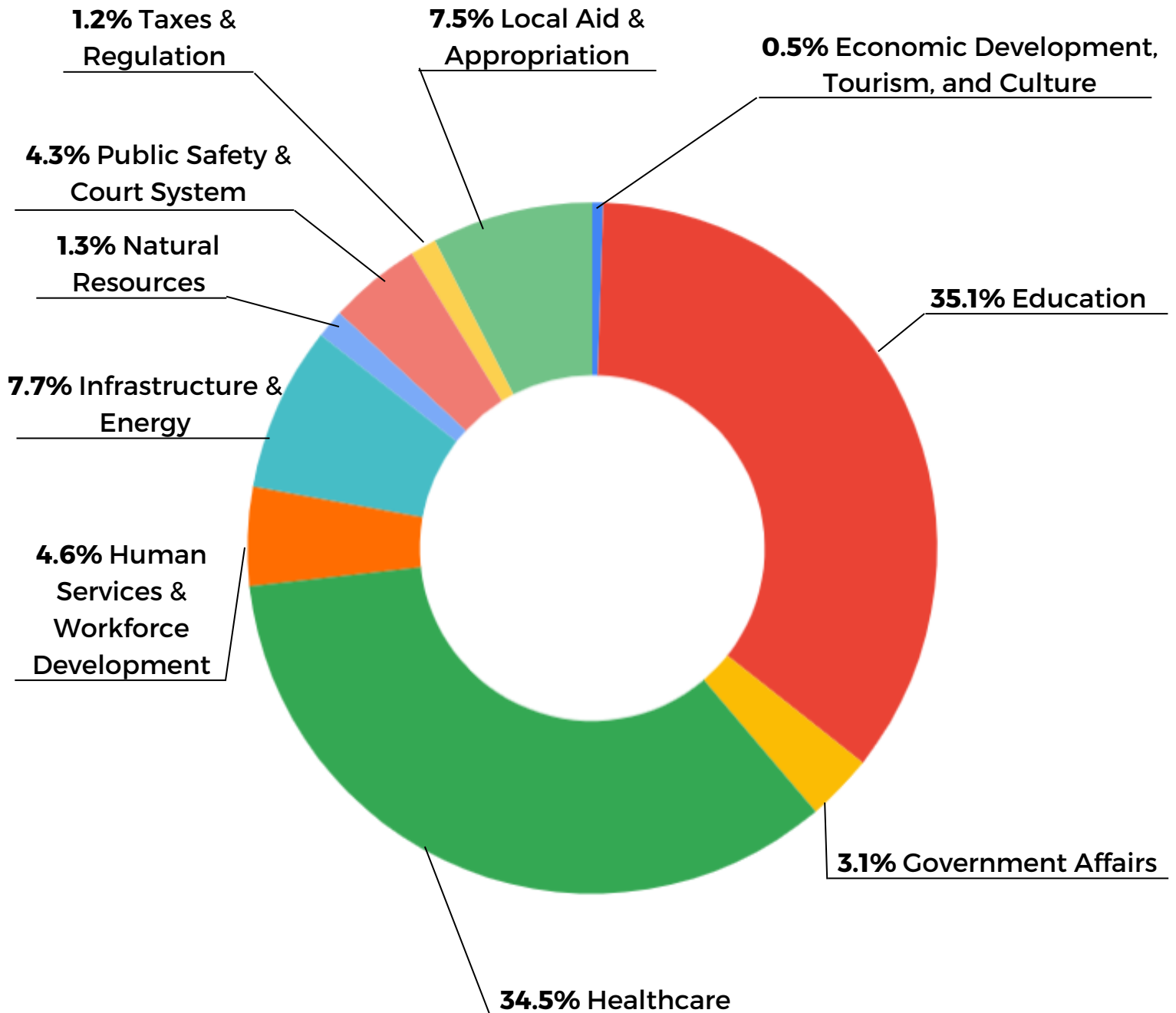
It is important to note the State Treasurer's Taxpayer Report does not include bond revenue in its summary. Without bond revenue, the 2021-23 Wisconsin Biennial Budget totaled \$87,543,036,200.00. A breakdown by revenue type, including bond revenue, can be found below.

Summary of 2021-23 Appropriations and Authorizations

<u>Fund Source</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
General Purpose Revenue	\$19,344,445,400	\$19,858,651,000	\$39,203,096,400	43.9%
Appropriations	19,302,516,200	19,752,699,400	39,055,215,600	
Compensation Reserves	41,929,200	105,951,600	147,880,800	
Federal Revenue	12,911,303,100	12,720,421,900	25,631,725,000	28.7%
Appropriations	12,904,675,300	12,704,075,400	25,608,750,700	
Compensation Reserves	6,627,800	16,346,500	22,974,300	
Program Revenue	6,843,621,000	6,876,604,400	13,720,225,400	15.4%
Appropriations	6,832,596,800	6,849,415,300	13,682,012,100	
Compensation Reserves	11,024,200	27,189,100	38,213,300	
Segregated Revenue	4,421,830,300	4,566,159,100	8,987,989,400	10.1%
Appropriations	4,415,125,700	4,549,623,600	8,964,749,300	
Compensation Reserves	<u>6,704,600</u>	<u>16,535,500</u>	<u>23,240,100</u>	
Subtotal	\$43,521,199,800	\$44,021,836,400	\$87,543,036,200	98.1%
Appropriations	43,454,914,000	43,855,813,700	87,310,727,700	
Compensation Reserves	66,285,800	166,022,700	232,308,500	
Bond Revenue			\$1,666,054,600	1.9%
General Obligation Bonding			1,513,096,400*	
Revenue Bonding			<u>152,958,200</u>	
TOTAL			\$89,209,090,800	100.0%

Source: 21-23 Comparative Summary, Legislative Reference Bureau

BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY SECTION



EDUCATION



Agencies	Department of Public Instruction University of Wisconsin System Technical College System Board Higher Educational Aids Board Educational Communications Board Medical College of Wisconsin
Total Appropriation	\$30,765,915,600.00
Percent of Budget	35.14%

Wisconsin has a long-standing history of investing in education and our public school system, beginning with the state constitution, which ensures the right to free education for all Wisconsin children funded by local taxes.¹ Even today, over 170 years later, spending on education is the largest investment in the 2021-23 biennial budget at \$30.77 billion, representing 35.14% of the total budget.

Over half of the funding in this sector goes towards the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), which advances public education and libraries in Wisconsin, with roughly \$16.26 billion allocated.² This funding supports many general and categorical school aids, including per-pupil aid, programs to support smaller school districts,³ and several mental health initiatives. In his proposal for the 2021-23 budget,⁴ Governor Evers sought to create several new programs, which would have helped schools pursue energy efficiency projects, provide high-quality out-of-school programming, and make driver's education accessible to students of lower socioeconomic statuses. The Joint Committee on Finance and the State Legislature removed these provisions from the final budget.⁵

The state also funds higher education through the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Technical College System. The appropriations for these agencies were \$12.94 billion, or 42.05% of the total sector, and \$1.22 billion, or 3.97% of the total sector, respectively. While the University of Wisconsin System supports the state's 13 public universities across 26 campuses as well as the statewide extension program,⁶ the Wisconsin Technical College System offers 500 associate degree, technical diploma, and short-term certificate options and serves about 250,000 students annually.⁷

Governor Evers proposed a continuation of the tuition freeze for University of Wisconsin system schools into the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years. Intending to keep costs of attendance low for Wisconsin students, the University of Wisconsin System would have received \$16.80 million in the fiscal year 2021-22 and \$33.60 million in the fiscal year 2022-23 to offset the effects of the tuition freeze.⁸ However, this provision was not included in the final budget, and the UW Board of Regents has the authority to decide whether or not to raise tuition moving forward.⁹

Other agencies funded within this sector include the Higher Educational Aids Board, the Educational Communications Board, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. They make up 0.95%, 0.14%, and 0.07% of the sector totaling \$290.82 million, \$41.89 million, and \$22.31 million respectively.

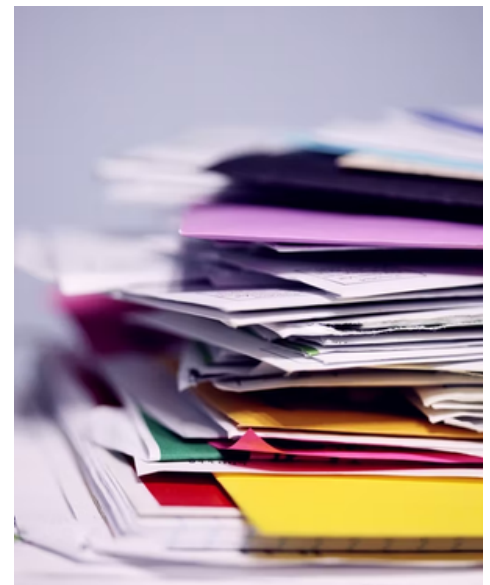
LOCAL AID & APPROPRIATIONS

Agencies	Shared Revenue and Tax Relief Miscellaneous Appropriations Program Supplements
Total Appropriation	\$6,608,740,300.00
Percentage of Budget	7.55%

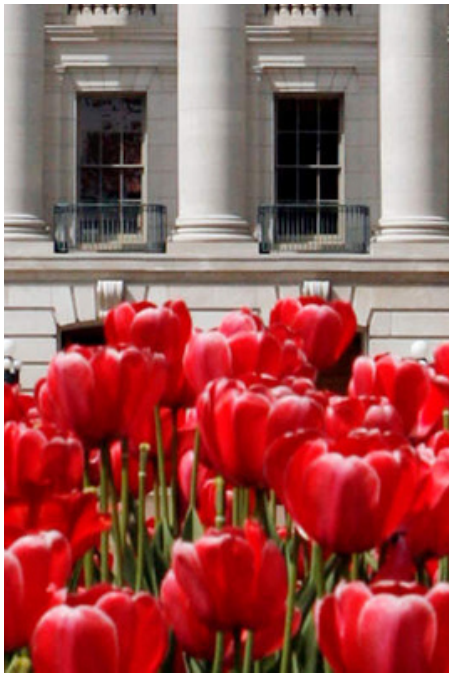
While it may represent a proportionally small percentage of the biennial budget at 7.55%, \$6.61 billion was appropriated for critical investments made by the state in local communities under the Local Aid and Appropriations sector. The Shared Revenue and Tax Relief program comprised 89.91% of the funding within this sector, with \$5.94 billion allocated to municipalities and counties.

The State of Wisconsin provides general aid to localities through the Shared Revenue and Tax Relief program to help fill in revenue gaps and support the needs of local communities. This aid is unrestricted, meaning it can be used for any activity approved by the local governing body, as opposed to categorical aid which must be used for a specified purpose. Currently, these programs include this aid to municipalities and counties as well as utility aid, expenditure restraint, and state aid for tax exempt properties.¹⁰ Utility aid compensates local governments for costs they incur in providing services to public utilities.¹¹ The 2021-23 budget increased utility aid by \$12.76 million.¹² The Shared Revenue Program also funds expenditure restraints to qualifying municipalities that limit growth in spending. There was no change to this expenditure restraint program's appropriation from the 2019-21 budget. The total amount allocated to the Shared Revenue Program decreased by 47% from 1996 to 2020, after adjusting for inflation, leading communities to make difficult choices regarding which programs to fund.¹³

To assist Wisconsinites directly, the Shared Revenue and Tax Relief Program provides tax relief to citizens in the form of various property tax credits. In the 2021-23 budget, there were decreases to four out of five of these tax credits, with only the School Levy Tax Credit not experiencing a decrease, but rather seeing no change to its allocation over the biennium.¹⁴



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



Agencies	Department of Administration Appropriation Obligation Bonds Department of Military Affairs Legislature State of Wisconsin Investment Board Department of Employee Trust Funds Elections Commission Office of the Governor Budget Management & Compensation Reserves Ethics Commission Office of the Lieutenant Governor State Treasurer Board of Commissioners of Public Lands Secretary of State
Total Appropriation	\$2,744,668,600
Percentage of Budget	3.14%

The Government Affairs sector of the biennial budget includes departments and agencies that cover the operations of our state government. From executive branch offices, such as the Office of the Governor and Office of the State Treasurer, to the legislative branch, with funding for the Wisconsin State Legislature, and more. The 2021-23 budget provided over \$2.74 billion to the Government Affairs sector, representing 3.14% of the entire budget.

The department with the most funding in this sector is the Department of Administration (DOA), which received 44.17% of this sector's budget. DOA oversees several programs including state building facilities, IT services, budgeting, human resources, gaming, and Capitol Police. In his proposal for the 2021-23 budget, Governor Evers sought to fund several new initiatives, including a grant program to promote diversity in Wisconsin, the creation of a chief equity officer for Wisconsin, and a civil legal assistance appropriation to provide funding for legal services relating to eviction, unemployment conversation, domestic violence, health insurance matters, and more. However, the Joint Finance Committee removed these items and they were not included in the final budget for the department.¹⁵

Also within the Government Affairs sector is the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), which received \$265.81 million in the biennial budget, representing 9.68% of the total allocated to the sector. Included in this funding was \$19.29 million over the biennium to implement the critical Next Generation 911 program (NG911).¹⁶ NG911 is an updated system that allows first responders the ability to transmit, receive, process, transfer, dispatch, use, and store both voice and data associated with a 911 call or request for emergency assistance.¹⁷ This system will increase the accessibility, interoperability, and efficiency of the current analog system— making Wisconsinites safer.¹⁸

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) is also housed under the Government Affairs sector. This is the only agency created within the State Constitution, and state statutes outline that proceeds from the sale of certain federal lands reside in a trust where the interest earned supports Wisconsin public schools. Each year, the BCPL provides the sole source of funding for over 90% of Wisconsin public school libraries and supports the University of Wisconsin system to benefit environmental education. The BCPL did not receive any new funding in the 2021-23 budget, with \$3.31 million allocated.

HEALTHCARE

Agencies	Department of Health Services Board on Aging and Long-Term Care Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
Total Appropriation	\$30,159,051,500
Percentage of Budget	34.45%



With the COVID-19 pandemic still impacting our healthcare system, the role of public health and access to healthcare remains critical for Wisconsinites. A total of approximately \$30.16 billion or 34.45% of the 2021-23 budget was allocated to agencies related to healthcare. With an annual budget of \$30.15 billion and more than 6,300 employees,¹⁹ the Department of Health Services (DHS) received the vast majority of funding within the Healthcare sector to support its work in promoting the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin. DHS oversees health and social service programs and works with local counties, health care providers, community partners, and others. Alcohol and drug abuse prevention, mental health, public health, long-term care implementation, disability, and the regulation of state nursing homes are all examples of health and social service programs which DHS manages. DHS also oversees Medicaid, which is the single largest program in the budget.²⁰

The 2021-23 budget provided increased funding for caregivers. For example, the budget increased the allocation for Family Care rates, a program that connects elderly Wisconsinites with resources to help keep them in their homes,²¹ by \$26.42 million over the two-year budget period, and provided a total increase of \$91 million for personal care agencies and the direct care workforce. The budget also included some increases in medical assistance rates to support healthcare workers, including for nursing care in home health agencies, ambulance services, chiropractic services, and physical therapy.²²

Governor Evers's budget proposal included expanding the state's BadgerCare health insurance program to cover those earning up to 138% of the federal poverty line, which is estimated to be about \$24,000 annually for a single parent with one child.²³ The State Legislature again chose not to approve this expansion. Not only would this have expanded eligibility to cover more low-income families in the state, but it would have saved taxpayers more than \$1.60 billion over the first two years.²⁴ As a result of this decision, 90,000 adult Wisconsinites,²⁵ about half of whom are uninsured, will be without access to BadgerCare and DHS estimates that continuing with the status quo for BadgerCare will cost an additional \$640 million.²⁶

HUMAN SERVICES & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Agencies	Department of Children and Families Department of Workforce Development Department of Veterans Affairs Department of Safety and Professional Services Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board Labor and Industry Review Commission Employment Relations Commission
Total Appropriation	\$4,032,994,200.00
Percentage of Budget	4.61%

The State of Wisconsin provided funding for several departments and agencies under the Human Services and Workforce Development sector that focus on providing direct services to Wisconsinites, helping our workforce grow, or maintaining safety standards. These agencies include the Department of Children and Families, Department of Workforce Development, Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Safety and Professional Services, and more. Of the entire 2021-2023 budget, 4.61% was allocated to the Human Services and Workforce Development sector at a total of \$4.03 billion.

Within the sector, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) received the largest amount of funding in the sector with an appropriation of \$2.88 billion dollars, or 71.31%, of the sector.²⁷ DCF administers programs that provide assistance and support for children and families. Its work includes aid for children in out-of-home care, child protective services, child abuse and neglect investigations, and community-based juvenile justice services. Programs also include support for families through employment, public assistance programs, child care subsidy programs, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and child support enforcement. In addition, DCF works towards ensuring high quality and affordable access to early childhood care and education.²⁸

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (CANPB) is administratively linked to the Department of Children and Families, but it is also its own agency within the Human Services and Workforce Development sector. CANPB received 0.16% of this sector's funding at \$6.44 million.²⁹ This board prioritizes and invests in the following: abusive head trauma prevention, child sexual abuse prevention, parent education, public awareness, research and evaluation, and training and technical assistance.³⁰

Another important agency within the Human Services and Workforce Development sector is the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). The mission of DSPS is to “promote economic growth and stability while protecting the citizens of Wisconsin as designated by statute³¹,” which it accomplishes by providing, among other services, occupational licensing for several critical professions. In recent years, staffing levels at DSPS have come under scrutiny, as many Wisconsinites face delays in the licensing process. In his 2021-23 proposal, Governor Evers sought 13 staff positions to address the growing problem, however the State Legislature only approved two positions.³²



NATURAL RESOURCES

Agencies	Department of Natural Resources Environmental Improvement Fund Kickapoo Reserve Management Board Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board
Total Appropriation	\$1,155,631,300
Percentage of Budget	1.32%

From the shores of Lake Superior to the rolling hills of the Driftless Area, Wisconsin is home to many unique and diverse ecosystems. The agencies within the Natural Resources sector are all focused on protecting these natural resources and public lands. The 2021-23 budget provided the Natural Resources sector with nearly \$1.16 billion or 1.32% of the entire budget.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received the largest allocation of this sector with \$1.12 billion. The DNR works to preserve and manage natural

resources such as fish, wildlife, forests, parks, air, and water resources while promoting a healthy, sustainable environment and a full range of outdoor opportunities.³³ This department offers a variety of stewardship programs to assist in the preservation of natural state areas, water quality, and outdoor recreation. Specifically, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program gives DNR spending authority to purchase land and easement additions to state properties. Stewardship dollars also support recreational infrastructure on state properties, including campsite, restroom, and trail improvements.³⁴ The Joint Finance committee reauthorized the same budget for this program as the 2019-21 budget with \$33.25 million per year for four years, while Governor Evers sought to expand the program with a budget of \$70 million annually for the next 10 years.³⁵ Additionally, the DNR pays aids in place of property taxes on Department-owned lands to partially offset the loss in property tax revenues associated with publicly held lands, which are not taxable. These aids represent approximately \$3.2 million in payments with the rate at \$3.50 per acre.³⁶

The Environmental Improvement Fund (EIF) combines grants from the federal government with state funding to provide financial assistance to municipalities in the form of subsidized loans for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects.³⁷ The 2021-23 budget allocated \$29.97 million to EIF, which will go towards, among other items, two major programs offered by EIF: the Clean Water Fund Program and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. The Clean Water Fund provides fixed interest rates on long-term loans to municipalities for planning, designing, constructing, or replacing a wastewater treatment facility, or for nonprofit source pollution abatement or urban stormwater runoff control projects. The Safe Drinking Water Loan Program strives to provide financial assistance to municipalities for the planning, design, construction, or modification of public water systems.³⁸ In his budget proposal, Governor Evers proposed allocating \$40 million to the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program to help replace private lead service lines, however, this provision was not included in the Joint Finance Committee's budget nor was it included in the final budget.³⁹



PUBLIC SAFETY AND COURT SYSTEM

Agencies	Department of Corrections Department of Justice Circuit Courts Public Defender Board District Attorneys Supreme Court Court of Appeals Judicial Commission
Total Appropriation	\$3,795,734,800.00
Percentage of Budget	4.34%



Several agencies make up the Public Safety and Court System sector of the State of Wisconsin's 2021-23 budget. Using their allocated portion of the budget, \$3.80 billion, or 4.34%, these agencies work towards their goals of processing legal cases and pursuing justice.

The agency with the largest allocation within the sector is the Department of Corrections, which was allocated \$2.84 billion in the latest budget to support its mission of protecting the public, providing opportunities for positive change, educating others about the programs they provide, and collaborating with communities. The vision statement⁴⁰ for the Department of Corrections is, "to achieve excellence in correctional practices while fostering safety for victims and communities. Every person, every family, and every community matters." One division under the DOC that helps inmates gain skills, get insight into achieving crime-free behaviors, and provide opportunities for them to integrate back into communities is the Division of Adult Institutions. This sector offers numerous services,⁴¹ including educational programs tailored to improve literacy, writing, and math skills, programs to teach Career Technical Education skills, and pathways to obtaining high school equivalency diplomas. These services provide innovative opportunities for individuals in correctional facilities.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) also does critical work within the Public Safety and Court System sector, with \$308.66 million allocated in the 2021-23 budget. It is responsible for ensuring the safety of the people from domestic or foreign threats, preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring fair jurisdictions and administrations of justice using their allocation of \$308.66 million. The current Attorney General of Wisconsin is Josh Kaul, who was sworn in as Wisconsin's 45th Attorney General in January 2019. His main priorities since taking office have been combating the opioid epidemic, reducing gun violence in schools and communities, and addressing the backlog of untested sexual assault kits.⁴² An initiative within the DOJ that helps empower, support, and protect students, parents, and staff in the schools across the state is "Speak Up, Speak Now Wisconsin".⁴³ This program, created by the Office of School Safety, is a resource center that has a threat reporting system, threat assessment consultation, critical incident response, and general school safety guidance.

Other key allocations within the Public Safety and Court System Sector include \$213.70 million for Circuit Courts, which handle civil and criminal matters within the state ranging from traffic matters to civil and criminal jury trials,⁴⁴ nearly \$227 million to the State Public Defender's Office, which represents clients, protects constitutional rights, and advocates for an effective and fair criminal justice system,⁴⁵ and \$66.72 million for the Wisconsin Supreme Court,⁴⁶ Wisconsin's highest court.

INFASTRUCTURE & ENERGY

Agencies	Department of Transportation Public Service Commission Building Commission Fox River Navigational System Authority
Total Appropriation	\$6,762,108,400.00
Percentage of Budget	7.72%

The State of Wisconsin has a transportation network consisting of roads, highways, public transit, airports, harbors, railroads, and bicycle/pedestrian facilities, which all require maintenance and regulation to ensure Wisconsinites can travel safely. The Infrastructure sector of the biennial budget includes the Department of Transportation, Public Service Commission, Building Commission, and Fox River Navigational System Authority. This is the third largest sector in the budget with a total appropriation of \$6.76 billion at 7.72% of Wisconsin's total budget.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) promotes and financially supports air, rail, water, and road⁴⁸ transportation⁴⁷ and received the vast majority of the Infrastructure sector allocation at \$6.62 billion. The funding for this department will also be applied towards the continuation of the six year highway improvement program which will focus on the 11,748 miles of state highways in Wisconsin. While these miles represent only 10.1% of public roads, they carry over half of all traffic in Wisconsin.⁴⁹

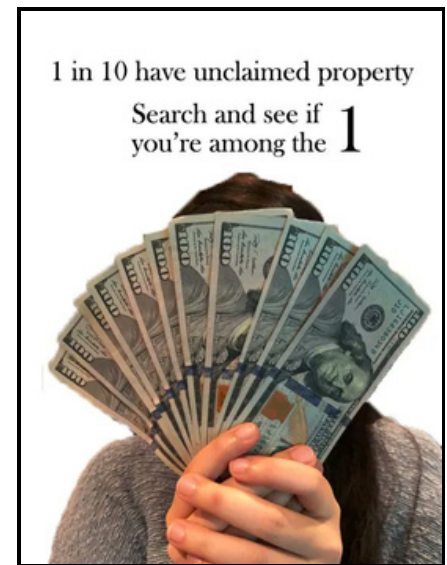
Second in infrastructure funding is the Building Commission, which oversees and plans the major maintenance and renovation of state facilities and the supervision of all matters relating to contracting to public debt. The allocation for the Building Commission was \$80.87 million.⁵⁰ This was followed by the Public Service Commission, whose responsibility it is to oversee and facilitate the efficient and fair provision of quality utility services,⁵¹ with an allocation of \$64.39 million.⁵² Finally, the Fox River Navigational System Authority is responsible for managing the 17 locks on the Fox River; 16 of which have been restored to full working order and are a recreational, historic, and economic asset to northeast Wisconsin.⁵³ This agency was allocated \$250,800.⁵⁴

After declaring 2021 as “the Year of Broadband” in Wisconsin, Governor Evers proposed a historic investment of over \$200 million, which would have reduced restrictions to internet access across the state. While the amount for the Broadband Expansion Grant program, for example, was reduced to \$129 million by the Joint Committee on Finance, the expansion will be a large investment as the state works to ensure that all Wisconsinites have access to broadband.⁵⁵



TAXES & REGULATION

Agencies	Department of Revenue Office of the Commissioner of Insurance Department of Financial Institutions
Total Appropriation	\$1,070,796,700
Percentage of Budget	1.22%



Wisconsin provides funding for the Department of Revenue, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, and Department of Financial Institutions to organize taxation and financial regulation. The 2021-23 budget allocated \$1.07 billion to these departments that provide important services to taxpayers, including ensuring fair tax collection and regulating the financial sector within the state.

The Department of Revenue (DOR) received over \$477.46 million in the biennial budget to administer Wisconsin's tax system, provide revenue to fund state and local government services, assure tax collection fairness, promote voluntary compliance, and provide taxpayers with clear information about our tax laws. Additionally, the department administers the Wisconsin Lottery, depositing the proceeds into a separate segregated fund that provides property tax relief to qualifying taxpayers on their property tax bills. Another important role of the DOR is the administration of the state's Unclaimed Property Program. This program works to connect lost financial assets with the rightful owner. In this budget cycle, the state allocated an additional \$124,700 annually to add two permanent project positions, which will help assist individuals with their unclaimed property claims. This program is funded by program revenue, meaning it operates at zero cost to the taxpayer and is funded entirely by revenue generated from the Unclaimed Property fund.⁵⁶ In 2021, this program returned more than \$33 million in unclaimed property to the rightful owners.⁵⁷

The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) received the most funding within this sector and works to protect insurance consumers and ensure a competitive insurance environment. One key provision impacting OCI's budget is the Wisconsin Healthcare Stability Plan (WHSP), a program intended to reduce premiums paid by individuals who purchase insurance from the healthcare marketplace. The 2021-23 budget decreased the general program funding for WHSP in tandem with an increase in the federal expenditure. Additionally, the budget will increase the annual maximum amount of reinsurance payments under the Wisconsin Healthcare Stability Plan from \$200 million to \$230 million.⁵⁸

The remaining \$39.09 million in the Taxes and Regulation sector is allocated to the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI). This agency regulates state-chartered banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, and credit unions, as well as various operations of the securities industry. The Joint Finance committee reduced the total allocation for the agency and removed several provisions proposed by the Governor, including the Small Business Retirement Savings Program.⁵⁹

**Unclaimed Property Remitted to DOR and Claims Paid to Owners (\$ In Millions)
2013-14 through 2019-20**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Remitted Unclaimed Property</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>Claims Paid to Owners</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2013-14	\$46.3		\$21.7	
2014-15	66.6	43.8%	28.6	31.8%
2015-16	58.4	-12.3	45.1	57.7
2016-17	43.7	-25.2	26.8	-40.6
2017-18	65.0	48.7	29.5	10.1
2018-19	61.8	-4.9	33.8	14.6
2019-20	63.9	3.4	33.7	-0.3

Source: Unclaimed Property Remitted to DOR and Claims Paid to Owners

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM & CULTURE

Agencies	Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Historical Society State Fair Park Board Department of Tourism
Total Appropriation	\$447,394,800.00
Percentage of Budget	0.51%



The Economic Development, Tourism, and Culture Sector is made up of several agencies that work to grow Wisconsin's economy or promote our state's many offerings. These agencies include the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Historical Society, State Fair Park Board, and the Department of Tourism. In the 2021-23 budget the sector received 0.51% of the total budget at \$447.39 million.

The largest portion of the funding for this sector is allocated to the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), with a biennial appropriation of \$221.22 million, which is 49.45% of the sector. Agriculture is critical to Wisconsin's heritage and economy, with Wisconsin farms contributing \$88.3 billion to the state's economy and providing 413,500 jobs⁶⁰ in 2021. DATCP's funding in the budget featured several expansions, including \$1 million each year for grants to support meat processing facilities to promote the growth of the meat industry in Wisconsin, \$10 million each year for grants to nonprofit food assistance organizations to support the purchase of food products made or grown in Wisconsin, \$200,000 each year for farm-to-school grants, which would include promoting production, processing, marketing and distribution of food produced in Wisconsin for sale to schools in Wisconsin,⁶¹ and more.

The second-largest portion of this sector's appropriation goes to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). This is a public-private entity that received over \$83.10 million in the 2021-23 budget to support business development, advance industry innovation, tap global markets, and develop a talented workforce.⁶² Governor Evers proposed a \$200 million program within this agency to provide financial assistance to small businesses as they continue to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a grant program to support businesses from underserved communities. These provisions were removed by the Joint Committee on Finance and were not included in the final budget.⁶³

The Department of Tourism encourages people to visit and enjoy the best of Wisconsin. Travel and tourism are an important part of Wisconsin's economic prosperity, with tourism supporting 7.8% of all private jobs in Wisconsin and generating \$1.6 billion in state and local taxes in 2018.⁶⁴ The Department received an appropriation of \$37.10 million from the 2021-23 budget.⁶⁵

RESOURCES AND END NOTES

1. [Education Law Center, Wis. Const. art. X, § 3.](#)
2. [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, About Us](#)
3. [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Sparsity Aid Program](#)
4. [Comparative Summary of Provisions, School-based Mental Health Services Collaboration Grant](#)
5. [Comparative Summary of Provisions, Public Instruction Grants](#)
6. [University of Wisconsin System, UW Campuses](#)
7. [Wisconsin Technical College System](#)
8. [Comparative Summary, University of Wisconsin System](#)
9. [The Badger Herald, "With Wisconsin Tuition Freeze Set in Stone, Out-of-State Students Likely to Pay the Price Again"](#)
10. [Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Shared Revenue Program](#)
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