

 KIDS FORWARD

Reimagine Wisconsin

Good Trouble in the Key of Joy



Let's make some good trouble.



“A Change is Gonna Come”

Good Trouble in the Key of Joy

song by Sam Cooke; article by Michele Mackey & Nicole Hoffmann

Two things can be true at the same time: 1) People are struggling in our communities, living in perpetual fear that the bare minimum of supports will be taken away; and 2) every single day there are spaces where we find joy.

This year Kids Forward is 144 years old, the oldest multi-issue child and family advocacy organization in the country. Through these generations, the responsibility to fight for a Wisconsin where every child thrives has strengthened our resolve. **We will continue naming the challenges we are up against while upholding the power for change that dwells within our beloved communities.**

Wisconsin suffers some of the most tragic economic and racial disparities in the country. These disparities are intentional choices by legislators and don't just hurt their intended audience: Black, Brown, and immigrant families. They also hurt low-income rural white families. Enough is enough.


The daily attacks we see on our mission and our communities have significantly shifted the advocacy and fundraising landscape, making this work more difficult. We believe the work of justice and equity must prevail over the challenges of confronting powerful wealthy interests seeking to sow division and harm. Kids Forward remains unapologetic in our focus to center children and families of color, disinvested rural white communities, and those furthest from opportunity.

Through our organization's long history, we have modified our approach to advocacy to meet the moment Wisconsinites are facing. Today, our work with communities, coalitions, and partner organizations intentionally shifts power away from those who have created inequitable policies and frequently left people behind. We are not distracted by the powerful wealthy interests that continue siphoning off the prosperity created by hard working families to line their own pockets.

We are singing a song of hope, gifted by Sam Cooke. It's been a long time coming, but we can feel that change is on the way.

The moment for meaningful change is in our grasp and we have a clear path. We hope you will join us as we steward a movement of joy and community to Reimagine Wisconsin. This is a

movement built by our people to dismantle the structural racism and inequities that hold all of us back. Together, we demand that our labor builds our communities—not the wealth of the few.



Together, we can Reimagine Wisconsin: Fair pay for those getting an hourly wage and fair taxes for the wealthiest among us. Health care for everyone - no matter where they're from or how much money is in their wallet. Children treated with dignity and offered connection and care rather than criminalization and cages. Now is the moment to Reimagine a Wisconsin that dramatically improves the lives of everyone in our state.

As we approach 2026, we ask you to join us to Reimagine Wisconsin. To build a state where every child and family can thrive, the movement needs:

Funding: Philanthropy was never meant to fill the gaps left behind by the government, especially now. We are in a moment where financial support and long-term investment in policy and systems change is critical to reverse the damage that has been done and then make the changes that should have been made all along.

Community voice: This is our power as a people, and as a democracy. Take action, share solutions, use your voice, and join with the voices of others. Change comes from the people, co-creating policies and systems that work for all.

Imagination & Courage: We must create a bold vision, beyond our wildest dreams. We must be courageously committed to upholding a vision that returns the promise of America to the people, transcending division, greed, and inhumanity.

As a multi-racial, multi-generational team, each person who contributed to the daily work at Kids Forward this year brought something extra - lived expertise. Through moments of fear, anguish, and trepidation our team showed up. We stood with community, we lifted voices not always heard, we celebrated small joys and bright ideas. We demonstrated commitment, manifested hope, and supported each other through it all. This incredibly special blend of experience in our people is how a future for all is built.

In the following pages, our colleagues share how we're championing a reimagined Wisconsin in the halls of the State Capitol, and the joy that exists in building a movement with our communities.

The songs scattered throughout are our gift to you. A playlist of joy, community, imagination, and courage for every generation. You can listen to the Kids Forward Reimagine Wisconsin playlist by scanning the code. We can't wait for you to join us!

With joy and gratitude,



Michele Mackey, President & CEO



“Fuel”

We are asking for YOUR Support for the Movement to Reimagine Wisconsin

song by Ani DiFranco; with contributions from YOU

We've all heard the research that it takes 3.5% of the population to create a movement for change. That's 208,635 people in Wisconsin. This is our moment to Reimagine Wisconsin.

Are you with us? You can make your gift to support the movement today at kidsforward.org

Your gift will power a movement to collectively demand better for Wisconsin. The long-term investment needed for real solutions and community advocacy is in our hands. The moment to take action is now. Reimagine Wisconsin will hold decision makers accountable for their policy choices and create pathways for community advocacy that demand a Wisconsin where every child and family has the opportunity to thrive. You will also support the multi-racial, multi-generational Kids Forward team who continues to lead with resilience in the face of adversity. Your support will play a critical role in fueling the movement. Join us:

Join Partners in Equity

A monthly gift, of any amount, will include you in Partners in Equity, a special group of supporters, committed to the long-term investments needed to make structural change to Wisconsin's systems. Join Partners in Equity to Give, Learn, and Act online at www.kidsforward.org by checking the 'recurring monthly' box.

Send a check

Use the enclosed envelope and send to 122 W Washington Ave, Suite 620, Madison, WI 53703.

Make a grant through your donor-advised fund (DAF)

Your advisor can mail the grant with your name, contact information, and a check payable to "Kids Forward" to our address:
122 W Washington Ave, Suite 620 Madison, WI 53703

We are incredibly grateful to have you join us in this moment.

Donate Here:



GIVE

Your monthly gift to Kids Forward will fund the long-term investments needed to make systems change. Partners will collectively make an impact for Wisconsin's children & families.



LEARN

As a partner, you will get an inside look at Kids Forward's antiracist public policy work. We will work together to make change for Wisconsin's children and families.



ACT

We will email updates with opportunities for you to take action and participate in supporting public policy and systems change for Wisconsin's children and families.



“O-o-h Child”

song by Stan Vincent; article by Daithi Wolfe

Papas, daddies, stepfathers, grandpas, pops, uncles all showed up in force at the Wisconsin State Capitol, just a few days before Father’s Day.

Why? To voice their support for state investment in our child care system. The child care industry overall is on the verge of collapse if we don’t invest in it, and businesses can’t thrive if workers can’t find reliable care. Throughout the first half of the year, we advocated for an equitable state budget that centered children and families furthest from opportunity.

How? Through our first ever “Dads Care for Child Care,” which was a resounding success! The Capitol Hearing Room was packed with concerned dads, grandpas, kids, and other supporters wearing “Dads Care for Child

Care” t-shirts (printed by Los Volcanes, a local cooperative that offers screen printing, embroidery, and sewing).

More than 60 dads and their allies came to listen and ask questions to three invited speakers discussing the outrageously high cost of child care.

Peng Her (CEO of the Hmong Institute), Representative Alex Joers (Assembly District 81), and Chef Evan Dannells (local restaurant owner) made up our stellar panel.

“Early investment in children pays off in every sector of our society.”

- Peng Her, CEO, Hmong Institute





Dads Care for Child Care proved what we already knew: dads across Wisconsin care about giving their kids a great start in life, and that begins with quality child care.

We couldn't have done this without our incredible partners that included **The Black Child Development Institute, The Hmong Institute, Main Street Alliance, Milwaukee Succeeds, Motherhood for Good, One City Schools, Thriving Wisconsin, WI Alliance for Infant Mental Health, and the Wisconsin Public Education Network.**

Dads and their allies called on Wisconsin's state legislators and Congressional

representatives to prioritize investments in quality early childhood education. Specifically, we asked our leaders to:

- Approve \$480M funding in the 2025-27 state budget for significant and sustained investment in child care.
- Protect Head Start from federal attacks.

A huge thank you to all who made this event a success.



Check out our KF-curated playlist — handpicked jams to keep the joy flowing.

“Talkin’ About a Revolution”

Resistance Against the Harmful Megabill

song by Tracy Chapman; article by William Parke-Sutherland

No matter where we live or what we look like, we all need access to quality, affordable health care. In a country that doesn’t guarantee health care to all, Medicaid is a lifeline. Medicaid, including BadgerCare, is a vital source of health insurance for more than one million Wisconsin kids, parents, adults with low incomes, people with disabilities, older adults who need support to stay independent in their communities, and people receiving mental health and addiction treatment in Wisconsin.

Congress Passes Deepest Cut to Medicaid in History

In May the deeply harmful federal megabill was introduced in Congress, then passed and signed by Trump this summer. This bill cuts nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid over the next decade. 12 million people are projected to lose their health insurance as a result. How will this bill hurt Wisconsinites? The megabill:

- disguises its cuts in red tape, and as a result millions will lose their coverage because they can’t keep up with the bureaucracy.
- may take away health insurance from about 63,000 Wisconsinites due to so-called ‘work reporting requirements’. An overwhelming

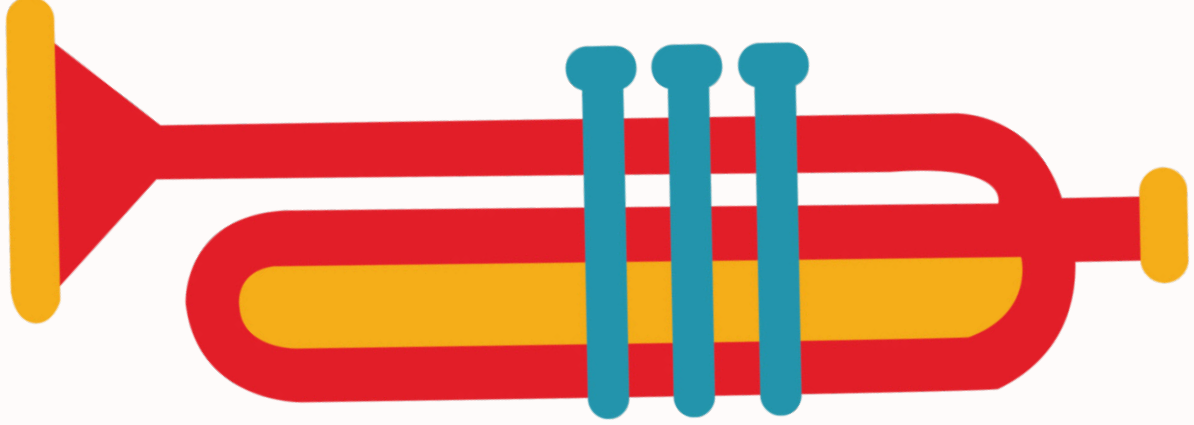
majority of individuals on Medicaid are already working or cannot work due to a health condition. Work reporting requirements have been shown in other states to result in loss of coverage rather than an increase in workforce participation.*

- changes the rules for lawfully present immigrants and refugees who have been eligible for decades causing more people to lose Medicaid health care coverage.
- changes the rules for people who get their insurance on [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov); making fewer people qualify for financial assistance and making it harder to enroll.

Regardless of how these changes are described, they are all cuts to people’s health care. Congress voted to cut Medicaid, but everyone will end up feeling the pain. Medical debt will increase, people will catch health problems later when they’re likely more serious, and local health providers will lose critical revenue, causing more of them to reduce services or close their doors. More people without insurance means higher health care costs for everyone else. These cuts are projected to hit small towns and rural communities hardest, **where Medicaid helps keep hospitals afloat and one in three rural kids count on it** for their health coverage.



Check out our KF-curated playlist
— handpicked jams to keep the
joy flowing.



Resisting at Every Step

Congress may have slashed health care to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy few, but they didn't do it without collective resistance.

Starting in January, we co-founded the Wisconsin Medicaid Coalition—approximately 150 counties, tribes, health care providers, advocates, and those representing Medicaid patients—to fight back.

We organized community forums, sign-on letters, and legislative briefings. We spoke with reporters, told the truth about what was at stake, and shared stories about the vital role Medicaid plays in our big cities, small towns, and everywhere in between.

At an event in Green Bay, one foster mom shared: “I am here to represent my foster son. He is the sunshine of my day. I would be devastated if cuts were made to Medicaid services that he utilizes currently, like mental health services, equine therapy, speech and occupational therapy. He deserves a fighting chance.”

And we were not alone. All across the country, people confronted their representatives, asking the tough questions, sharing compelling and tragic stories, and challenging them to stand up

for children, families, and providers who rely on Medicaid. Those in favor of Medicaid cuts felt the pressure; in fact, they stopped holding town halls with voters and instead retreated to false stereotypes and empty rhetoric.

Unfortunately, we didn't win. **We did however make them abandon some of their worst and most dangerous ideas that would have fundamentally destabilized Medicaid for generations.** We also made them delay some of their cuts for years. They know these are unpopular ideas, which is why they deferred some of them until after the next election.

We're not Done by a Long Shot

We've still got a lot of work to do. We're making sure state and federal lawmakers know what to expect so they can protect health care for as many people as possible. We're championing the just and equitable implementation of these changes so people can keep their Medicaid coverage amidst all the red tape and we can minimize the loss of federal Medicaid funds here in Wisconsin.

In 2026, we're documenting the harm to Wisconsin residents, so that voters remember why these devastating cuts are happening.

“Redemption Song”

The Journey Toward Collective Youth Justice Advocacy in Wisconsin

song by Bob Marley & The Wailers; article by Carte'cia Weaver and Nadiyah Groves

Youth Justice is on the Governor's Agenda

We all grow and change over time and deserve a chance to redeem ourselves when things go wrong. In order to ensure children reach their full potential, we must provide them opportunities to rebuild and reclaim responsibility for their lives. The Wisconsin state budget is a major opportunity to advocate for investment in community-based resources that keep youth connected to care, opportunity, and their communities.

Currently, the State of Wisconsin relies too heavily on incarceration. It also places the blame on our children for system-wide disinvestment in basic needs like housing, education, health care, and family supports. Protecting our children means addressing these root causes of inequity and removing barriers so that justice-involved youth are activated to transform their circumstances.

During this year's budget season the Governor proposed several critical

juvenile justice system reforms that begin to confront systemic inequities and invest in community-based pathways, like:

- investing in smaller facilities focused on rehabilitation,
- providing ongoing funding for the new statewide “Office of Violence Prevention,”
- capping the daily cost counties pay when they send youth to state-run juvenile prisons, and
- researching and implementing evidence-based solutions to reduce youth incarceration.

Pushing the Pen: A Budget Win for a Better Future

Throughout the budget negotiations, we provided decision makers and communities with research, testimony and tools to push for evidence-based changes that emphasize prevention and rehabilitation over criminalization. The result: we elevated a public mandate against wasteful youth incarceration spending. While the 2025-2027 state budget did not deliver everything our youth deserve, a major win was achieved: Governor Evers' reduced the financial burden on counties by line item vetoing a proposed increase in the daily cost counties pay to incarcerate youth.



Sinking more money into harmful systems means less resources to invest in safe and age appropriate care for our youth. Reducing the daily cost opens the door for counties to fund smarter, more community-centered investments. This decision also signals that the Governor listened to the will of Wisconsinites. Advocates and families alike agree that our state must move away from its dependence on youth incarceration and toward a vision of care, not criminalization. With this reduction, counties can reinvest funds into local resources like mentoring and mental health care. These solutions foster accountability without punitive punishment and keep our young people in their homes and communities.

Reimagining Public Safety: WI Youth Justice Coalition

In just a few short months, we have seen a national increase in the criminalization of youth and their communities, as well as a rollback in investment for initiatives that integrate healing and community-centered care. Punitive approaches to public safety such as increased police budgets, legislation mandating harsher sentences, and advanced surveillance technology don't prevent crime or address its root causes.¹ These costly approaches capitalize on fear and increasingly fuel the mass incarceration of disproportionately Black and Brown youth. Community violence intervention strategies such as diversion programs, Credible Messenger programs, and mental health

services reduce crime.² Poverty reduction levers like child tax credits prevent crime.³

Kids Forward is not waiting for decision makers to reform Wisconsin's youth justice system. We are taking collective action, activating our network of friends-in-the-work, and holding decision makers accountable for investing in public safety measures that really work. By building a statewide youth justice coalition that develops the advocacy capacity of youth, emerging adults, and the organizations that serve them, Kids Forward is convening statewide partners to engage in narrative change, policy analysis, and educational advocacy. This work will persuade power brokers to reimagine public safety as a community-based continuum of care grounded in dignity, youth voice, emerging adult research, and collaboration. We invite those interested in reimagining public safety to join us on this journey!

1. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/improving-public-safety-through-better-accountability-and-prevention/>

2. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/policy-brief/safety-beyond-sentencing/>

3. <https://counciloncj.org/investing-in-children-breaks-cycles-of-poverty-and-criminal-justice-involvement/>

Photo Credit: Chucos Justice Center - Youth Justice Los Angeles



Turn up the movement!



Check out our KF-curated playlist — handpicked jams to keep the joy flowing.

“Rainbow Connection”

The Launch of Kaleidoscope Wisconsin

song by Paul Williams and Kenneth Ascher; article by Alia Stevenson

As 2025 draws to a close, we are celebrating the launch of Kaleidoscope WI, a new coalition dedicated to ensuring birthing people, young children, and families of color have the resources and opportunities to thrive.

Kaleidoscope is a prenatal-to-3 (PN-3) coalition led by and for global majority communities. It brings together trusted organizations, community leaders, and families to boldly speak truth to power and to advance policies that improve health, education, and economic mobility for Wisconsin’s youngest children.

The coalition is guided by values of authenticity, trust, and shared power—and those principles are embodied by the founding partners who bring deep expertise and commitment to Wisconsin’s families:

Black Child Development Institute–Wisconsin (BCDI-WI) improves and advances the quality of life for Black children and their families through education, advocacy, and policy change.

Hooçak Ee Coonj Wažiperes Hocira, an initiative of the Ho-Chunk Nation, is dedicated to saving the sacred Hooçak language by

teaching infants and preschool children to comprehend and speak their ancestral tongue.

Roots4Change Cooperative (R4C), the first women-owned cooperative founded by immigrant Latina/Indigenous community-based doulas in Wisconsin, supports immigrant families through childbirth and parenting while uplifting reproductive justice and cultural belonging traditions.

The Hmong Institute serves as a community builder and advocate for Hmong and other underserved communities through culturally competent services, advocacy, and education.

Kids Forward, a statewide antiracist policy center, works to inspire action and advance policies that ensure every child in Wisconsin can thrive.

Why Kaleidoscope?

The name reflects both the diversity and the transformative power of this coalition. Just as a kaleidoscope creates beauty by bringing many unique pieces into focus, this coalition is built on the idea that diverse communities,



Check out our KF-curated playlist
— handpicked jams to keep the
joy flowing.

when brought together, create solutions that are bold, authentic, and lasting.

“Our coalition is rooted in trust, shared power, and accountability,” said members of the Core Steering Committee. “We know solutions come from the lived experience, creativity, and leadership of our communities.”

In 2025, Kaleidoscope WI has been deeply engaged in laying the foundation for this coalition’s success. This has included shaping the vision and governance structure, holding community conversations across Wisconsin to ensure the coalition reflects the voices and priorities of families, recruiting a diverse and committed initial membership, and securing early funding support. These efforts have positioned Kaleidoscope to move into its next phase with strong relationships, resources, and a clear, community-driven roadmap.

In its first two years, Kaleidoscope WI is focused on:

1. Mobilizing PN-3 global majority families through authentic relationship building
2. Engaging members and communities in a landscape analysis to identify key policy areas
3. Co-creating a responsive policy agenda that addresses the barriers and opportunities identified by global majority communities

Kaleidoscope is more than a coalition, it is a vision for a Wisconsin where families of color and immigrant communities are not just included in policy conversations, but are leading them. We invite policymakers, advocates, community leaders, and families to join us in shaping a Wisconsin where every child has the best possible start in life.



“Hasta la Raíz”

How Federal Decisions Impact Immigrant Communities in Wisconsin

song by Natalia Lafourcade & Leonel Garcia; article by Amanda Martinez

Natalia Lafourcade’s “Hasta la Raíz” captures a truth that resonates deeply with immigrant communities: no matter how far we go or what changes around us, our roots remain. This song reflects the strength of families who continue to build their lives and communities despite shifting policies and uncertain futures.

Federal decisions have deep and lasting effects on families and communities across Wisconsin. Immigration policy shapes local realities in schools, workplaces, clinics, and communities. Nearly 300,000 immigrants live in Wisconsin, contributing to the state’s culture and economy as essential workers, taxpayers, caregivers, and community members. Yet federal policy shifts often create fear, instability, and inequity for these families.

Trump’s megabill, HR1, signed on July 4, 2025, represents one of the most sweeping changes in recent history.

The law restricts access to essential programs and basic needs for many immigrants, threatening the well-being of children and families statewide.

This bill:

- Guts health insurance (BadgerCare) for refugees, asylees, trafficking survivors, and many other legally present immigrants;
- Eliminates Affordable Care Act premium tax credits for most lawfully present immigrants starting in 2026, making health insurance unaffordable for thousands of families;
- Narrows SNAP (FoodShare) eligibility, cutting food assistance for many immigrants and creates more hunger and economic hardship across the state;
- Bans U.S citizen children from receiving the Child Tax Credit if both of their parents lack Social Security numbers; and
- Invests over \$170 billion in immigration enforcement, expanding detention centers, deportations, and local police cooperation with ICE.

Alongside the Wisconsin Collaboration on Immigrants and Public Benefits, we are analyzing and tracking bills in order to provide critical resources and knowledge to community partners. Even as policies attempt to harm families, they hold onto their heritage, resilience, and belief in a better world. No policy can change what grows from within: their raíces (our roots).



Amanda Martinez and Lark Pinney march at the May Day protests.

Spotlight: Partnering with Emerging Leaders to Shape Immigration Advocacy

This year, students from the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison played a key role in advancing our immigration advocacy work at Kids Forward.

Lark Pinney, a Master of Social Work graduate and our social work intern, contributed meaningfully and authored a guest blog exploring the collaboration between the IRS and ICE, bringing attention to how the sharing of taxpayer data raises serious concerns about privacy, trust, and protections not only for immigrant families, but for the broader public as well.

Eliza Hake and Julia Danes, student volunteers, co-authored another guest blog, offering a

student's perspective on the Wisconsin state budget. Their work lifted up key issues that affect families across the state, including funding for language access, driver licenses for all, and raising the minimum wage.

Partnering with students and young advocates builds a pipeline of informed and engaged leaders while advancing policies that make Wisconsin a more just and welcoming state for all families. Their insights, creativity, and dedication help make our policy work stronger and more connected to the communities we serve. Read their blogs at kidsforward.org.



Check out our KF-curated playlist — handpicked jams to keep the joy flowing.

“Get up, stand up”

Workers Fight for Fairness in the Capitol

song by Bob Marley & The Wailers & Peter Tosh; article by Faith Roska & Daithi Wolfe

On June 4th, a group of more than 20 Wisconsin workers did just that. These empowered activists led a new movement into the State Capitol, demanding that legislators prioritize all families and working people across the state.

Every parent or caregiver in Wisconsin deserves to have a secure foundation to raise their family. But for too long, the wealthy and powerful few have eroded our workplace protections in order to grow their profits. They've also fueled false narratives, hoping we'll blame our neighbors instead of the wealthy for the problems they create. As a result, thousands of families in communities across the state are exploited by employers and excluded by decision makers.

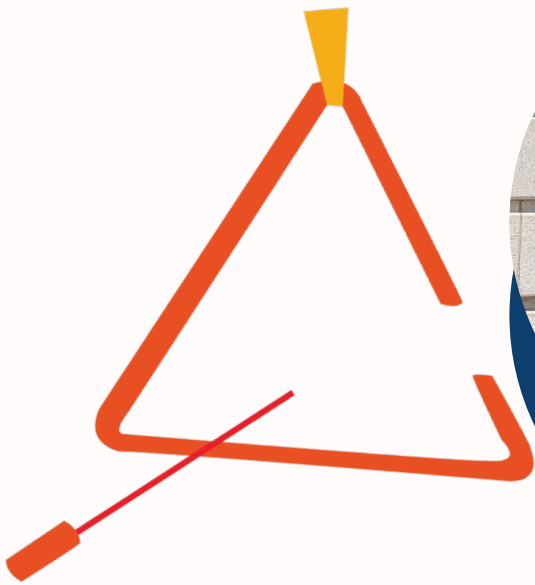
Over the past several years, we've worked in deep partnership with the Milwaukee Area

Service and Hospitality Workers Union (MASH), representing 1,150 service and hospitality workers, and Worker Justice Wisconsin (WJW), representing low-wage, non-unionized, immigrant workers in Dane County, to demand a living wage, stronger wage theft laws, and the ability for communities to set their own labor standards. Why stand up and fight together? A few attendees shared:

“Whether \$7.25 in 2009 or \$15 in 2012 when we started fighting for that, minimum wage hasn't been a living wage in Wisconsin for too long because politicians haven't made this a priority. We need all workers in all jobs to be paid a living wage because all of our labor has dignity.”



Attendees meet
with Representative
Supreme Moore
Omokunde



“Everything around us has gone up in price, and I don’t know how long since the minimum wage has been increased, but it’s incredible that we are expected to be able to survive on these wages, when in the world everything else has only gotten more expensive.”

The culmination of this work was our June 4th Worker Power Day at the Wisconsin State Capitol. Workers spent the day meeting with their legislators to talk about their experience with wage theft and low labor standards. The response—both from workers and legislators—has been positive!

“Even though we all live very different lives, we all face similar struggles. The more that we recognize that and band together to fight for those rights, I think the greater chance of success that we’ll have.”

These meetings helped workers and coalition partners develop stronger relationships with key legislators. We continue to push for legislation addressing wage theft and minimum wage reform and deepen our connections to legislators.

This Labor Day, legislators introduced a package of bills that would restore basic worker protections and strengthen laws aimed to combat misclassification, one of the primary drivers of wage theft.

Kids Forward was honored to co-plan and facilitate this event. Many workers took the day off of work, got up early to strategize at the Kids Forward office at 9 am to stand up for their rights in front of the state legislature. We provided lunch and Worker Justice Wisconsin provided translation, making this event as accessible as possible for the workers who took time out of their busy schedule to fight for themselves and their colleagues.



Check out our KF-curated playlist — handpicked jams to keep the joy flowing.

“Rise Up”

Fighting to Keep Groceries on the Table

song by Andra Day & Jennifer Decilveo; article by Amanda Martinez

Andra Day’s “Rise Up” is a reminder that even in the face of hardship, communities find ways to stand together. Rising up, now matter how hard it is to do, captures how Wisconsin families and advocates fight to keep food on the table despite federal changes that threaten their well-being.

The passage of HR 1, also known as the federal megabill, puts FoodShare (SNAP), Wisconsin’s food assistance program, at serious risk. The bill cuts funding, adds strict new work reporting requirements, and shifts costs to states, leaving thousands of families vulnerable to losing food benefits.

More than 700,000 Wisconsinites rely on FoodShare, including many in rural communities. People who were previously exempt will now face new work reporting barriers just to keep benefits, while the state will need millions in new funding for implementation and administration.

The bill also eliminates SNAP education programs, cutting funding that provides families with education to make healthy food choices.

More than 100 organizations representing counties, health care professionals, food banks, and community partners urged the Wisconsin legislature to immediately approve funding for the Department of Health Services (DHS) to implement federal changes to SNAP/FoodShare. DHS estimated that \$69 million in state funding is needed to comply with the federal mandates passed under the megabill. Without additional state support for SNAP, Wisconsin could be on the hook for fees of more than \$200 million in the coming years.

Additionally, while the crisis is changing daily, Kids Forward is advocating alongside the SNAP coalition with organizations like **Feeding Wisconsin, Hunger Taskforce**, among many others. In November, SNAP funding became uncertain due to the federal government shutdown. Families went without food assistance as the administration refused to release their multi-billion dollar SNAP contingency fund to temporarily ensure families have access to food.

Kids Forward alongside advocates in Northeast WI, including **food pantries, the**



Check out our KF-curated playlist
— handpicked jams to keep the
joy flowing.

Multicultural Coalition, and Partnership Community Health Center, called on Congress and the administration to act swiftly to ensure families do not lose access to food assistance at a press conference on October 31:

“Look around, one in eight receives FoodShare benefits in the state of Wisconsin. This may be your elderly mother, your friend who lost their job, or a family who is already struggling with childcare and transportation,” said Patricia Sarvela, Chief Development Officer for Partnership Community Health Center. **“Local food pantries are already stretched thin, and we’re expecting an even greater demand in the coming weeks. This isn’t a program that affects others, it affects all of us.”**

Without legislative action, Wisconsin risks both significant financial losses and disruptions in food assistance for families across the state who rely on FoodShare to put food on the table.

Like the message of “Rise Up,” this is a moment to stand together to lift one another and demand policies that honor human dignity. Wisconsin families and advocates are rising, not out of comfort but out of necessity, determined to ensure that no one in their community goes hungry. This call to action is a promise that, together, we will rise.



The Kids Forward Team

Nathaniel Ansari

Funding Impact Advisor

Nadiyah Groves

Policy & Budget Director

Nicole Hoffmann

Strategic Growth Director

Kala Lones

Opportunity Youth Initiative Advocacy
Coach

Michele Mackey

President & CEO

Amanda Martinez

Senior Policy Analyst

Emily Miota

Communications Director

William Parke- Sutherland

Government Affairs Director

Faith Roska

Youth Policy Advocacy Coach

Alia Stevenson

Deputy Director

Alexa Turner

Operations Director

Carte'cia Weaver

Senior Policy Analyst

Daithi Wolfe

Senior Policy Analyst



Turn up the movement!



Check out our KF-curated playlist
— handpicked jams to keep the
joy flowing.

A circular graphic with a black background. The text "Turn up the movement!" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, curving along the top inner edge of the circle. In the center of the circle is a square QR code. Below the QR code, the text "Check out our KF-curated playlist — handpicked jams to keep the joy flowing." is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

The logo icon for Kids Forward, consisting of three stylized, overlapping arrow-like shapes pointing to the right.

KIDS FORWARD

Kids Forward is a statewide antiracist policy center that inspires action and advocates for children and families of color and those furthest from opportunity in Wisconsin. We envision a Wisconsin where every child thrives.

122 West Washington Ave, Suite 620, Madison, WI, 53703
www.kidsforward.org

