



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF WISCONSIN

Antigo
Appleton
Baraboo
Bayfield
Beloit
Berlin
Black River Falls
Chippewa Falls
Cumberland
Delavan
Eau Claire
Fitchburg
Fond Du Lac
Fort Atkinson
Fort McCoy
Green Bay
Green Lake
Hartford
Hayward
Jackson
Janesville
Kenosha
La Crosse
Little Chute
Madison
Menasha
Milwaukee
Nekoosa
Neopit
Odanah
Oshkosh
Plover
Red Cliff
Reedsburg
Rice Lake
Sheboygan
Sheboygan Falls
Sparta
Stevens Point
Sturgeon Bay
Superior
Tomah
Waukesha
Wausau
West Bend
West Salem
Weston

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20th, 2021

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Boys & Girls Clubs Applaud Unprecedented Investment ‘Beyond the Classroom’ *Governor Evers Announces \$50 Million Grant for Non-Profits Today at Green Bay Club*

Green Bay, WI — Boys & Girls Clubs praised Governor Evers today for his unprecedented commitment to invest \$50 million “*Beyond the Classroom*” and boost out-of-school learning opportunities and mental health programs for Wisconsin kids ages 5 to 17. Eligible activities could include preparing high school students for post-secondary training, supporting the mental health needs of school-age kids, and ensuring access to summer learning opportunities.

“What’s best for our kids is indeed what’s best for our state, and Governor Evers has again proven his commitment that great futures start with kids’ mental health and well-being,” said Karen DeSanto, President of the Wisconsin Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. “These grants to non-profits are critically important in allowing us all to bounce back from this pandemic, and focus on our future.”

Grants will be awarded by the Department of Administration to groups that serve school-age youth virtually and in-person, outside of school and during the summer months. “Organizations across our state are playing a critical role in supporting the educational and emotional well-being of our kids,” said Department of Administration Secretary Joel Brennan. “Non-profit organizations that provide educational, programming, and mental health supports for Wisconsin children provided a connection and a sense of normalcy for so many families throughout the pandemic.”

“Wisconsin Clubs work with over 139,000 youth at 160 sites across 58 cities,” added Andy Gussert, Director of the Wisconsin Alliance. “We again thank Governor Evers for recognizing the importance of after school programs in preparing kids to succeed as adults. This investment will make a tremendous impact on so many families.”

Wisconsin clubs serve more youth than any organization outside the public school system, and more youth per person than any other state in the country. Seven out of every ten kids are from a racial or ethnic minority, two of every five are from a single parent household, and two of every three are on reduced school lunch programs. “These are the kids who need opportunities the most in our recovery,” said Gussert.

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The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs is to ensure all young people, especially those who need us most, can reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Every dollar invested in Boys & Girls Clubs returns \$12.40 in earnings and cost-savings to their communities. For more background, visit <https://www.bgcwisconsin.org/our-impact>