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Governor's plan to bolster workforce, economy includes expanding paid family and medical leave, investments in child care and affordable housing, new venture capital fund, developing community-based solutions to workforce challenges.

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers tonight, during his 2023-25 Biennial Budget Message, announced comprehensive initiatives in his biennial budget to support working families, strengthen the state's workforce, and maintain the economy's momentum.

In addition to Gov. Evers' plan to provide the largest increase to K-12 education in state history, coupled with his plan to provide targeted, responsible tax relief with a 10-percent, middle-class tax cut, the governor's budget also includes additional key provisions to support Wisconsin's kids and families. Gov. Evers proposes to create a Paid Family and Medical Leave Program and invest in expanding access to affordable child care and housing as well as job training for workers. The governor also proposes investing in revitalizing the state's travel and tourism industry and bolstering the state's economic growth with investments in healthcare infrastructure, revitalizing Main Streets, and spurring entrepreneurship.

In his 2023-25 Biennial Budget Message delivered tonight, Gov. Evers highlighted his comprehensive initiatives to bolster the state's current and future workforce, maintain the state's economic momentum, and build Wisconsin's economy from the ground up by investing in kids and families, small businesses and Main Streets, and local communities:

“We have to continue harnessing local innovators and ingenuity to maintain our economic momentum and retain and recruit talented workers to build a workforce for the future. And building an economy from the ground up starts with investing in our Main Streets, our communities, and our local partners. So, I announced last month we’re continuing our successful Main Street Bounceback program—and that’s great news. This program has already helped revitalize our Main Streets and move more than 8,500 businesses into vacant storefronts across our state.

“But I also recognize that, when it comes to bolstering our workforce, no two communities’ needs are alike. There’s no one-size-fits-all solution to our state’s workforce challenges. We trust our local innovators, communities, business, and economic development partners to know best what they need to support a strong, successful workforce and bring new workers to their area. They might need more high-quality child care providers, they might need more clinics and accessible healthcare, or to expand job training in high-demand industries–we must meet those unique needs, whatever they may be.

“It’s why one of the most significant investments we make in this budget is to invest nearly $500 million into programs designed to support local and regionally-based projects in communities and regions to help expand the state’s workforce, invest in healthcare infrastructure, and other capital projects in communities across our state.

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