



of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

131 West Wilson Street, Suite 700, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 267-0214 voice/tty • (608) 267-0368 fax

2011-2013 Legislative Budget and Policy Priorities

Employment

Survival coalition supports integrated employment as the default outcome in the long-term care system.
We assume that everyone can work.

Survival Recommendations:

- DHS and DWD should ensure collaboration among MCOs, ADRCs, Service providers, and DVR, and clarify MCO-DVR funding responsibilities. MCOs and IRIS need awareness of best practices and resources in employment services, including job development, supported and customized employment.
- Expand outreach and education so all people with disabilities can overcome barriers to employment. This may require a budget request to increase the number of disability benefit specialists.
- Continue funding and technical assistance to Community Rehabilitation Programs that are exploring ways to help people get community jobs. Support ongoing training resources around best practices in employment for people with disabilities, including PERC
- Support true state-wide training and implementation of the DVR/DPI/DHS inter-agency agreement on transition based on the belief that all students with disabilities should be planning on integrated employment and post-secondary education
- Address real and perceived barriers to employment: income limits, health insurance, asset development

Background: Only about 27% of people with "Independent Living"* disabilities are working. This includes people who work part time or in work centers (formerly known as sheltered workshops).

2008 WI labor statistics:	<u>people with any disabilities</u>	<u>with "Independent Living" disabilities</u>
Employed:	45%	27%
Employed full time:	28%	10%
Living in poverty	23%	30%

When Family Care began, it was expected that its focus on outcomes would result in people moving from segregated work settings to integrated jobs in the community. In fact, over ten years, the proportion of Family Care members with community jobs has decreased.

2009 Family Care data:	<u>people with developmental dis.</u>	<u>with physical disabilities</u>
Not working:	3700 (42%)	3900 (91%)
Working:	5200 (58%)	400 (9%)
in work centers	3400 (65%)	125 (31%)

For additional information contact: Rick Hall, rth1948@charter.net

Real Lives, Real Work, Real Smart, Wisconsin
Investing in People with Disabilities