



of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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ADULT LONG-TERM CARE BUDGET PRIORITIES

STATEMENT

Survival Coalition advocates for a community-based support system that allows eligible adults to live inclusive lives in the community with individualized and appropriate services to meet their needs.

BACKGROUND:

Wisconsin's system of Long Term Supports helps people with disabilities and elderly residents maintain better health and independence through support/services in individual homes, and other community-based settings. Nursing homes and other institutional settings are a more costly way to provide care. The State, counties, managed care organizations, and personal care workers provide assistance for people with daily tasks—like dressing, bathing, meals, household chores and tasks, getting ready for work, transportation—and management of chronic health conditions. The Department of Health Services (DHS) oversees Wisconsin's Long Term Care programs including Family Care/IRIS, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, and several community-based Medicaid waiver programs.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

- Family Care and /IRIS are available in all 72 counties.
- Development of an adequate capitated rate for Family Care, especially for serving people with complex needs who require more intensive and costly supports – a tiered rate structure may be needed.
- Support and incentivize MCOs to develop models for community based integrated day activities that can be used when people with disabilities are not working in integrated, competitive employment. Increase funding to build community support capacity so that can serve people with complex needs without reliance on costly institutional placements, which is currently happening too frequently because of inadequate community supports.
- Provide funding to create residential placements that can support members with complex needs, create community-based crisis beds for short-term stays, and require that people return to the community after temporary therapeutic stays in in-patient facilities. Ensure IRIS (self-directed waiver option to Family Care) has capacity and infrastructure needed to oversee the program. IRIS has grown far more

than initially anticipated. It is projected that the program will continue to add new members as younger people entering LTC have chosen IRIS more frequently, and if/when legacy counties transition to Family Care there will be additional LTC recipients that choose IRIS. Provide additional DHS positions for IRIS to keep pace with how fast the program is growing and conduct quality oversight.

- Consolidate Southern and Central Centers (two DD centers into one).

POLICY ITEMS RELATED TO BUDGET REQUESTS

- Establish competitive, integrated employment as the first and preferred outcome of publicly funded LTC employment supports. Provide funding for necessary technical assistance (DHS led, DVR coordination) to achieve this outcome over a 5-year span.
- Require benchmarks/targets for competitive integrated employment outcomes in LTS programs reported annually.
- Provide targeted funding to support sustainability of competitive integrated employment for youth who are exiting public school in the remaining legacy waiver counties (e.g. Dane County model).
- Continue to address quality concerns with Family Care services as expansion continues.
- Goals/outcomes should go beyond health/safety; they need to include quality of life.
- Expand use of National Core Indicators (NCI) to Family Care. Currently, DHS collects Wisconsin data from legacy counties and IRIS. Statewide use in all long-term care programs would provide a more complete and accurate reflection of trends and issues in Wisconsin's long-term care system.

Contact Survival Coalition Co-Chairs for additional information

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