



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

A Threat to Medicaid is a Threat to...



...Over **1 Million** Wisconsinites, including **519,923 children**, many with disabilities, and **197,989 adults with disabilities**.



...The promise that kids and adults with disabilities **won't need to wait for critical help**.



...**Wisconsin schools, which receive \$60 million per year** in Medicaid funding for school-based services.



...Wisconsin's budget. **Medicaid brings about \$5 billion to Wisconsin** which supports hospitals, providers, and jobs through 20 Medicaid-funded programs as well as program participants.

What you can say: A bill being considered by Congress (The American Health Care Act) will reduce the amount of money Wisconsin receives to pay for Medicaid. Nearly two-thirds of WI Medicaid participants are adults with disabilities or children, many of whom have disabilities. Medicaid is essential to the health and independence of people with disabilities. Most people with disabilities cannot have all their needs met with private insurance. **Please do not cut Wisconsin Medicaid programs.**

Survival Coalition surveyed 1,500 people who use Medicaid and found:



60% use Medicaid **transportation to access the community.**



33% use Medicaid for **supports to be able to work.**



80% said **without Medicaid they couldn't see their doctor, therapists or direct support providers.**



43% said **without Medicaid, they couldn't stay in their homes.**

Medicaid Funds Over 20 Wisconsin Programs

A Threat to Medicaid is a
Threat to People with Disabilities



Mental Health



► GOOD

Increase funding to expand the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program to improve access for children and adolescents. (\$500,000 each year)

What you can say: Increased funding for this program it will help children get better treatment. However, the shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists throughout Wisconsin is severe and more funding is needed to take this program statewide.

► GOOD

Funding to create a peer-run respite for veterans in Milwaukee. (\$450,000 total)

What you can say: Establishing a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week respite center where veterans can come to get assistance from peers who have had similar experiences will be very helpful. Hopefully, in the future the number of peer-run respite centers can be increased around the state.

► GOOD

Expanding the Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) program which provides reentry support for prison inmates with a mental illness to an additional 5 counties. (\$660,800 each year)

What you can say: This is a highly effective program that help inmates leaving prison with serious mental illness to be successful in the community.

► GOOD

Creation of a new corrections mental illness treatment and diversion unit (\$2.2 million total) and added mental health staff for restrictive housing units at three DOC facilities (\$592,000 total).

What you can say: Wisconsin's prisons house more individuals with mental illness than any system in the state. This is a good start but many more resources are needed to address this overwhelming need.

► NEEDS WORK

Expansion of mental health staff and services at the Department of Corrections Copper Lakes School for girls. (\$556,000 total)

What you can say: Addressing the mental health needs of girls in Wisconsin's state juvenile correctional facility is important, but in the long-run, a stakeholder group should be convened to review Wisconsin's entire juvenile corrections system to determine best practices to reduce recidivism and promote success in the community.

Acknowledgements



Survival Coalition is proud to support our member organizations in their advocacy efforts. Thank you to **People First Wisconsin** and **The Arc Wisconsin** for the use of their 2017 Budget Summary Document.



A 2017 STATE BUDGET SUMMARY FOR SELF-ADVOCATES

Governor Walker introduced his state budget on February 8. The budget tells us which programs will receive money and how much money each program will get. It also tells us if new programs are created or if they are going away.

It is important for people with disabilities to know what things in the state budget will affect them so they can advocate.

Here are some things in the budget that will affect people with disabilities:

TRANSPORTATION

►NEEDS WORK



There was a small increase in money (\$840,000) for specialized transportation for people with disabilities and older adults. There was no increase for public transit, like buses.

What you can say: Transportation is the number one concern for people with disabilities in Wisconsin. People with disabilities need to get around in their communities, get to work and see family and friends. Please increase funding for transportation options.

CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

►GOOD



There are no big changes to Family Care, IRIS or other long-term care programs. The money for these programs remains the same.

What you can say: Thank you for continuing to fund Family Care and IRIS. People with disabilities need these programs to keep them healthy and living and working in their communities.

►NEEDS WORK

There is more money in the budget (\$15 million) for personal care supports to help people with things like getting a bath, getting dressed and helping with their meals in their homes. Providers are asking for a 15% increase to continue in business.

What you can say: People with disabilities want to live in their own homes and communities, not in institutions or nursing homes. More money should be spent to support people in their homes because it costs less. Please increase funding for workers in the community who need better wages.

EMPLOYMENT

►GOOD



Many people with disabilities use the Medical Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP) work incentives program that helps them keep their Medicaid while they work. Some changes will mean all people will pay at least a \$25 premium and others will see their premiums lower as they work and earn more.

What you can say: The MAPP program is important so people with disabilities can work and keep their Medicaid healthcare. Healthcare must be affordable for people.

EMPLOYMENT

►GOOD

The budget includes funding (\$7.6 million) for two new programs that will help young people with disabilities get jobs while they are still in school; the Transition Incentives Grant and the Transition Readiness Investment Grant.

What you can say: Thank you and please keep this important funding in the budget. Having one job while in high school means a youth with a disability is twice as likely to have a job as an adult. Schools need money to help pay for the time it takes to find jobs for kids, for transportation to work and other job coaching.

EDUCATION

►NEEDS WORK

The budget does not add any new money for special education.



What you can say: Wisconsin schools have not had an increase for special education in almost ten years. Please increase funding so students with disabilities can have the supports they need to succeed in the classroom alongside students without disabilities.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

►GOOD

The Governor added \$39,000,000 to the budget to end the waiting list for children with disabilities. Many of these children and their families (2600 are waiting) have been waiting for many years for help.



What you can say: Thank you and please keep this important funding in the budget. Children with disabilities need supports to help them be healthy and to be part of their communities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

STEP 1

The Legislature decides how much money to give to programs for people with disabilities.

STEP 2

There will be public hearings around the state.

STEP 3

People with disabilities should attend these hearings and contact their own legislators to say what they like or don't like about the budget.

STEP 4

The Legislature will make changes to and vote on the budget.

STEP 5

The budget must be signed by the Governor.

People First Wisconsin



See Our  Ability



WISCONSIN BOARD FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



The Arc
Wisconsin

Do you have more questions about the State Budget?

Contact Cindy Bentley at 414-483-2546 or peoplefirst@gmail.com or Lisa Pugh at 608-422-4250 or Pugh@TheArc.org.

Questions regarding Disability Advocacy Day please contact **Survival Coalition Co-chairs:** Maureen Ryan, moryan@charter.net; (608) 444-3842; Beth Swedeen, beth.swedeen@wisconsin.gov; (608) 266-1166; Kristin M. Kerschensteiner, kitk@drwi.org; (608) 267-0214