

## LONG-TERM CARE BUDGET PRIORITIES

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### STATEMENT

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

### BACKGROUND

Wisconsin's system of Long Term Services and Supports helps people with disabilities and older adults 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, Self-Direction (IRIS) Consulting Agencies and direct care workers provide assistance for people with daily living 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, PACE/Partnership, and Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survival Coalition recommends **DHS request an appropriation line for continuous outcome improvement initiatives** for the improvement of employment, transportation, and community living outcomes for people with disabilities, and analysis of innovation project outcomes.
- Survival Coalition recommends **DHS create a Medicaid waiver for “pre-Medicaid” individuals**. Wisconsin could use its waiver authority to grant access to a limited package of HCBS services for low income older adults, family caregivers, and people with disabilities who are financially eligible for Medicaid and need supports to remain independently in their homes, but do not yet meet the functional criteria (nursing home level of care) required by Family Care/IRIS.
- Survival Coalition recommends **DHS establish one or more county mental health crisis pilot projects** between based on the existing Mobile Crises Centers (Milwaukee) and Community Ties (Dane County) models, an MCO, a county CLTS program, and county

mental health department to keep people with I/DD in the community and out of mental health institutions.

- Survival Coalition recommends **DHS have robust stakeholder involvement before proposing changes to LTC system design or specific long-term care programs**, and continue stakeholder engagement throughout any change or transition process.

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT SURVIVAL COALITION CO-CHAIRS:**

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