



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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Medicaid Expansion is Good Policy for People with Disabilities; Direct Care Workforce

Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organization members have consistently supported Medicaid expansion. Medicaid provides access to critical services for many people with disabilities which are not available at all or to the degree needed in private insurance. Expanding Medicaid eligibility to a more reasonable poverty level will not only provide vital, comprehensive and affordable health care benefits to many people with complex conditions and mental health needs who struggle to manage their health and keep working, but will also increase the hours that direct care workers can contribute to supporting people with disabilities, without fear of falling off the benefits cliff.

The Governor's Task Force on Caregiving in its work to find solutions to the direct care workforce crisis noted that Medicaid expansion would significantly address crisis by allowing current workers to work an extra shift per week (8 hours) and still retain public health insurance. Currently many people with disabilities go without care, risking their health, because they cannot find workers to fill shifts.

Savings from the proposed Medicaid expansion are also critically needed to reinvest in programs and services critical to people with disabilities and older adults, including for use as sustainable direct care worker rate and wage increases.

Wisconsin has a long proud history of broad bipartisan support for services and supports for people with disabilities. As the legislature continues deliberation on the budget, we ask that policymakers come together to support the initiatives that are vital to the lives, health, and independence of Wisconsinites with disabilities.

Survival Coalition is comprised of more than 20 statewide disability organizations that advocate and support policies and practices that lead to the full inclusion, participation, and contribution of people living with disability.

Survival Coalition Issue Teams: education, employment, housing, long term care for adults, long term care for children, mental health, transportation, workforce, voting, Medicaid and health care.
