



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

SURVIVAL COALITION 2023-2025 BUDGET PRIORITIES

EMPLOYMENT BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

- Direct DHS to develop a One-Time Provider Transformation Fund to support employment service providers in the state's long-term care system to increase community employment. Providers would be selected through a competitive process and must meet sustainable, measurable outcomes that move people who have shown an interest in working in integrated employment into competitive-wage community jobs.
- Direct DWD and DHS to further develop remote employment opportunities and determine a process for data plans, telephones and computer equipment for people with disabilities to pursue remote opportunities or to start businesses.
- Direct DWD to establish a grant or project opportunities for employment service providers to:
 - Offset losses during the pandemic and address the slow recovery of revenue;
 - Increase wages and benefits to workers providing vocational supports and services;
 - Support efforts to recruit and retain employees including people of color, tribal members, people with disabilities and people in rural and urban areas;
 - Offset increased travel and other costs affected by fuel and other cost increases.
- Direct DWD and DHS to create a transportation initiative that focuses on challenges workers with disabilities face when trying to get to employment locations. This should include funding transportation for new workers in the first month of employment, opportunities for ride share or use of transportation services such as Uber or Lyft where available, and efforts to subsidize transportation costs when these exceed usual and customary costs for transportation.
- Direct DOA to adopt a State as Model Employer initiative to intentionally hire within all facets of state government and eradicate modernize outdated practices, such as the

State Use Contracts that prioritize purchasing from companies that employ workers with disabilities at sub-minimum wage.

- Now that legislation has passed (2/7/2022 SB158) to study ABLE accounts in Wisconsin¹ the Governor's budget or the DFI budget should include \$250,000 for a campaign to educate people with disabilities and their families regarding the use of ABLE accounts in Wisconsin. Further, any other funding necessary to implement the recommendations should be included in the budget. Regardless of the outcome, all state agencies should collaborate to promote and integrate the use of ABLE accounts across all programs for all eligible people with disabilities, particularly working age adults to earn and save more funds.
- Direct DWD to establish a designated program to provide free training at technical colleges to increase the number of people trained to become direct support professionals.
- Direct DWD to create a Worker Training Grant program (Fast Forward) accessible to Home and Community Based employers by eliminating 50% cash or in-kind employer match and starting wage restrictions.

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Investing in People with Disabilities

¹ ...study to examine the advantages and disadvantages of the following options in establishing a Wisconsin ABLE program for this state's residents: 1) DFI establishes and administers the ABLE program; or 2) DFI enters into an agreement with another state, or with an entity representing an alliance of states, to establish and administer the ABLE program. The study must include review and evaluation by DFI of certain matters, including each option's potential costs; the impact of each option on Wisconsin residents' program choice, tax benefits, and account fees; and ABLE programs offered by other states. DFI must report to the legislature the results of the study, including DFI's findings and recommendations, by approximately six months after the bill's effective date.