



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

SURVIVAL COALITION 2023-2025 BUDGET PRIORITIES

WORKFORCE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

- Make investments that sustain Wisconsin's HCBS ARPA funded projects beyond March 31, 2024, to include:
 - Increase rates for all HCBS direct services by 25%, to address immediate ongoing unmet funding need in all service areas.
 - Include funds as identified by HCBS ARPA funded actuarial firm to ensure future WI HCBS service access and stability.
 - Create provider and IRIS participant contract language that demonstrates how rate increases will directly benefit direct care worker wages and benefits.
 - Fund Wisconsin statewide HCBS direct care professional registry to include career ladders and portable certifications that stabilize and advance the quality of the direct care workforce.
 - Create a plan to consolidate and end services offered by Central Wisconsin Center and Southern Wisconsin Center WC and SWC so that those funds can be reinvested into WI HCBS services.
 - Continue funding of WI Department of Children and Families Partner Up Grant program with update to specify priority to home and community-based service providers in Wisconsin. The grants support partnerships between local home and community based direct service providers and regulated childcare providers. Funding would be used to reserve childcare slots for local business employees, improve the quality of a childcare program, and stabilize the long-term care workforce.
- Invest in supports for family caregivers who are filling in the gaps when the service system fails, to include:
 - Support a family caregiver tax credit to reimburse family caregivers for some of their out-of-pocket expenses related to caring for their loved one.
 - Expand Wisconsin's Family and Medical Leave Act to include grandparents, grandchildren, and siblings. Expansion to include these family members better

reflects current caregiving relationships.

- Alternatively - create a [Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Insurance](#) program to improve the health and economic security of working family caregivers by providing access to paid leave when time away from work is needed to deal with a serious personal or family illness, or to care for a new child yet.

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Investing in People with Disabilities