

SURVIVAL COALITION 2025-2027 BUDGET PRIORITIES

EMPLOYMENT BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

- Direct DWD and DHS to expand remote employment opportunities by:
 - Assuring access to telephones, and computer equipment, as well as data plans for people with disabilities to pursue remote opportunities;
 - Creating access to needed training and support for necessary telephone or computer skills to conduct work remotely; and
 - Supporting business plan development for at home or virtual work.
- Direct DWD to establish a grant opportunity for employment service providers to:
 - 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.
- Collaborate with Wisconsin DOT to reduce barriers to individuals with disabilities to obtain drivers' licenses through things such as; plain language, adapted and accessible driver's education materials and instruction, and funding drivers' education as an employment readiness skill.
- Direct DOA to adopt a State as Model Employer initiative to intentionally hire within all facets of state government and modernize outdated practices, such as State Use Contracts that prioritize purchasing from companies that employ workers with disabilities at sub-minimum wage.
- Include \$250,000 to the Department of Financial Institutions to educate people with disabilities and their families regarding the use of ABLE accounts in Wisconsin, coordinating with the financial benefits counselors, ADRCs, schools and long-term care programs.
- 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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