



Proposed changes to WI Long-Term Care System in Governor's budget has negative impacts on Wisconsin's disability community

The Survival Coalition of more than 30 statewide disability organizations has completed its [initial analysis of the Governor's budget](#).

The analysis shows the Governor's budget includes sweeping changes to Wisconsin's long term care system that create an uncertain future for people with disabilities and older adults.

Disability and aging advocates do not support the proposed changes to Wisconsin's long-term care system. Collective analysis across groups details serious concerns and questions on the policy direction wrapped into the state budget.

Disability and aging groups, Wisconsin-based businesses that help people remain independent, and participants in long-term care programs were unaware of this proposal prior to the release of the budget, and were not consulted or involved in the proposal's content.

More than 50,000 individuals with disabilities and frail elders in 57 counties rely on Family Care and IRIS. Seven additional counties in the Northeast are in the process of transitioning to Family Care and IRIS.

Wisconsin's current long-term care programs are investments in independence; these programs keep people out of costly Medicaid-funded institutions. Long-term care programs enable older adults and people with disabilities to live independently in their homes or in community settings of their own choice, work and have transportation to get to work in the community, and receive the personal care and behavioral health services needed to keep them independent and healthy.

Among the changes proposed, the Governor's budget completely redesigns Family Care as we know it, eliminates IRIS, requires new statewide new care management organizations, and gives the Department of Health Services sweeping authority—the ability to make significant changes on the services offered, eliminate competition for contracts, and eliminate the local control on which Wisconsin's long term care system has been based — without legislative oversight.

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