



# Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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*P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707*

## Survival Coalition applauds Governor Walker's "Commute to Careers" focus on transportation for people with disabilities

Survival Coalition appreciates Governor Walker's initiative establishing a Commute to Careers program and designating \$1M specifically to address the unique transportation challenges faced by people with disabilities.

Access and barriers to transportation are consistently identified as the top concerns for people with disabilities in Wisconsin. Survival Coalition is currently conducting a statewide survey on transportation challenges faced by people with disabilities; thus far 55% of almost 350 respondents say transportation impacts their ability to get or keep a job.

This initiative is one small step towards developing the critically needed infrastructure to ensure all people can get where they need to go on their schedules.

Survival Coalition looks forward to working with the Department of Workforce Development on program design and implementation that address the many transportation challenges that impact the disability community including: limited transportation on weekends and evenings, transportation options or routes not going where people need to go, rides being cancelled or not arriving on time, lack of accessible transportation; high fares or unaffordable rates; and fragmented transportation systems that fail to connect to each other (between towns, across county lines etc.).

Survival Coalition also looks forward to working with the Governor and legislature on additional transportation investments to improve transportation options for people with disabilities and older adults including increasing funding for public transit, the WETAP program, specialized transportation, and creating appropriations for coordinating, operating, improving, and developing public transportation options, available to local governments that are pooling funding for the purpose of regional transportation across and throughout their service area.

Survival Coalition is comprised of more than 30 statewide disability organizations that advocate and support policies and practices that lead to the full inclusion, participation, and contribution of people living with disability.

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*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.*

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Investing in People with Disabilities