



WORKFORCE

People with disabilities often need support to live, work and thrive in their home communities. Policy makers have provided funds to address worker shortages in nursing homes and hospitals. Now similar investments are needed in the community.

ASK Invest in a range of policies to support both paid and unpaid caregivers, including affordable and adequate healthcare, a registry of home care providers to provide referral and matching services, plans to recruit and retain providers, and state cross-department collaboration.



EDUCATION

The Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding heard from parents and educators that lack of special education was reducing quality of education, putting stress on school district budgets, and forcing cuts to all programs. The message was clear that there are not enough resources to meet the education needs of children with disabilities.

ASK Support the Governor Evers' proposal to increase special education funding to 60% reimbursement by the end of the 2nd year of the budget.

Special education costs have increased by 60% in the last decade while funding has remained flat.



MENTAL HEALTH

Most mental illnesses begin before the age of 24. One in 17 people lives with a serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder and about one in 10 children live with a serious mental disorder.

ASK Support critically underserved areas by investing in community mental health, behavioral health and psychiatrist services, including increased Medicaid rates for community physicians and medical clinics that provide mental health, behavioral health, and psychiatric services.



EMPLOYMENT

Ensure that people with disabilities who want jobs have the supports they need to find and keep a job.

ASK Provide \$6.75 million to fund providers to increase access to local community-based jobs.



Survival Coalition’s statewide survey of aging adults and people with disabilities found that current transportation services limit their community participation (83%), access to medical care (61%), ability to find or keep a job (59%), living options (50%), and other critical functions that people need to remain independent and engaged in the community.”

ASK Support critical increases in the budget for transit and paratransit. Invest in options for non-drivers and in communities without public transit so people with disabilities get the support they need to get to work and where they need to go.



People with disabilities have a hard time getting regular dental care. Many people have to have their teeth pulled, have high rates of periodontal disease, and have other poor health outcomes that could be prevented.

ASK Support increases in Medicaid rates for dentists who serve higher percentages of patients who use Medicaid, including people with disabilities. Ensure that dental services are accessible to people with disabilities.



Currently more than 1000 children with significant disabilities and their families are waiting for critical support. Under current funding structures this waiting list will continue to grow. It is time to end the wait for families once and for all.

ASK Fully fund the children’s long-term supports program. Create 12 Family Support and Disability Resource Centers to provide families with education, navigation, support, and benefits



Wisconsin ABLÉ accounts could benefit many Wisconsin residents with disabilities and their families by allowing them to save funds that ensure they maintain their Medicaid health care and other essential benefits, while being able to put away funds annually for disability-related expenses.

ASK Establish a state partnership with another state’s ABLÉ program to further increase access to ABLÉ Accounts . There is no cost to the state to participate in a State Partnership program, they provide all marketing materials; states conduct their own outreach.

Wisconsin is one of 9 states that do not have ABLÉ