



# Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Invest in People with Disabilities  
Real Lives, Real Work, Real Smart,  
Wisconsin

**The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations** is a cross-disability coalition of more than 20 state and local groups. For more than 20 years, Survival has worked to improve policies and practices that support people with disabilities of all ages to be full participants in community life. Many people with disabilities use public programs and services to support them in maintaining their health, accessing education and employment, and participating in their communities. The following paper outlines the top issues for people with disabilities in the 2021-2023 state budget.

**LONG-TERM CARE:** Expand the ability of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to support family caregivers of adults with disabilities, and increase funding for Family Care direct care services and personal care agencies.



ASK

Additional funding is needed for IRIS participants to increase their worker wages for direct care services and for workers they hire who do not work for a personal care agency. The caregiver crisis impacts Family Care and IRIS participants and both programs should be treated equally.

**EMPLOYMENT:** ABLE accounts could benefit many Wisconsin residents with disabilities and parents of young children by allowing them to save funds without fear of losing essential public benefits. ABLE funds grow tax-free and help people plan for the future and save for disability-related expenses.



ASK

Direct the State to partner with another state's ABLE program to increase awareness about ABLE in Wisconsin. Wisconsin is one of just 6 states that do not offer an ABLE program.

**TRANSPORTATION:** People with disabilities often do not drive or have a vehicle, so have added barriers to getting to work, medical appointments and other important places in the community.

ASK

Support increases for public transit operating and capital costs, paratransit, specialized transit, and the ability to create and fund transit that crosses city and county lines.





**MENTAL HEALTH:** Establish Regional Crisis Centers. Wisconsin's mental health crisis system lacks local resources to evaluate and support a person in crisis.

ASK

Invest in regional crisis centers so people in crisis can be supported closer to home and to their natural supports, and avoid a costly and traumatic transport to Winnebago Mental Health Institute.

### Children's Long-Term Supports (CLTS):

Families who have children with disabilities struggle daily to figure out complex systems of supports and services. Lack of information and support can lead to family crisis, lost jobs, lost opportunities for child development, and lost economic stability for families.

ASK

Invest in families with \$2.9 million to establish a statewide Disability Resource Center for children so families know where to get help and can get the help they need.



**VOTING RIGHTS:** Wisconsin is one of the few states that does not offer Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) at the Department of Motor Vehicles

(DMV). AVR would allow Wisconsinites to automatically register to vote or update their registration with a name or address change when they get or renew a driver's license or state photo ID.

ASK

Fund Automatic Voter Registration to improve access to voting for people with disabilities and to keep voting information accurate and updated.

**EDUCATION:** Wisconsin has under-funded special education for years, and the pandemic has caused added challenges for students with disabilities. Investing in our students with disabilities will help improve their success in the community and workforce.



ASK

Increase special education funding to cover 50% of costs, to provide the quality education that students with disabilities need.

**WORKFORCE:** Wisconsin's long term care system lacks the funding necessary to meet the daily care needs of Wisconsin's aging population and people with disabilities.

ASK

Adopt recommendations made by the Governor's Taskforce on Caregiving that increase funding to Family Care, IRIS and Children's Long-Term Support direct care workers to ensure people have access to the workers they need so they can stay in their own homes and communities.

