

COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities 2025-2027

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**COUNCIL ON
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**



WHO IS CPD?

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD) is a 14-member council comprised of individuals who have a physical disability, are related to someone with a physical disability, or provide services to those with physical disabilities. Established by the state legislature in 1989, its mission includes:

- Develop and implement a state plan for services to people with physical disabilities.
- Advise and make recommendations to state agencies on relevant legislation.
- Promote public awareness about the abilities of and barriers to people with physical disabilities.
- Encourage the development of programs and policies that prevent physical disabilities.
- And submit recommendations in an annual report to the state legislature.

STATE PLAN FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 2025-2027

The State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities in Wisconsin is a strategic framework created to address the needs and barriers faced by individuals with physical disabilities.

The plan focuses on these critical areas:


- **EMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH**
- **TRANSPORTATION**
- **HOUSING**
- **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

The CPD works on and recommends changes in disability programs and policies relating to the vital areas established by the CPD members.

These areas are essential for ensuring that people with physical disabilities have the same opportunities and life choices as other citizens.

Milestones

PHYSICAL DISABILITY IN WISCONSIN



1963

Implementation of the first statutes for accessible buildings and designated facilities for people with disabilities.

1971

Formation of MOBIL (Madison Organization behind Independent Living) for advocacy and education in accessibility.

1974

Governor Lucey signed three bills from Governor Wahner's "Accessibility Package" to enhance building accessibility. AB 925 mandated that major remodels of public buildings meet state accessibility standards, including wider doorways, ramps, elevators, and accessible bathrooms. AB 559 required public buildings to provide wheelchair-accessible toilets. AB 1308 allowed oral real estate exams for applicants with physical disabilities unable to write.

1976

With funding from the Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA), the group opened an office with the goal of improving employment outcomes for people with physical and/or sensory impairments.

1981

Passage of the Community Options Program for community living initiatives including people with physical disabilities.

1990

Governor Tommy G. Thompson enacted Act 202, establishing a Council on Physical Disabilities within the Department of Health and Social Services.



EMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH

OBJECTIVE

To increase economic independence and employment opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities without compromising access to essential healthcare services.

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE GOAL

Examine how income and asset restrictions on public benefits hinder individuals with physical disabilities in:

- Securing and maintaining employment.
- Purchasing a home or vehicle.
- Saving for future needs.

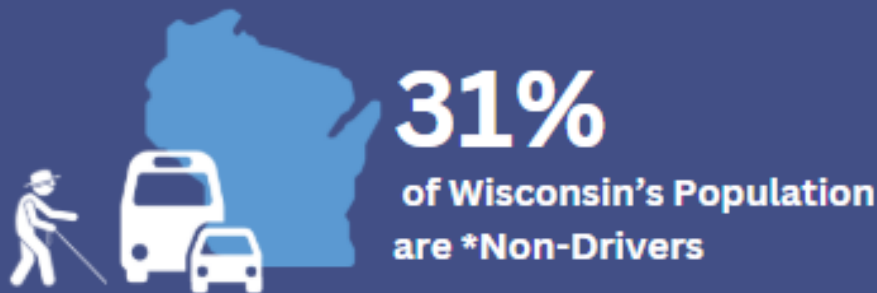
Raise awareness about programs and employment supports designed to assist individuals with disabilities in attaining financial stability.

- Collaborate with the Department of Financial Institutions to promote the administration of the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program in Wisconsin.
- Partner with the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to promote job opportunities that provide benefits tailored to support individuals with disabilities.

Advocate for program and policy changes to reduce financial constraints faced by individuals with disabilities, including:

- Increasing asset limits and creating more flexible income guidelines for economic support benefits.
- Developing a campaign showcasing success stories of individuals using ABLE and similar programs.
- Collaborating with policymakers to modify public benefit regulations.
- Engaging stakeholders and community members to support financial policy reforms.





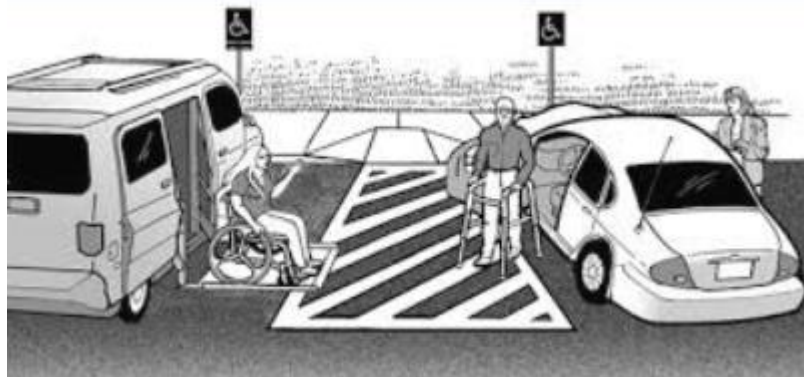
TRANSPORTATION

OBJECTIVE

Enhance policies and programs for accessible transportation, ensuring safe and obstacle-free travel for individuals with disabilities and non-drivers.

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL:

- Strengthen collaborations with other state disability advocacy groups to champion policies that prioritize accessibility and affordability in **public transportation** planning and development.
- Monitor and advise DHS regarding Wisconsin's Nonemergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) system for quality and performance.
- Increase awareness of the barriers faced by individuals with physical disabilities when they are unable to access resources for adaptive driver education.
- Raise awareness about accessible parking requirements and improve enforcement of illegally parked vehicles.



*Non-driving populations include aging adults, students, low-income individuals, individuals with disabilities, and those who prefer not to drive.

HOUSING

OBJECTIVE

Promote housing initiatives aimed at tackling the lack of affordable, safe, and accessible housing for individuals with disabilities in communities across WI.



Housing Costs In Wisconsin (Based on 2022 Census Data)

Minimum Wage

\$7.25 an hour



Individual SSI Payment

\$943.00 a month



Fair Market Rent Average
1 Bedroom Apartment
\$918.00 a month



Rent Affordable to SSI

\$308.00 a month



STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL

- ▶ Advocate for increased state and federal funding dedicated to the development of accessible housing options
- ▶ Launch a public awareness campaign to highlight the need for increased funding and its impact on the disabled community.
- ▶ Partner with the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) and other disability advocacy groups to advocate for budget allocations supporting accessible housing initiatives.
- ▶ Recognize and celebrate builders and developers who implement these standards through awards or public acknowledgment



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The CPD Emergency Preparedness Toolkit is a resource designed for everyone, particularly individuals with disabilities, offering essential emergency preparedness information, tips, checklists, a wallet card, and visual communication tools to help plan for emergencies.

Since 2017, the CPD has received over \$200,000 in grants to support the Toolkit. In July 2023, CPD was awarded a \$6,000 grant from the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care (OPEHC) to enhance outreach and education. The Council participated in outreach events and presentations for individuals with disabilities and service providers across Wisconsin. Toolkit content is organized by season and type of emergency, with specific tips for various situations.

During State Fiscal Year 2024, the Council distributed the following materials:

- 675 Visual Communication Tool Cards
- 812 Emergency Preparedness Toolkits (including 50 translated into Spanish)
- 581 Medical Wallet Cards
- 733 Emergency Preparedness Forms Folders
- 355 Emergency Preparedness Communications Folders

The Emergency Preparedness Toolkit is available online at dhs.wisconsin.gov/cpd/toolkit.

ABOUT THE CPD STATE PLAN

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities (Council) in Wisconsin State Statute § 46.29 is required to develop, approve, and continue modification of a state plan, for services for people with physical disabilities that encompasses services delivered or overseen by the following entities:

- Department of Public Instruction
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Workforce Development
- Division of Personnel Management in the Department of Administration
- Department of Safety and Professional Services
- Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
- University of Wisconsin System
- Wisconsin Technical College System
- Board on Aging and Long-Term Care

Physical disability is defined in Wisconsin State Statute § 15.197(4) as: “A physical condition including an anatomical loss or musculoskeletal, neurological, respiratory, or cardiovascular impairment, resulting from injury, disease, or congenital disorder, and significantly interfering with or limiting at least one of the following major life activities of a person: self-care, walking, mobility other than walking, breathing, employment, performance of manual tasks unrelated to employment, receptive and expressive language, participating in educational programs, or capacity for independent living.”

The Council specifically focuses on funding, policies, programs, and legislation that impact people with physical disabilities as defined in [Wisconsin State Statute § 46.29](#).

As a result, the State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities mainly focuses on funding, policies, programs, and services for people with physical disabilities (as defined in Wisconsin State Statute § 15.197(4)) and overseen and delivered by the entities listed above. This does not preclude the Council from having additional goals within its state plan or from making broader recommendations to meet the needs of people with physical disabilities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The CPD works on and recommends changes in disability programs and policies relating to the vital areas established by the CPD members in the State Plan. To help us accomplish our goals, we need to hear from people with physical disabilities and other concerned individuals.

Write or email your concerns, opinions or suggestions to CPD.

You can also attend a Council meeting. A portion of every agenda is set aside to receive public comment. Visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cpd for more details.

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Please email Angela Brenna at angelag.brenna@dhs.wisconsin.gov if you have questions or comments, or call us at 608-266-5364 (voice), TTY/TDD/Relay: WI Relay 711.

