

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Website: dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd

Work Plan 2022-2024



About the Committee

The Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) was established per Wisconsin Statute 14.019, and pursuant to Executive Orders No. 37 (12/2/1983), No. 241 (1/20/1995), No. 150 (1/26/2015), and No. 6 (1/28/2019). GCPD is dedicated to enhancing the health and general well-being of people of all ages with disabilities in Wisconsin. The GCPD shall consult with and advise our Governor and state agencies on legislation, programs, policies, and issues affecting people with disabilities in all aspects of our society.

GCPD shall encourage local, state, and federal agencies to: improve educational and employment opportunities; increase access to appropriate healthcare, transportation, and housing; and eliminate any and all barriers that preclude equal opportunity and full inclusion. In order to promote a more open dialogue between Wisconsin citizens and their government, the GCPD shall provide an opportunity at each meeting for the public to comment on issues affecting people with disabilities.

About the Work Plan

GCPD developed a three-year work plan that will cover July 1, 2021–June 30, 2024. GCPD's work plan focuses on the following areas and has a goal for each area:

- Transportation
- Employment
- Opportunities and Access

Transportation

GOAL: PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN POLICIES, INITIATIVES, AND PROGRAMS THAT ALLOW PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO GET WHERE THEY WANT TO GO, WHEN THEY WANT TO GO, SAFELY, AND WITHOUT BARRIERS.

Strategies to Achieve this Goal

Policy Recommendations

- **General**

- **Support initiatives that increase funding and access to transportation for people with disabilities.**
- **Support the creation of a statewide transportation coordinating council to devise a strategic plan to increase transportation coordination across the state and between state agencies.**
- **Promote and support initiatives designed to allow affordable, accessible transportation between and among local jurisdictions, cities, counties, and states.**
- **Encourage and support initiatives to enable braided funding to create multi-purpose transit trips (for example, medical appointments, pharmacy, and grocery store).**
- **Encourage increased education and public awareness regarding drivers' responsibilities to enhance the safety of persons with disabilities, along with increased enforcement of applicable pedestrian safety laws.**

Transportation (continued)

- **Monitor and Advise**
 - **Monitor and advise DHS regarding Wisconsin's Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) system for quality and performance.**
 - **Monitor issues related to transportation for individuals with disabilities (for example, public transit and paratransit issues, ride-share, volunteer driver programs, accessible parking, and NEMT Request for Proposal).**
- **Support Wisconsin's Non-Drivers**
 - **Support the work of Wisconsin's Non-Driver Advisory Council (WiNDAC).**
 - **Raise awareness about the barriers and consequences experienced by people with disabilities and non-drivers when reliable, affordable, accessible transportation is not available.**
 - **Direct the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to do an evaluation of which services can be provided online or virtually instead of requiring a trip to an in-person office. This will create efficiencies within transportation programs and increase access for Wisconsin's estimated 1.2 million non-drivers.**

Employment

GOAL: PROMOTE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND ALIGN POLICIES AND LEGISLATION SO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CAN ENGAGE IN GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL WITH EQUITABLE PROTECTION OF STATE EMPLOYMENT LAWS, INCLUDING MINIMUM WAGE.

Strategies to Achieve this Goal

Policy Recommendations

- **General**

- **Reform the State Use Program, including mandating minimum wage.**
- **Establish a Disability Business Enterprise set-aside program.**
- **Advance the PROMISE Grant program recommendations and expand the Project SEARCH program.**
- **Remove disincentives to employment within the Social Security system, including expanding eligibility for the Medicaid Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP).**

- **Monitor and Advise**

- **Enforce employment discrimination rules and regulations regarding people with disabilities.**
- **Provide education to private employers regarding employment opportunities and accommodation requirements.**
- **Eliminate transportation barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities and support programs and legislation to assist with removal of transportation barriers, including access to driver's education.**

Employment (continued)

- **Monitor and Advise (continued)**
 - Increase equitable access to assistive technology and education regarding its use for both employers and employees.
 - Advance competitive integrated employment through a collaborative and aligned work plan within the Departments of Workforce Development, Health Services, and Public Instruction.
 - Advance competitive integrated employment by promoting and incentivizing the hiring of people with disabilities by private sector employers.
- **Support Employment**
 - Ensure that employment is included and encouraged within transitional goals for students receiving special education, and include bridge funding so that transitional employment experiences are available during the summer.

Opportunities and Access

GOAL: PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN POLICIES AND INITIATIVES THAT ENSURE OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO SERVICES AND RESOURCES SO THAT ALL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN WISCONSIN MAY EXPERIENCE THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL OF INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

Strategies to Achieve this Goal

Policy Recommendations

- **General**
 - **Create a framework to ensure universal access and inclusion are considered when state statutes or administrative rule changes are being considered.**
 - **Mandate that all state content, websites, and application forms are accessible for all.**
 - **Support the reinstatement of the Wisconsin Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Office.**
 - **Provide the Attorney General of Wisconsin with the authority to pursue civil rights complaints.**
 - **Ensure that all Medicaid-funded health care and long-term care providers comply with the ADA and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including allowing support and caregivers to accompany people with disabilities to appointments.**

Opportunities and Access (continued)

- **Monitor and Advise**
 - Charge a state agency with oversight of all state agencies' websites, communications, and forms to ensure compliance with ADA, Sections 504, and 508.
 - Improve the health and wellbeing for all people with disabilities in Wisconsin by acknowledging and overcoming structural racism and promoting health equity.
 - Seek feedback from individuals throughout Wisconsin on accessibility issues.
- **Support Opportunities and Access**
 - Promote the value of caregivers and service providers by ensuring a living wage and publicizing/marketing the additional benefits of working as a caregiver and service provider.
 - Host a summit of all the statutory disability committees and councils to promote alignment of priorities and statewide activities.
 - Monitor the quality of Medicaid and long-term care programs throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Contact Us

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