



Information and Advocacy for People with Disabilities & Their Families

The organizations listed below serve people with all types of disabilities, unless otherwise noted. For more information, please contact the organizations directly.

General Disabilities:

DAWN – Disability Advocates Wisconsin Network

What is it?

DAWN is a statewide grassroots cross-disability network of people who care about disability issues. It includes people with disabilities, family members, friends, service providers and others who are committed to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities. The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities funds DAWN as part of the State Plan on Developmental Disabilities.

What does it do?

DAWN supports legislative change in the programs and systems affecting people with all disabilities. Website features include:

- Current information on state & national disability issues
- Email alert network
- Information on community organizing and advocacy
- “Take Action” feature provides an easy way to contact your legislators about disability issues

Website: www.dawninfo.org

Contact Information:

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
201 West Washington Avenue Suite 110
Madison, WI 53703

Phone (Toll Free): 1-888-332-1677 **TTY:** 608-266-6660

E-Mail

bpddhelp@wi-bpdd.org

Disability Rights Wisconsin

What is it?

Disability Rights Wisconsin is a statewide resource for individuals, families, service professionals and others concerned with disability issues. Designated by the Governor to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and system change, the private nonprofit group is part of a national system of federally mandated independent disability agencies.

What does it do?

Disability Rights helps people across Wisconsin gain access to services and opportunities through information & referral, trainings, advocacy and legal expertise. Disability Rights challenges systems and society to create positive change and improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Website: www.disabilityrightswi.org

Contact Information:

6737 W. Washington Street, #3230

Milwaukee, WI 53214

Phone: 414-773-4646 **TTY:** 888-758-6049 **Toll Free:** 800-708-3034

Language translation provided on the phone via AT & T interpreters for over 100 languages.

Family Village

What is it?

This website helps families of people with disabilities find information about a wide variety of disability-related issues, and helps families connect with others who face similar challenges. It is designed as a virtual community of disability-related resources.

What does it do?

Family Village organizes a wide range of resources in an easy-to-search format.

Resource topics include: assistive technology, education, health care, coping skills, self-advocacy, recreation & leisure, legal issues, diagnosis-specific resources. The Parent-to-Parent networking service allows parents to make a one-on-one connection or start an online support group with other parents who are in similar situations.

Website: <http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/>

Contact Information:

The Family Village Project

Waisman Center, Room 549

1500 Highland Avenue

Madison, WI 53705-2280

Phone: 608-263-5973

Email: familyvillage@waisman.wisc.edu

WI FACETS—Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training and Support

What is it?

WI FACETS is a nonprofit organization that serves Wisconsin children and adults with disabilities and their families. It operates programs designed to help parents support and enrich the lives of their children.

What does it do?

WI FACETS offers a variety of services including: information and referral, parent education, specialized workshops relating to disabilities and special education, parent support and assistance with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), parent leadership development.

Website: <http://www.wifacets.org>

Contact Information:

600 West Virginia Street, Suite 501

Milwaukee WI 53204

Phone (Toll Free): 877-374-0511 **TTY:** 414-374-4635

Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center**What is it?**

Staffed by attorneys, the Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center is a statewide resource for information about guardianship-related issues. It is a service of the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (CWAG), a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan organization.

What does it do?

The Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center answers questions about the law in Wisconsin relating to guardianships, protective placements, conservatorships, Powers of Attorney for Health Care, Living Wills, DNR orders, and Powers of Attorney for Finances. The Center provides legal information, case consultation and referrals. The Center does not provide legal representation or legal advice, or find or provide guardians. Services are provided free of charge.

Website: www.cwag.org

Contact Information:

2850 Dairy Drive, Suite 100

Madison, WI 53708

Phone (Toll Free): 800-488-2596 ext. 314

Email: guardian@cwag.org

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)—**Client Rights Office****What is it?**

The Client Rights Office ensures patient rights for people receiving services for developmental disabilities, mental illness, or substance abuse in the State of Wisconsin.

What does it do?

This office employs a Client Rights Specialist who can provide information and advocacy on issues related to guardianship and individual rights. Services are provided free of charge.

Website: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/clientrights/ClientRtsOffice.htm>

Contact Information:

Client Rights Office (CRO)

Division of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

1 West Wilson St, Room 850

P.O. Box 7851

Madison, WI 53707-7851

Phone: 608-266-2717

Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI)

What is it?

WSPEI is designed to support parents of children with disabilities in their understanding of and participation in the special education process. It is a service for parents, educators and others interested in parent-educator partnerships for children with disabilities. The program is funded through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

What does it do?

WSPEI provides information and assistance in understanding special education services in Wisconsin. Services include advocacy for parents, help in contacting a parent liaison in your school district, and assistance with developing Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

Website: <http://dpi.state.wi.us/sped/parent.html>

Phone (Toll Free): 1-877-844-4925

Wisconsin State Legislature: Who Are My Legislators?

What is it?

This feature of the Wisconsin State Legislature website helps you find out who your state and national legislators are.

How does it work?

- Go to <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/w3asp/waml/waml.aspx>
- Enter your address in the fields provided.
- You can e-mail your representatives from this website. Telephone numbers are also provided.

Developmental Disabilities:

WBPDD - WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

What is it?

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities was established to advocate on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities, foster welcoming and inclusive communities, encourage independence, and improve the disability service system.

What does it do?

Every five years, the Council develops a State Plan for systems change that guides all Council activities and provides publications that are useful to families of people with disabilities and offers grants and contracts to implement State Plan activities.

Website: www.wi-bpdd.org

Contact Information:

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

201 West Washington Avenue, Suite 110

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-266-7826, **Toll Free:** 1-888-332-1677 **TTY/TDD:** 608-266-6660

Email: bpddhelp@wi-bpdd.org

Mental Illness:

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)—Wisconsin

What is it?

NAMI Wisconsin is the state branch of a national organization committed to providing education, advocacy and support to people affected by mental illness and their families. There is a Brown County affiliate of NAMI located in Green Bay.

What does it do?

NAMI provides crucial information to persons affected by mental illness and their families and serves as their advocate on a state and national level. The NAMI Brown County affiliate offers monthly peer and family support groups. The NAMI Wisconsin website features an online directory of community services related to mental illness, a library of books and videos, and information about current legislative issues.

Website: www.namiwisconsin.org

Contact Information:

NAMI of Brown County

923 Cherry Street

Green Bay, WI 54301-4824

Phone: 920-430-7460

Email: president@namibrowncounty.org

Physical Disabilities:

Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

What is it?

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities is a state council created to make recommendations to state agencies on legislation relevant to physical disabilities, promote public awareness about the abilities of and barriers to people with disabilities, and encourage development of programs and policies to prevent physical disabilities.

What does it do?

The council's website provides links to resources related to: citizen advocacy, civil rights, disability-specific resources and service providers.

Website: <http://www.pdcouncil.state.wi.us/>

Contact Information:

1 W. Wilson Street, Room 437

P.O. Box 7851

Madison, WI 53707-7851

Phone: 608-267-9582 **TTY:** 800-947-6644 **Toll Free:** 866-278-6440



***The ADRC of Brown County is an equal opportunity,
access, affirmative action employer and provider.***

*Information provided courtesy of the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County,
300 S. Adams St., Green Bay, WI 54301. (920) 448-4300, TTY: (920) 448-4335. Visit us on
the web at www.adrcofbrowncounty.org*