

The Arc Wisconsin supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) over “The Arc” of their lifetime. Since 1960, The Arc Wisconsin has served individuals and their families through our 14 locally affiliated chapters across the state. The Arc Wisconsin works to develop programs and advocate for public policy — giving people with I/DD the opportunity to learn, live, and work inclusively in their communities.



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SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES

While investments in Family Care and IRIS programs have meant that adults with disabilities do not have to wait for critical supports, the same is not true for children. Currently, 1,157 children with significant disabilities and their families in Wisconsin are waiting for basic supports like modifications to their home, essential supplies, assistive technology, and respite care simply because the program is not fully funded. Recent analysis by the Department of Health Services reveals that despite efforts to reach all eligible families, only 25% of children potentially eligible for long-term supports are connected to services. When families go without care or become stressed in handling care on their own, they often quit their jobs, experience financial troubles or seek costly in-patient treatment for their children at state expense.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:



Support the Governor’s proposal to increase funding and end the children’s waiting list once and for all.



Support the Governor’s proposal to establish Family Support and Disability Resource Centers that will streamline intake, application, and screening functions for children. Hire family navigators, resource specialists, and ombudsman to assist families with navigating the system and accessing appropriate supports. \$4.5 million over the biennium.