

---

# COVID-19 Disability Policy Webinar - Featuring DC Experts



**What is Congress Doing to Help People with Disabilities and their Families?**



**Survival  
Coalition**



# Our experts

---

**Nicole Jorwic, J.D.**  
**Senior Director of Public Policy,**  
**The Arc of the United States**



- **Bethany Lilly, Director of  
Income Policy,**  
**The Arc of the United States**



# **Progress So Far - Home and Community-based Services & Medicaid**

---

- **Money Follows the Person:** Extended through Nov. 30, 2020
- **Spousal Impoverishment Protections:** Extended through Nov. 30, 2020
- Allows people receiving HCBS under 1915(c) waivers to have their direct support professionals assist them during short-term hospital stay
- Funding for the Administration for Community Living and specifically for home- and community-based services and support for family caregivers



# Home and Community-based Services (HCBS) Funding

---

- HCBS Grant Program outlined in S. 3544 and HR 6305 the bills are titled “A Bill to Assist Older Americans and People with Disabilities affected by COVID-19
- Working on gaining bi-partisan support
- The bill would promote and provide funding for HCBS
- Provide wage support and flexibilities for direct support professional, home health and personal care attendant workforces
- Based on 15% of state’s Medicaid HCBS Spending



# Workforce Support & Funding

---

- The HCBS grant program will provide funds to support retention and recruitment for the workforce
- In addition we are seeking to deem this workforce as essential so that they have the desperately needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and medical supplies that they need.
- Working to ensure that the definitions in every proposal is inclusive of all services that this workforce provides, including employment services.



# Timing

---

- Expect package 4 to move in late April, although it is unclear when conversations will start.
- Interim emergency legislation in the meantime
- Congress is expected back 4/20
- The House is expected to draft the first version



# #WeAreEssential: Tell Congress to Include the Disability Community in COVID-19 Relief Bills <sup>7</sup>



#WeAreEssential

## POST YOUR OWN VIDEO

Tell Congress what **MUST** be included for people with disabilities in the next coronavirus relief bill!

1. Record a video, you can answer things like:

- Medicaid/Social Security make it possible for me to....
- If my mom/dad/sibling can't take time off work during this pandemic to support me....
- If I don't have healthy staff to support me ...

2. Post it and use the hashtag **#WeAreEssential**

3. Tag your Member of Congress: **[TweetCongress.org](https://www.tweetcongress.org)**

# Stimulus Payments and SSI and Social Security

---

- The Third COVID-19 Bill included “Recovery Rebate” payments for most people in America.
- If you file taxes, the payment will be made immediately.
- But most people on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), certain Veterans benefits, and many people who receive Social Security benefits do not file taxes.
- The IRS and the Social Security Administration fixed this problem for people who receive Social Security benefits.
- We want them to fix it for people who get SSI and VA benefits too!



# Stimulus Payments and SSI and Social Security

---

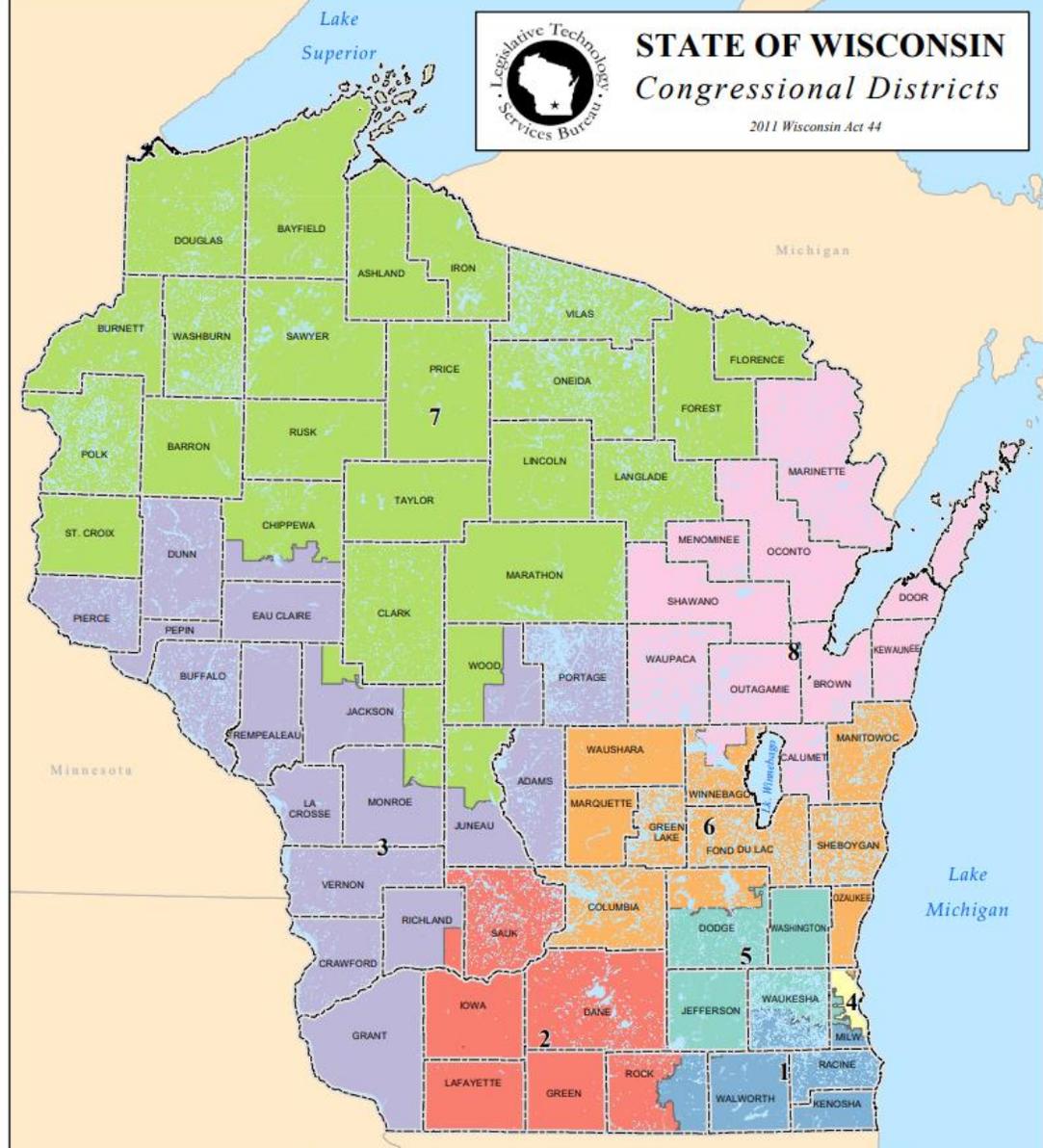
- Targets: Members of Congress, the IRS/Treasury, and the Social Security Administration
- Hashtags: #FixtheGlitch, #WeAreEssential
- Ask for Congress:
  - Please tell IRS/Treasury, SSA, and the VA to work it out.
  - If not, please order them to in the next COVID-19 bill.
- Ask for IRS/Treasury, SSA, and the VA:
  - Please share data and make these payments automatically.





# STATE OF WISCONSIN Congressional Districts

2011 Wisconsin Act 44



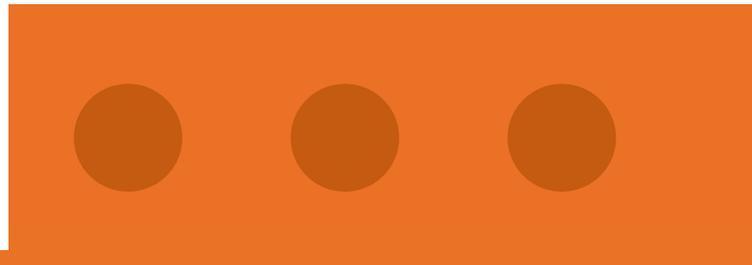
Legislative Technology Services Bureau  
17 West Main Street, Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53703-3305  
(608) 283-1830  
www.legis.wisconsin.gov/ltsb/gis

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's TIGER 2010 data  
Projection: WI Transverse Mercator (WTM 83/91)



### 2019 - 2020 Wisconsin Members of the United States House of Representatives

- 1<sup>st</sup> District: **Bryan Steil**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District: **Mark Pocan**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> District: **Ron Kind**
- 4<sup>th</sup> District: **Gwen Moore**
- 5<sup>th</sup> District: **Jim Sensenbrenner**
- 6<sup>th</sup> District: **Glenn Grothman**
- 7<sup>th</sup> District: **Sean Duffy**
- 8<sup>th</sup> District: **Mike Gallagher**



Thank you to  
[www.wi-bpdd.org](http://www.wi-bpdd.org)  
for this resource!



**District 1:** Bryan Steil  
**Phone:** 202-225-3031  
**Staff Email:** Charlotte Davis,  
Charlotte.Davis@mail.house.gov



**District 5:** James Sensenbrenner  
**Phone:** 202-225-5101  
**Staff Email:** Ben Steinhafel,  
Ben.Steinhafel@mail.house.gov



**District 2:** Mark Pocan  
**Phone:** 202-225-2906  
**Staff Email:** Andrew O'Neill,  
Andrew.O'Neill@mail.house.gov



**District 6:** Glenn Grothman  
**Phone:** 202-225-2476  
**Staff Email:** Samantha Baker,  
Samantha.Baker@mail.house.gov



**District 3:** Ron Kind  
**Phone:** 202-225-5506  
**Staff Email:** Olivia Kirchberg,  
Olivia.Kirchberg@mail.house.gov



**District 7:** Sean Duffy  
**Phone:** 202-225-3365  
**Staff Email:** Dylan Chandler,  
Dylan.Chandler@mail.house.gov



**District 4:** Gwen Moore  
**Phone:** 202-225-4572  
**Staff Email:** Chris Goldson,  
Chris.Goldson@mail.house.gov



**District 8:** Mike Gallagher  
**Phone:** 202-225-5665  
**Staff Email:** Maggie Woodin,  
Maggie.Woodin@mail.house.gov



**US Senator:** Ron Johnson  
**Phone:** (202) 224-5323



**US Senator:** Tammy Baldwin  
**Phone:** (202) 224-5653



# What is Wisconsin Doing?

States are being allowed to temporarily amend Medicaid waiver programs. This is being done in 3 ways: Appendix K, 1135 waiver flexibilities, and 1115 demonstrations.

- [Appendix K](#) amend existing 1915(c) waivers - (like Family Care and IRIS)
- [1135 Waivers](#) temporarily waive/modify Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP requirements; and
- [1115 demonstrations](#) allow states to request a new Medicaid/CHIP section 1115(a) demonstration or amend/extend current 1115(a) demonstration.

**Wisconsin has not received its approvals to make any of these changes. We need the legislature to act.**

## The full state legislature must reconvene and act immediately.



**Survival  
Coalition**

1. Contact your **STATE** Senator and state Representative (Look up <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>)
2. **Ask the legislature to reconvene as soon as possible** to act on needed waivers, including the 1115 (c) Appendix K and 1135 waivers, that will help respond to COVID-19, and provide funding to help home and community-based (HCBS) workers and provider organizations continue services.
3. Make sure your STATE legislators are aware of the full range of HCBS services and supports you rely on daily.
4. Tell your STATE legislators that Congress has not provided enough support for the workers and small business that provide these critical services people need to live and work in the community. Many of these workers continue supporting people without critical protective equipment.



# Questions?

