

Promoting self-determination and full inclusion
for people with developmental disabilities.



ADVOCACY & INNOVATION

The Board follows a five-year state plan that is based on extensive public input, in collaboration with leading organizations, and focused on advocacy and innovation.

Advocacy Activities

- Advising policymakers
- Supporting grassroots advocacy efforts
- Supporting People First Wisconsin
- Building coalitions
- Providing advocacy e-mail alerts

Innovative Projects

- SPARKS Grants are designed to spark innovative methods of building community capacity in the areas of grassroots community organizing, integrated employment, and self-directed supports.
- Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking is a training program designed to develop a group of leaders across the state who work to support the full participation and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.
- Let's Get to Work is designed to improve community employment outcomes for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are transitioning from high school to the workforce.
- The Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum is a leadership training and career awareness program for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors with disabilities.
- Employment First initiative promotes integrated employment - jobs in typical business settings at minimum wage or higher - in the general workforce for people with disabilities.

THE BOARD

The Board promotes new policies and programs, and provides resources so individuals can advocate for themselves by creating and piloting new models of service delivery and community supports. Under federal law, the Board cannot provide direct services or individual advocacy.

The Board is an independent state agency funded by the federal government. The governor appoints people with developmental disabilities, family members, professionals, and state agency representatives to serve.

The Board uses the federal definition of developmental disability:

- Any disability that
- is caused by physical or mental impairment or both;
 - starts before the person's 22nd birthday;
 - is likely to continue through life;
 - is severe enough to limit the person in at least three life areas, such as self-care, mobility, communication, learning, and economic self-sufficiency;
 - and results in a need for ongoing services and support.



REAL IMPACT

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities has been a leader in Wisconsin disability policy for more than 40 years.

Our mission is to create positive change in service systems and the greater community so people with developmental disabilities become self-directed and included in community life.

Achievements of the Board

- The Board has contact information and sends advocacy information to more than 5,000 people throughout the state.
- BPDD's Employment First effort promotes integrated employment for people with disabilities. The Employment First Coalition has doubled in size and is now more than 100 people that have formed a sustaining effort to increase employment.
- People First Wisconsin has grown to over 500 members in 20 local chapters.
- The Board organized more than 20,000 people to register and vote.
- The Self-Determination Conference has more than 600 conference participants each year.
- BPDD created the Take Your Legislator to Work Campaign to raise awareness among policymakers about the importance of jobs in the community that pay market wages for people with disabilities. Each year many legislators participate in the campaign.

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WISCONSIN BOARD FOR PEOPLE
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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