

Three New Laws Supporting People with Disabilities in Wisconsin

Supported Decision Making



As of April 16th, 2018 Wisconsin, is the fourth state in the nation to have a Supported Decision-Making Law; no other state's law is as comprehensive and stands to benefit so many of its citizens. People who can use Supported Decision-Making agreements include people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, people with physical disabilities, people with mental health conditions, and people of any age with degenerative diseases or conditions that

substantially interferes with activities of daily living or with the ability to provide self-care. The

- Link to statutory language for 2017 Wisconsin Act 345 here: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/acts/345>
- Register for a free webinar on **May 21** to learn more: <https://thearc.webex.com/mw3200/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=thearc&service=7>
- BPDD's Alternatives to Guardianship booklet can be found here: http://wi-bpdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Supported_decision_making_booklet.pdf

Employment First

On March 28th, 2018 Governor Walker signed the Employment First bill into law. The law requires state agencies (DVR, DHS, DPI) that provide services and supports for people with disabilities to make competitive paying jobs in the community the priority. It also requires these agencies to develop a plan as well as benchmarks and goals to increase the rate of competitive paying jobs in the community.

The Employment First legislation is now known as 2017 Wisconsin Act 178, direct link to statutory language here: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/acts/178>.



Partners with Business

The Partners in Business Disability Employment Law provides direct support and technical assistance to businesses interested in hiring people with disabilities. The Partners in Business legislation is now known as 2017 Wisconsin Act 323, direct link to statutory language here: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/acts/323>. This law expands a successful model that has resulted in a 75% community employment success rate during the project.

Who is eligible for Partners with Business Grants?

- Public schools
- Managed Care Organizations that administer Family Care or Family Care Partnership
- IRIS Consultant agencies
- Employment services providers
- Private businesses

Expect to see this technical assistance and grant announcements coming out from BPDD in 2018.

Here is one example of Partners with Business Success:

| Traditional Agency or School Supports | | Partners with Business <i>Plus</i> | |
|---|------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Number of job coaching hours per week (4x1 hour plus 30 minutes for transportation per visit) | 6 hours | Co-worker paid supports needed per week | 4 hours |
| Cost for job coach per hour | \$15 per hour plus benefits | Cost for employer to provide co-worker supports | \$15 per hour |
| Total weekly costs for job support | \$ 90 per week plus benefits | Total weekly reimbursement to employer for co-worker supports ¹ | \$60 per week |
| Total annual support costs (37 weeks of employment) * | \$3,330 + benefits | Total annual support costs (37 weeks of employment) * | \$2,220 |

*July 31, 2017 to June 8, 2018

Savings to the Public System with Partners with Business *Plus* = *over \$1100 per year*
