

Connecting to Service Providers to Build a Full Life in the Community

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) has been collaborating with organizations in Wisconsin to expand community-based services to support people to safely explore, connect, and contribute to their communities while developing specific life skills. These “Building Full Life” services provide a pathway to greater independence, meaningful connections and relationships, and employment. For people who are already employed in the community, Building Full Life services can provide them with opportunities to continue to learn and grow by building skills necessary to maintain healthy lives and relationships, and be involved in their communities.



Building Full Lives provides individualized supports and services for:

- Generating interest in and familiarity with being in the community, rather than in a facility-based program, through supported exposure and engagement
- Targeted skill development
- Meaningful community involvement and contribution
- Safely considering employment through exposure and exploration in the community

Key Components of the Building Full Lives Service Model

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| <p>Intake and Initial Discovery:</p> <p><i>To validate information provided, explore and learn about the person to establish purposeful goals</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial meeting in person’s home or community location • Gather information for Skills Assessment and Positive Personal Profile through observations in the community and interviews with family and team members • 30-day meeting to review initial discovery findings, establish 2-3 meaningful goals for skill building, and develop new schedule based on the goals |
| <p>Skill Building & Connecting:</p> <p><i>To build skills, find interests and potential, raise expectations, teach and fade</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly track data on goals • Update Positive Personal Profile as new information is discovered and skills are learned • Use Skills Assessment tool every 3-6 months to assess progress • Maximize natural supports and independence |
| <p>Customized Job Development:</p> <p><i>To use what has been learned through community-based services to find a successful job match in the community</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorm ideas for work with team and job developer • Up-to-date Positive Personal Profile, Skills Assessment and transferable skills list for the job developer • Coordinate with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) services • Continue skill building & connecting while job seeking with DVR • On-the-job skills instruction to increase independence (also called Systematic Instruction), maximize natural supports at work, fade paid supports |
| <p>Long Term Support:</p> <p><i>To maintain employment and continue to learn, connect and contribute in personally meaningful ways</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine service needs and goals for “the rest of the week” once employed • Update Skills Assessment form, goals, schedule and Positive Personal Profile • Team review meetings every 6 months |

Building Full Life services are called different names by different service providers and can be added to a Family Care or IRIS service plan on an hourly basis at different staffing ratios using Day Services or Daily Living Skills training:

- Service codes will vary by service provider and are unique to each person.
- The hourly rates may also vary, depending on the staffing ratio.
- Daily Living Skills Training is used for time-limited, focused skill training.
- Day Services are used for longer-term/maintenance of skill services.

Regardless of service type, all Building Full Life services are designed to increase independence and eventually reduce or eliminate paid supports when possible. Examples of Building Full Life outcomes include:

- I would like to have more friends and relationships, besides my supports staff.
- I want to learn how to take the bus and walk around my community on my own.
- I would like to learn how to shop for and cook healthy meals.
- I would like to be more independent in keeping myself healthy and clean.
- I want to learn how to manage my money.
- I want to be more involved in choosing how I spend my day.
- I want to learn what my community has to offer and find more activities to do that I enjoy.
- I want to meet more people by volunteering and being involved in community activities.
- I want to volunteer so that I can learn things that will help me get a job in the future.

| Agencies Collaborating with BPDD to Provide Building Full Life Services | | |
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| Agency | Location | Contact(s) |
| Bethesda Lutheran Communities | Watertown | Kristine Leonard at (920) 262-6529 or kristine.leonard@bethesdalc.org |
| Easterseals | Waukesha | Beth Lohmann at (262) 953-2208 or bethl@eastersealswise.com |
| Goodwill Industries of SE WI | Milwaukee | Christine Schulz at (414) 847-1954 or Christine.Schulz@goodwillsew.com |
| Green Valley Enterprises | Beaver Dam | Craig Henrickson at (920) 887-4282 x108 or chenrickson@gveinc.org |
| Headwaters, Inc | Rhineland | Katherine Garrison at (715) 369-1337 or kgarrison@headwatersinc.org |
| Opportunity Development Centers (ODC) | WI Rapids, Marshfield, Stevens Point | Sherri Waid at (715) 818-6449 or swaid@odcinc.com |
| Opportunity Center of Crawford County | Crawford County | Angela Engrav at (608) 326-6486 x112 or aengrav@opcncr.org |
| RCS Empowers | Sheboygan | Angie Buechel at (920) 694-1233 or abuechel@rcsempowers.com |
| Threshold | West Bend | Jami Sickler at 262-685-8275 or jsickler@thresholdinc.org |
| Ventures Unlimited | Hayward, Rice Lake, Shell Lake | Kristin Frane at (715) 558-1745 or kristin@venturesunlimited.org |
| VIP Services | Elkhorn | Dana Kelnhofer at (262) 723-4043 or danakelnhofer@vip-services-inc.org |