

2027-2031 State Plan – Plain Language

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

Background

Every five years, the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) makes a new state plan to improve the lives of people with I/DD. We work to make sure they are included and able to participate in their community while staying healthy and safe.

To develop our state plan, we collected ideas from more than 500 people with I/DD and their families, service providers and advocates. They shared their worries and dreams. Our board members used these ideas to create our plan.

Definitions:

- **Dignity:** being treated like you matter because you are human.
- **Human rights:** things that people are free to have or do. Rights are decided by international laws, United States laws and State laws.
- **Self-advocacy:** speaking up for yourself; saying what you want and need
- **Self-direction:** guiding or managing your own life or work or supports
- **Well-being:** what you think and feel about your life; whether you are satisfied with your life and feel that the things you do are meaningful

Accessibility info: The State Plan is available in English, Spanish, and Hmong. If you need another language or format, please email molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov or call 608-266-0266.

Goal 1: People with I/DD have dignity and a sense of belonging.

By September 2031, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families are treated with dignity and use their human rights so they can fully belong and participate in their communities.

Objective 1.1: Improve people's well-being

By September 2031, as a result of BPDD action, 500 people with I/DD have greater well-being through social connections, making decisions about their lives, and accessing community-based mental health resources.

Objective 1.2: Support people to meet their needs and use their rights

By September 2031, by participating in BPDD activities, 1,000 people with I/DD and their families are better able to meet their needs by using their rights.

Objective 1.3: Respond to emergencies and natural disasters, if needed

By September 2031, BPDD will partner with the Developmental Disabilities network, state agencies, and/or other organizations to respond to natural or human-made disasters that impact people with I/DD and their families.

Suggested activities:

- Teach people with disabilities, families, and service providers about rights and how to advocate for them.
- Find examples of good mental health services and copy them in other parts of the state.
- Teach people about decision-making options.
- Teach businesses about natural supports on the job.
- Support voting activities.
- Hold webinars on topics important to people with I/DD.
- Host a statewide conference to help people direct their services and lives.

Goal 2: People with I/DD have a say in how things work

By September 2031, the voice of people with I/DD impacts all systems and decisions so that people with disabilities and their families have better lives.

Objective 2.1: Increase advocacy

By September 2031, BPDD will strengthen our statewide self-advocacy organization and improve the advocacy skills of 900 people with I/DD to expand the number of people using these skills effectively.

Objective 2.2: Increase leadership

By September 2031, because of BPDD action, 1,000 people with I/DD and their families take on leadership roles in their communities and provide leadership training to their peers.

Objective 2.3: Educate policymakers and other leaders

By September 2031, the Board will act as a policy adviser to the legislature, Governor, and other policymakers on policies that impact all aspects of community life, decision-making, and full inclusion, resulting in 25 policies and practices that increase or protect community participation, decision making and full inclusion.

Suggested activities:

- Support an organization run by people with I/DD for people with I/DD.
- Support people with disabilities and families to talk with their legislators about things that matter to them.
- Teach youth and adults with I/DD and families to speak up for themselves and lead.
- Use more peer-led education and peer mentoring.
- Encourage people with I/DD and family members to serve on boards, coalitions, and committees.
- Help policymakers understand the real-life impact of laws and policies on people with I/DD and their families.