A Project of Wisconsin BPDD
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

Made possible by Common Good Philanthropies




# Wisconsin Disability Policy Internship

# Application Packet



# Become A Leader in Disability Policy in Wisconsin

## Application deadline October 28, 2025, at 5pm



The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) is an independent state agency committed to advocating for the rights and inclusion of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

The Wisconsin Disability Policy Internship Program is a 6- month, part-time (24 hours a week) paid program designed to provide a career building opportunity in disability policy. The project is funded through a grant from Common Good Philanthropies. Interns will earn $20 an hour and will work within key Wisconsin policy state agency offices or disability organizations.

The internship focuses on understanding how laws are developed, how program policies are created, and how public policy impacts people's lives. The focus is on policies affecting people with disabilities using the long-term care system in Wisconsin. This program is a public policy career advancement program for advocates who want to build a pathway into a policy career.

BPDD is committed to encouraging a wide group of applicants to participate in the Wisconsin Disability Public Policy Internship Program. If you need any accommodations to complete your application or to participate in the internship, please let us know. We are here to provide the support you need to succeed.

### Required to Apply

- Identify as a person with a developmental disability or a family member of a person with a developmental disability.
- Demonstrated interest in disability advocacy and policy.
- Good communication skills and ability to work as a team and get along with others.
- Basic knowledge or interest in state or local level advocacy related to disability, long-term care, employment, education, or community organizing.
- Be able to commit to 24 hours a week during regular business hours (Monday-Friday between 9-5) from January 2027 through June 2027
- A Wisconsin resident.

### Preferred to Apply

- Experience (paid or volunteer) working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Experience (paid or volunteer) with state and/or federal level advocacy.
- Basic understanding of Wisconsin's long-term care systems and disability services systems.

**"The Wisconsin Disability Public Policy Leadership Program is an exciting opportunity for BPDD to develop new leaders in disability policy. We are thrilled to support passionate individuals who will drive positive change and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities in Wisconsin"**

-Jenny Smith
BPDD Executive Director

## What are the activities of the Internship?

- Participate in orientation and public policy training.
- Engage in legislative and state programs processes to learn about disability-related policies.
- Build relationships with policymakers, state agencies, and advocacy organizations.
- Attend events, workshops, and networking opportunities.
- Receive coaching and mentoring from disability policy professionals.



## Where are the possible placements?

- Department of Health Services
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Department of Public Instruction
- Department of Transportation
- Legislator Offices
- Advocacy Organizations

## What is the payment structure?

- Hourly Stipend of $20 an hour/ 24 hours a week
- Travel reimbursement
- Contract with BPDD
- No health insurance is offered with this program

If you are a person with a disability using public benefits, BPDD recommends that you participate in Work Incentive Benefits Counseling **BEFORE** the internship start date to learn how the stipend might impact your benefits.

Work incentives benefit specialists offer support to people with disabilities by helping you make informed decisions about employment. They help people understand how they could benefit from working and explain special rules about returning to work. They also help people understand how their work and earnings can affect their disability benefits.

More information and where to find a work incentives benefit specialist can be found on the DHS Website at Benefit Counseling: Work Incentives Benefit Specialists | Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Please contact Sally Flaschberger by email at sally.flaschberger@wisconsin.gov or by phone at 608-266-5038 if you have questions or need assistance with the application.



Submit your application by October 28,2026 at 5pm

Link to online application: Internship Application

Or use the QR Code to access the application

Please consider joining an information session on the Wisconsin Disability Policy Internship Program on October 7th from 12:00pm-1:30pm.

The session will provide the details about the program and the application process. In addition, we will provide information about writing a good application and interviews skills. You will have a chance to ask questions.

Register in advance for this meeting:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/bmrwbdSWRl6XcIKKOhyQ2Q

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. I will be recording and anyone who is registered will receive the recording and the PowerPoint after the session.