

The best way to improve policies and systems for children with disabilities is for families to tell policymakers what's important to you! The following ideas explain how you can get involved and engaged in policy and systems change activities.

- Stay current on policy and systems change by signing for the [Family Voices News and Information](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).
- Sign up for Board for People with Developmental Disabilities alerts wi-bpdd.org/index.php/join.
- Participate in advocacy events like [Advocacy for Change](#) and [Disability Advocacy Day](#).
- When the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee holds public hearings (every other April), submit testimony via email or attend a hearing in person. See legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments/public-hearings.
- Attend a Townhall Meeting. These are set up by members of congress to hear from their constituents. Go to townhallproject.com to find dates and locations.
- Join a committee or advisory board at the state or local level. See [Statewide Councils and Committees That Include Families](#) list.
- If your child participates in the Children's Community Options Program, contact your county's CCOP program coordinator to join your county's CCOP Advisory Board.
- Make sure you're registered to vote and vote in every election. Go to myvote.wi.gov to check voter registration, election dates and absentee voting deadlines.
- Find out who represents you at the State Capitol. Go to legis.wisconsin.gov.
- Find your elected officials at the federal, state and local level usa.gov/elected-officials.
- Call or email your elected officials regularly—Let them know how policies and funding impacts your life and your child's life. Use the Family Voices advocacy tools, like [Telling Your Story, A Guide for Families](#).
- Make a point of introducing yourself and your children when you see your elected officials in the community.
- Invite your legislator to a community or school event to get to know your child and family and other families who have children with disabilities.
- Submit a letter to the editor of your local paper or an article for a community newsletter.
- Finally, when asked to give feedback or input, take the time to let providers know ways to improve systems for your child and family. Your insights and ideas can make a difference!