

## Integrated Transition Planning

### Bringing the Pieces Together

A child's transition to adulthood can leave you feeling overwhelmed and unprepared. There are significant changes that come with your young adult's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Parents and guardians have extensive to-do lists with finding new programs, new community supports, LOTS of paperwork, and legal decisions to be made. But rest assured that resources are available to help your family navigate these waters.

### What is "Integrated" Transition Planning?

Integrated transition planning means planning for what will change as your child becomes an adult, focusing on creating a path to living a **full, meaningful and connected life** as a community member. It's planning with attention to all of the pieces of the transition puzzle, including: employment, healthcare, housing, post-secondary education (college or technical school), friendships, and leisure activities.

The Wisconsin Integrated Transition Planning Project ([WITPP](#)) aims to find ways for youth with disabilities and their families to get better information about healthcare, education and employment services, to make the transition to adulthood easier. As a partner of WITPP, Family Voices of Wisconsin created the following fact sheets on integrated transition (also available in [Spanish](#)), with more coming in 2023 and 2024.

- [An Introduction to Integrated Transition Planning](#)
- [Youth Fully Participating and Engaged in Their Community](#)
- [Transition Planning for Youth with Mental-Health Needs](#)
- [Planning for Employment](#)

### Pieces of the Transition Puzzle

These questions are pieces of the transition puzzle that you might want to think about.

**Home:** Will my child live at home or move out?

**Education:** Will my child graduate at 18 or continue through age 21? Does my child want to go to college or technical school?

**Employment:** What type of work does my child want to do? And, which supports may be needed to make them successful?

**Community:** What will my adult child want to do for fun, to make friends and stay active? Are programs available in the community?

**Health:** Can my child take care of their own health care and insurance needs? Will my child need to move to new adult medical providers?



**Dream about your child's best life as an adult.** Let this vision drive your advocacy to ensure your child gets the services and supports they need during this time of transition.

### Learn More

Remember, **you don't have to do this alone!** Resources are available as you prepare for your child's transition to adulthood. The Family Voices learning session, [What's After High School?](#) has on-demand videos and resource links. We also have a variety of fact sheets to guide you in learning about adult long-term support programs like Family Care and IRIS. Search *transition* in our website's [Resource Library](#) to find more valuable materials.

Contact your county's [Aging and Disability Resource Center](#) when **your child is 17 ½**. ADRCs can help you apply for adult programs and services, provide benefits counseling, help with residential opinions, and more.

## Thinking about Summer?

**T**here are opportunities for every child to have fun during the summer. You only need to plan ahead and know where to look. We have a few suggestions as you begin your search:

Ask your child what they want to do. If you know that swim lessons would be more fun than computer classes, you will know where to focus your efforts.

Look into low-cost options. If your child wants to try gymnastics or theater, check into your school's summer programs instead of more expensive private alternatives. School options can also be more inclusive and may use your child's IEP as guidance.

Think of the places you already spend time with your child. Public libraries and houses of faith often have summer programs in surroundings that will be familiar to your child.

Check the websites of your area parks, nature centers, zoos or wildlife organizations. These organizations have different theme days throughout the summer to get children involved in the outdoors.

CLTS support and service coordinators know your family and community well. Contact them early for ideas. Community groups often send summer programming information directly to county agencies.

Finally, there may be days when your community has no special activities. This isn't bad. It's summer. It's time for you and your child to recharge and reconnect. Your child might appreciate the time to read a book, skateboard, watch a movie, garden, play with neighborhood friends, wash the dog, ride a bike, try some arts and crafts, make up weird games with their siblings, bake cookies, have a lemonade stand, do science experiments, play baseball, or anything that you remember having fun doing when you were growing up.

**Is your child ready for camp?** We have a list of [camps](#) in Wisconsin that meet the needs of children with different abilities. If your organization offers summer camps or other programming for children with special health care needs or disabilities, send us your information at [Lynn@fvofwi.org](mailto:Lynn@fvofwi.org).

### Join Our "Last Wednesday" Learning Sessions

We're hosting learning sessions on the **Last Wednesday of the Month**. Join any of these **Zoom sessions** from the comfort of your home. You can ask questions and learn from other families about navigating programs and supporting your child and family's needs!

**Drop into these sessions—There's no pre-registration**

#### Wednesday, March 29, 12:00 – 1:00

**Did You Know? Now You Know!** is an introduction to navigating supports and services for families with children **ages 0 to 14**. Learn about Medicaid, Katie Beckett, children's long-term support programs, private insurance, appealing an insurance denial, and more.

#### Wednesday, April 26, 12:00 – 1:00

**Thinking About Supported Decision Making** explains what families need to know about decision-making supports and other legal tools for adults in Wisconsin, including guardianship. This session is for families with children **ages 14 and older** with disabilities and the providers and educators who work with them.

#### Wednesday, May 31, 5:00 – 6:00

**Your Place at the Table** explains why your voice and your input matter in shaping programs and systems for children and how to use your lived experiences to **become an effective advocate**. We'll share resources for skill-building and opportunities for family leadership in Wisconsin.



**Northeast Region**  
Children's Hospital  
of Wisconsin  
Fox Valley  
877.568.5205

**Northern Region**  
Marathon County  
Health Dept.  
Wausau  
866.640.4106

**Southeast Region**  
Children's Hospital  
Milwaukee  
800.234.5437

**Southern Region**  
Waisman Center  
Madison  
800.532.3321

**Western Region**  
Chippewa County  
Dept of Public Health  
Chippewa Falls  
800.400.3678

# Did You Know? Now You Know!

## Learning about DVR Services

**E**mployment will likely be one of the essential parts of your young adult's life after they leave high school. In Wisconsin, work is possible for **every** young adult, including those with more significant disabilities. Our state leads in the nation in creating innovative ways to support youth in finding and keeping fulfilling and enjoyable jobs.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation ([DVR](#)), a part of the state Department of Workforce Development, offers eligible youth support during high school and, if necessary, throughout their work life, until age 64. Often, DVR assistance will fade out as your child becomes more independent. It can also return to help find a job or provide work support later.

### How Can DVR Help?

Families can ask their child's school team to make a referral to [DVR](#), or you, as a parent, can request DVR services. To begin, call **800.442.3477**.

DVR services can start **at least** two years before your child exits school. This can be in their junior year of high school or for those who will stay until age 21, DVR will start to work with your teen when they are in their final year or two of a transition program.

Parents can also ask their child's school to invite the DVR counselor to IEP meetings. The DVR counselor takes the lead in exploring your child's interests and goals for employment. DVR will connect your child with employment service providers, job sites, internships and courses that support future work.

DVR works with your child to create an **Individual Plan for Employment (IPE)**. The IPE maps out goals and the paths to reach them. (Yes. Your child can have both an IEP and an IPE!)

Learn more about DVR: [Think Possibilities Youth Brochure](#)

[Transition Action Guide \(TAG\)](#)

[Transition Services for Students with Disabilities](#)



## Key Transition Resources



Transition resources can be overwhelming. Visit our website to find helpful resources about healthcare, education and employment for Wisconsin youth with disabilities, families, and professionals.



Scan QR Code to see resources



**WAISMAN CENTER**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities  
[www.waisman.wisc.edu](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu)



## Want to Learn More?

For more information on our articles visit these websites:

- Family Voices of Wisconsin  
[familyvoiceswi.org](http://familyvoiceswi.org)
- National Family Voices  
[familyvoices.org](http://familyvoices.org)
- Transition Resource Guide  
[beforeage18.org](http://beforeage18.org)
- Future Planning 101  
[futureplanning.thearc.org](http://futureplanning.thearc.org)

# Policy Update

## Explaining the Governor's State Budget Proposal

**G**overnor Evers recently introduced [his proposed 2023-25 fiscal year budget](#). Many of the programs and funding included are easy to get excited about. Still, it's important to remember the governor's proposed budget is a very early step in a lengthy [budget process](#).

**What's in the Governor's Proposed Budget?** The current proposal includes increases to respite funding, money for school-based mental health services, increases to the state-paid portion of special education services at public schools, expanded [Birth to 3 Program](#) access for children with elevated lead levels (considered to be a [preventable cause of some developmental delays](#)), a tax credit for the installation of [universal changing stations](#), Wisconsin [ABLE Accounts](#), and more.

**Children's Long-Term Supports** While the governor's budget mentions the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) waiver, advocates are concerned that the proposal still falls short of making the program equivalent to adult services by eliminating the delays some families experience in accessing CLTS once their child is found to be eligible.

**What's Next?** The next step in the budget process is for the [Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee](#), a group including senators and representatives, to hold **listening sessions** to get feedback directly from the public. These sessions are typically held in April at locations across the state. The 2023 public hearing dates have not yet been announced. Watch for updates from Family Voices on when and where these hearings will be held.

**How Can I Give My Input?** [Giving testimony](#) (a verbal statement) at these public hearings or submitting written comments is a great way to tell legislators how you feel about any of these topics. It is important that the Joint Finance Committee hear from you, as well as your legislator, your representative **and** your senator. Remember to share not only about the state programs that are not working well for your family but also those that **are** providing meaningful care and support, so they know to protect these programs.

### Events that Prepare You for Testimony

[Advocacy for Change](#) (AFC) Family Voices of Wisconsin holds an annual one-day workshop for families with children ages 21 and younger to support their legislative involvement. [AFC \(March 16\)](#) offers topical briefings in the morning and prepares parents and families to visit their legislators in the afternoon to talk about the issues that are important to them. [Registration is still open](#) for this year's event.

[Disability Advocacy Day](#) is presented by the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. It has a similar focus, with a program geared to support self-advocate adults and the providers who support them.

**The Time is NOW!** Budget-time is an important season to get connected with your legislators. From the [Wisconsin State Legislature](#) website, enter your physical address to identify your state legislators, see what committees they serve on, review their voting history, and read about bills they are sponsoring.

Their job is to take **your input** into deep consideration, and they can only do so when they hear from you.



**Circles of Life Conference 2023**

**Scholarships Available**

### Parent Scholarship Applications are Now Open!

**Until April 1**, parents can apply for financial support (hotel, travel costs and registration fees) to attend this year's Circles of Life Conference. Families who have children enrolled in the CLTS program and/or CCOP can request funding to cover the cost of attending the conference.

Go to [circlesoflifeconference.com/scholarships](https://circlesoflifeconference.com/scholarships) for application and instructions.

## Connect With Us!

[familyvoiceswi.org](http://familyvoiceswi.org)

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# Circles of Life Conference 2023

Registration Now Open

May 11 and 12, 2023

## The Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Circles of Life is celebrating its **38th** year as Wisconsin's annual statewide conference for families who have children with disabilities and the professionals who support them.

*“Treasure Today, Plan for Tomorrow”*

-  30 family-focused workshops, including financial and future planning sessions
-  Programming for youth and siblings
-  Family Fun Night, listening session and more!

Register at:

[CirclesofLifeConference.com/registration](http://CirclesofLifeConference.com/registration)



### 2023 Keynote Speaker: Lola Dada-Olley

Lola Dada-Olley is an attorney and the founder of the Not Your Mama's Autism (NYMA) Podcast. NYMA tells her family's journey into autism through a multigenerational and multicultural lens. In the 1980s, her baby brother was given a then little known diagnosis called autism that changed her family's trajectory, setting her on a course to advocacy for her own children. To learn about Ms. Dada-Olley, see her website, [Not Your Mama's Autism](#).

## About Family Voices

If you have a child with a disability or special health care need, you've come to the right place! We're here to help you **navigate** the services available to your family. It's a complicated system, and our goal is to provide your family with some tools. **Connect** with other families, learn how to **advocate** for your child, and discover how you can be a voice for all children with disabilities and/or special needs.