

Wisconsin Resource Organizations for Families Who Have Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

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NEW – Wisconsin Wayfinder: Children’s Resource Network A new resource offers Wisconsin families one name and number to streamline the journey of finding services children need. When you call, you will be connected to a resource guide in your area at one of the five Children’s Resource Centers. dhs.wisconsin.gov/wiscway, 877-947-2929

Children’s Resource Centers (CRCs): Wisconsin has five CRCs devoted to supporting families with children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and the providers who serve them. Children’s resource guides are available at each center to provide free and private services. Children’s Resource Centers offer information on a variety of topics, including health benefits, finding services and programs, locating doctors and dentists, transition to adult services, and more.

Children’s Resource Center, North: 866.640.4106

Children’s Resource Center, Northeast: 877.568.5205

Children’s Resource Center, South: 800.532.3321

Children’s Resource Center, Southeast: 800.234.5437

Children’s Resource Center, West: 800.400.3678

Advocacy & Benefits Counseling for Health, Inc. (ABC for Health) is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special needs, to health care benefits and services. Experienced staff can help families who have received a Medicaid or private insurance denial, lost coverage or need help finding health coverage. safetyweb.org, 608.261.6939

Alianza Latina Aplicando Soluciones (ALAS) promotes the independence of people with disabilities by providing information and support to them, their families and their service providers in areas related to education and health. In English or Spanish, parents and families are supported with information and connections to community resources. alianzalatiniawi.org/ALAS.htm, 414.643.0022

Arc Wisconsin develops programs and advocates for public policy to give people with disabilities the opportunity to learn, live, and work inclusively in their communities. Through locally affiliated chapters (arcwi.org/about/affiliate-chapters), the Arc provides social, recreational, and educational programs to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. arcwi.org, 608.422.4250

Birth to 3 Program is part of the Bureau of Children’s Services at the Department of Health Services and is a federally mandated program providing early intervention services to support families of children with delays or disabilities under the age of three. dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/index.htm, 800.642.7837

Coalition for Children, Youth and Families offers compassionate, accessible and reliable information, learning opportunities and connections primarily for families impacted by foster care, adoptions and kinship care. coalitionforicyf.org, 800-762-8063

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) is a private non-profit organization designated by the governor to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and systems change. DRW helps people across Wisconsin gain access to services and opportunities through its advocacy and legal expertise. disabilityrightswi.org, Madison 608.267.0214, Milwaukee 414.773.4646, or Rice Lake 715.736.1232

Family Voices of Wisconsin supports families who have children with disabilities and special health care needs. They empower families to navigate health care and community support and services. As a family-run organization, they guide families on their own leadership and advocacy journey and promote family-centered care and family/professional partnerships. familyvoiceswi.org, 608.512.0217

Independent Living Centers (ILCs) are regional, non-profit organizations that provide information and referral, peer support, independent living skills training, transition services, and advocacy. There are eight ILCs around the state and some provide additional services, like community education, training, personal care, and service coordination. ILCs are also device loan centers as part of the WisTech Assistive Technology Program. dhs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/physical/ilcs-contact.htm

Mental Health America of Wisconsin is a community-based network dedicated to helping all Americans live mentally healthier lives through advocacy, education, and the delivery of urgently needed programs and services. mhawisconsin.org, 866.948.6483

NAMI Wisconsin works to improve the quality of life of people affected by mental illness and promotes recovery by providing education, advocacy and support. namiwisconsin.org, 800.236.2988

Parent 2 Parent of Wisconsin provides support to parents of children with special needs through a one-to-one connection with another parent who has similar experience and who knows firsthand about the feelings and realities that come with having a child with special needs. p2pwi.org, 833.361.6300

Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA) is a statewide organization for groups and individuals who are committed to making every early childhood a great one. SFTA has ten Childcare Resources and Referral Agencies that assist in finding the childcare that meets the needs of each family. supportingfamiliesaltogether.org, 888.713.KIDS

Waisman Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities supports the full inclusion and self-determination of people with developmental disabilities and their families. The Waisman Center promotes and strengthens the participation of families with disabilities in partnerships with professionals and providers, community members and elected officials. ucedd.waisman.wisc.edu, 800.532.3321

Well Badger Resource Center is a statewide information and referral hotline and online database to assist Wisconsin families and providers working with children and youth with special needs. wellbadger.org, 800.642.7837

WI FACETS (Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support) has a mission to provide and broaden opportunities that enhance the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities and their families with emphasis on educational support for underserved families in the community. wifacets.org, 877.374.0511

Wisconsin Board for People with Development Disabilities advocates on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities to foster welcoming and inclusive communities and improve the disability service system. The Board's mission is to help people with developmental disabilities become independent, productive, and included in all facets of community life. wi-bpdd.org, 608.266.7826

Each family has a voice. Together, our voices will be heard.
familyvoiceswi.org

Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESP-DHH) is a program under the Department of Public Instruction and supports students who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind. This includes resources, outreach programs, and the Wisconsin School for the Deaf. dpi.wi.gov/wesp-dhh

Wisconsin Family Ties is a statewide not-for-profit run by families for families that include children with emotional, behavioral and mental disorders. Parent-peer specialists provide support, education, advocacy and information, as well as referrals for families. Parent representatives are also involved to build awareness of family needs on the local, state and national level. wifamilyties.org, 800.422.7145

Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association is a peer- and volunteer-based organization that supports and advocates for foster and adoptive parents by offering training, support programs and helps to create and support different legislative measures with our fellow representatives in Madison. wfapa.org

Wisconsin Head Start is a federal program for preschool children from low-income families. Non-profit organizations, schools, community action commissions, or other local grantees operate the Head Start program. Head Start supports Parent Affiliates (parents of children in Head Start) to help guide the work of Wisconsin Head Start. whsaonline.org, 608.442.6879

Wisconsin Medical Home Initiative promotes the “medical home” model for primary care doctors, families and service providers throughout Wisconsin. Training, technical assistance and resources are provided to support medical home implementation. chawisconsin.org/initiatives/medical-home

Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative’s (WSPEI) experienced (Cooperative Educational Service Agencies - CESA) based family liaisons work with families, educators and school districts to promote positive partnerships and provide technical assistance and information to parents in their CESA area. wspei.org, 833.879.7734

Wisconsin Sound Beginnings Program is part of the Maternal and Child Health Program at the Department of Health Services and promotes and supports universal newborn hearing screening and follow-up services statewide. Sound Beginnings also helps connect families to support parents through *Parents Reaching Out*. dhs.wisconsin.gov/newbornscreening/hearing.htm