

The best way to improve policies and systems for children with disabilities is for families to tell policymakers what's important to them! The following ideas explain how families can get involved and engaged in policy and systems change activities. 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.
- Stay current on policy and systems change by signing for the [Family Voices News and Information](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Find family leadership resources at familyvoiceswi.org/family_leadership.
- Sign up for Board for People with Developmental Disabilities alerts wi-bpdd.org/index.php/join.
- Participate in events like [Advocacy for Change \(March 14\)](#) and [Disability Advocacy Day \(March 20\)](#).
- When the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee holds public hearings (every other April), submit testimony via email or attend a hearing in person. See [Wisconsin State Legislature](#).
- Attend a Townhall Meeting. These are set up by Members of Congress to hear from their constituents. See your US Senators (Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson) and US Representative's websites for dates. Find their websites at usa.gov/elected-officials. You can also join their email lists on these sites.
- Join a committee at the state or local level. See [State Level Committees and Councils](#) and [Statutory Boards, Committees, and Councils | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)
- 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.
- Call or email your elected officials regularly. Let them know how policies and funding impact your family. Use the [Family Voices Advocacy Toolkit](#) to create an effective message.
- Make a point of introducing yourself and your children when you see your elected officials in public.
- 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 for 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 services for your child and family. Your insights and ideas can make a difference!