

# Direct Care Workforce

**DRW supports efforts to address the workforce crisis and increase the value and wages of workers providing care to people with disabilities in their homes and communities. There must be an investment in community workers specifically to ensure people are not forced into costly institutional settings and nursing homes.**

***Why:** People with disabilities cannot get the care they need to ensure their health and safety because there are not enough workers. Employers report a vacancy rate of 20%. Wisconsin's workforce crisis is due in part to low wages and significant worker turnover. When people do not get the care they need, their health deteriorates risking their placement in costly institutional settings.*

- **Proposal:** Increase the Medicaid rate to support a wage increase for direct care workers to help attract and retain a qualified workforce with a focus on supporting people to live in their homes in the community. (8% increase in the Medical Assistance Personal Care rate; \$14-15 million annually).
- **Proposal:** Use available federal Medicaid matching funds to fund the development and maintenance of a home care worker registry. (\$5 million one-time investment).
- **Proposal:** Develop a Health Care Assistant credential that would allow people with disabilities and others to get the training they need to more easily enter the health care workforce. (\$50,000 one-time investment in pilot sites)