



2013-2015 WISCONSIN SELF-ADVOCATE STATE BUDGET

The 2012 Wisconsin Self-Advocate Survey identifies the most important issues for self-advocates in Wisconsin and provides recommendations that self-advocates have for the 2013-2015 state budget. The survey results from nearly 300 self-advocates are highlighted in this document. A self-advocate is an individual with a disability who is eligible for – or using – long-term care supports. In this budget, percentages indicate the responses to the individual question, not the overall survey.

transportation

Many people with disabilities do not drive, so the ability to get from one place to another is important. Without good **public transportation**, many people with disabilities cannot get to work, shop in their communities, or get to important medical appointments.

In my day-to-day life, I use **transportation** to:

- Shop for goods & services (77.2%)
- Get to work or school (79.7%)
- Get to medical & other appointments (79.7%)
- Participate in the community (84.8%)

education

Good **public education** in the same classrooms as other students prepares Wisconsin's students with disabilities for the workforce and successful adult life.

59% reported that they spent too much time in a special education classroom.

57% reported that they were not included with other kids in most activities.



housing

All persons with and without disabilities should be able to live in integrated, affordable, healthy, and accessible **housing**.

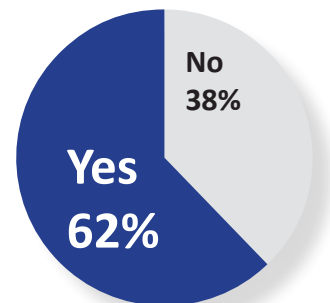


58.5% reported that they **do not have access** to affordable housing in their community.

employment

Working in the community at the same pay as everyone else is important so people with disabilities can escape poverty, connect with others, and contribute based on their strengths and interests. Everyone can work with the right job match and supports.

Are you currently **unemployed** or **paid less than minimum wage** (\$7.25/hour)?



mental health

Wisconsin's **mental health system**, like public and private mental health systems nationally, does not receive enough resources but is critical to allowing people with disabilities to live and participate in their communities.

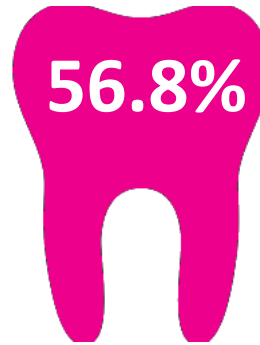
With good supports, I can:

Go to work	82.0%
Participate in the community	96.6%
Live independently	78.7%

“ I don't get all the services I need for my mental health. I take medicine and see a counselor, but I could use more friends and a mentor to help me stay focused and organized. ”

health care

Limited insurance coverage and access to affordable, quality **health care** are critical to ensuring that people with disabilities can get to work, prevent disease and illness, and avoid expensive emergency care.



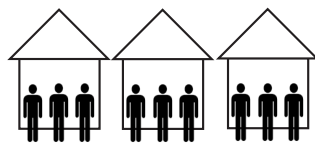
reported that there are **no dentists in their community** they can go to.

long-term care supports

People with disabilities want to live, work, and contribute to their communities. Wisconsin's **long-term care system**, including Family Care, IRIS, PACE, Partnership and legacy waivers, provide the supports and health care people with disabilities need to get up, get dressed, go to work, and participate in community life.



76.3% reported Long-Term Care Supports help them take care of themselves to **stay healthy**.



76.3% reported Long-Term Care Supports help them to **work and participate in their community**.

recommendations

- Expand Family Care/IRIS/Partnership/PACE statewide to all 72 counties.
- Downsize the two statewide developmental disabilities institutions (Southern and Central Centers) to one location.
- Restore public education funds to 2009-2011 levels so schools have the resources to provide inclusive education.
- Ensure all Wisconsin residents have access to affordable, high-quality health insurance.
- Create incentives and increase Medicaid reimbursement rates so more dentists will accept Medical Assistance.
- Pass or create Employment First legislation or a Governor's Executive Order to make Wisconsin an Employment First state.
- Restore cuts to public transportation and invest an additional \$5 million.
- Increase the State contribution to the "state" share of Medicaid for mental health services.
- Increase the availability of integrated, affordable, and accessible housing.

People First Wisconsin



See Our  Ability

People First Wisconsin is a statewide grassroots nonprofit self-advocacy organization run by and for people with disabilities, especially intellectual disabilities. www.peoplefirstwi.org