

Leading Together:

A Convening of Family-Led and Family-Supporting Organizations Creating a Shared Vision

Alianza Latina Aplicando Soluciones- promotes the independence of people with disabilities by providing information and support to them, their families and their service providers in areas related to but not limited to education and health. In English or Spanish, parents and families are supported with information and connections to community resources. www.alianzalatinawi.org/ALAS.htm, **414-643-0022**

Disability Rights Wisconsin- 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. www.disabilityrightswi.org, **Madison 608-267-0368, Milwaukee 414-773-4646, Rice Lake 715-736-1232**

Family Voices of Wisconsin- is a statewide network of families who have children with special health care needs and disabilities and those who work on their behalf. FVW provides information, training and leadership opportunities so that families can be informed and effective partners in their child's care and in influencing the systems that support them. www.fvofwi.org, **608-220-9598**

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. www.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. www.namiwisconsin.org, **800-236-2988**

Office of Children's Mental Health- works to improve children and families' access to services, promoting collaboration and coordination of child and family-focused activities. Their commitment to innovation includes activities focused on meaningful family involvement in systems' change. www.children.wi.gov.

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. www.p2pwi.org, **888-266-0028**

Supporting Families Together Association- is Wisconsin's statewide member association for organizations and individuals committed to making every early childhood a great one. SFTA has ten ChildCare Resources and Referral Agencies that assists families in finding child care that meets the needs of each family. <http://supportingfamiestogether.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. www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/family.php, **800-532-3321**

WI FACETS (Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support)- FACETS parent leaders' (parents who have children with disabilities) mission is 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. www.wifacets.org, **877-374-0511**

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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. www.wi-bpdd.org, **888-332-1677**

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families- The mission of the Department of Children and Families is to improve the economic and social well-being of Wisconsin's children, youth and families. The Department is committed to protecting children and youth, strengthening families and supporting communities. <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/>

Race to the Top- grant focuses on children between birth and kindergarten, and is a cross-departmental grant that uses the talent, experience, and vision of three state departments: Children and Families (designated as the lead agency by the Governor), Public Instruction, and Health Services. <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/rttt/>

Home Visiting Program- Home Visiting is a service provided in the homes of pregnant women, children from birth to eight years and their families. Home Visiting has been found to improve parenting, school readiness and health. http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/home_visiting_needs_assessment/

Wisconsin Department of Health Services- Supporting economic prosperity and quality of life, the Department of Health Services exercises multiple roles in the protection and promotion of the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/>

Birth to Three 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. www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health-care-coverage/health-care-coverage/birth-3-program, **800-642-7837**

Maternal and Child Health Program- at the Department of Health Services, works with local public health departments, community based organizations, statewide organizations and other providers to provide and/or assure, quality health services are delivered to mothers, children, and families in Wisconsin. www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mch/index.htm, **800-722-2295**

Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Program- works to assure that children and youth with special health care needs are identified early, receive high quality coordinated care, and receive, with their families, the supports they need. www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/index.htm, **800-642-7837**

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc., CYSHCN Project- provides information, resources and assistance to Native American families of children with special needs. www.glitc.org/programs/cyshcn/, **715-588-1011**

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Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs- Wisconsin has five Regional Centers dedicated to supporting families with children and youth with special health care needs and the providers who serve them. Free and confidential services include information, referral and problem solving, parent support, help understanding insurance coverage and applications, transition planning and connections to community resources.
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm

Wisconsin Sound Beginnings Program- promotes and supports universal newborn hearing screening and follow-up services statewide. Sound Beginnings helps families and Birth to 3 Programs understand the unique needs of children identified as deaf or hard of hearing and connects them to resources. www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/hearing-screening.htm, <http://handsandvoices.org/>

Project YES- a youth-centered and youth-driven practice model that provides a developmentally and culturally-appropriate framework for adult helpers interacting with youth when supporting young people as they transition to adulthood.

Wisconsin Promise Grant- The PROMISE initiative is intended to improve services for youth SSI (Social Security Supplemental Security Income) recipients and their families. The services help youth recipients achieve better outcomes, including graduating from high school ready for college and a career, completing postsecondary education and job training, and obtaining competitive employment in an integrated setting. <https://promisewi.com/>

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction- The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction supports families by providing co-sponsorships which allow families to attend conferences and events as well as developing grants allocated to Wisconsin family support and advocacy organizations which provide families with parent peer mentoring, resources, and support to engage in their child's learning and development as well as build meaningful family, school, and community relationships. http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_parent

Transition Improvement Grant- provide effective, targeted, and low cost professional development to Wisconsin youth, parents, educators and all stakeholders in the area of postsecondary transition to improve strategies that will positively affect the post school outcomes of students with disabilities. <http://www.witig.org/>

Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI)- experienced CESA-based parent liaisons work with families, educators and school districts to promote positive partnerships and provide technical assistance and information to parents in their CESA area. http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_parent, www.wspei.org, 715-682-2363 Ext.112

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 and referral for families. Parent representatives are also involved on the local, state and national level to build awareness of family needs. 800-422-7145

Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, Inc.- 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. www.wfapa.org

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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 to help guide the work of Wisconsin Head Start.

<http://whsaonline.org>, 608-442-6879

Wisconsin Medical Home Initiative -promotes the concepts of medical home for primary care clinicians, families, and service providers throughout Wisconsin. Training, technical assistance and resources are provided to support medical home implementation with a focus in the areas of early identification of and timely referrals for children with developmental concerns and behavioral health integration into pediatric primary care. <http://wismhi.org/>

Wisconsin Special Olympics- provides year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy while participating in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, Special Olympics athletes and the community.

<http://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/>

WisconSibs- offers peer support and educational programs to hundreds of children and adults who have brothers and sisters with disabilities. <http://wisconsibs.org/>