

13 Priorities at a Glance

Wisconsin Independent Living Network

Long-Term Care, Transportation & Housing Priorities for 2027–2029

WILN believes people with disabilities and older adults should have the choice and support to remain independent in their homes and communities.

The Wisconsin Independent Living Network's 2027–2029 policy priorities identify 13 actions Wisconsin can take to strengthen community living across three interconnected areas: **Long-Term Care, Transportation and Housing.**

LONG-TERM CARE

1. Invest in Transition Services

The problem: People who want to leave hospitals and nursing facilities can face significant barriers to returning home, while Wisconsin's Independent Living Centers lack sufficient resources to provide transition assistance statewide.

WILN's ask: Invest an additional **\$2.6 million in GPR funding** for Wisconsin's Independent Living Center network, strengthen the role of ILCs in the transition referral process and invest in the community supports necessary to help people successfully return home.

2. Guarantee Home and Community-Based Services

The problem: Medicaid guarantees eligible individuals access to nursing facility services, while Home and Community-Based Services do not have the same federal guarantee.

WILN's ask: Make Home and Community-Based Services a required component of Wisconsin's Medicaid program and develop a comprehensive community integration plan that protects access to long-term care in the least restrictive setting.

3. Close the Gap in Long-Term Care Coverage

The problem: Some people need assistance to remain independent but have too much income or assets to qualify for Medicaid or do not yet meet nursing-home-level-of-care requirements.

WILN's ask: Develop a state-supported long-term care coverage option for older adults and people with disabilities who need assistance but do not qualify for Medicaid-funded long-term care.

4. Modernize Personal Care Supervision Rules

The problem: Frequent in-person RN supervisory requirements can create scheduling challenges and consume limited nursing capacity even when a consumer's condition and personal care needs have remained stable.

WILN's ask: Allow Registered Nurses to conduct supervisory visits through telehealth when clinically appropriate and move routine personal care supervisory visits from every 50–60 days to a quarterly schedule.

5. Modernize Supervisory Visit Rates

The problem: Personal care agencies currently receive \$52.72 per visit toward mandatory RN supervisory services despite significant differences in the time and resources required for assessments, in-person supervision and remote supervision.

WILN's ask: Establish tiered reimbursement rates of **\$369.67 for personal care assessments, \$209.83 for in-person supervisory visits and \$88.04 for telehealth supervisory visits.**

6. Keep Family Care Focused on Community Living

The problem: WILN is concerned that Family Care members may unnecessarily receive care in institutional settings when appropriate community-based services and providers could allow them to live in the community.

WILN's ask: Strengthen DHS monitoring and enforcement of Managed Care Organizations to reduce unnecessary institutional placements, maintain sufficient provider networks and ensure providers receive fair reimbursement.

7. Protect Self-Direction in IRIS

The problem: WILN believes restrictions on how IRIS participants can use their approved budgets have reduced flexibility, autonomy and the self-directed nature of the program.

WILN's ask: Protect the self-directed purpose of IRIS and restore appropriate flexibility for participants to make decisions about allowable services and supports within their approved budgets.

Additional specific policy recommendations for this priority are still under development.

TRANSPORTATION

8. Invest in Wisconsin Transportation

The problem: Inadequate and unpredictable transportation funding threatens transit services that people with disabilities, older adults and other nondrivers rely on for employment, health care, groceries and community life.

WILN's ask: Substantially increase and stabilize funding for local transit while giving Wisconsin communities additional tools to maintain and improve transportation options.

9. Make Transportation Funding Work Together

The problem: Transportation funding is divided among programs with different requirements, sometimes forcing riders to arrange separate transportation for different portions of what could otherwise be one coordinated trip.

WILN's ask: Identify and implement legally permissible opportunities to braid transportation funding so existing resources can be coordinated more efficiently and transportation can be more seamless for riders.

10. Allow Regional Transportation Authorities

The problem: Transportation needs frequently cross municipal boundaries, while services and funding can remain fragmented among individual communities and programs.

WILN's ask: Allow Wisconsin communities to establish Regional Transportation Authorities that can coordinate transportation services and funding among multiple municipalities.

HOUSING

11. Build Homes for a Lifetime

The problem: Wisconsin continues to build homes without basic visitability features that could help residents remain in their homes as disability, mobility and accessibility needs change.

WILN's ask: Establish minimum visitability standards for new housing, including at least one zero-clearance entrance, a first-floor bedroom and bathroom, and 36-inch doorways.

12. Make Existing Homes More Accessible

The problem: Much of Wisconsin's existing single-family housing was built before accessibility became a significant consideration in residential design, limiting housing and homeownership options for people with disabilities.

WILN's ask: Create a state program that incentivizes the conversion of inaccessible existing housing into accessible homes.

13. Make Accessible Housing More Affordable

The problem: Increasing the supply of accessible housing is not enough if people with disabilities cannot afford to purchase, modify or remain in those homes.

WILN's ask: Create a tiered property tax freeze for qualifying accessibility modifications and establish a statewide community land trust program focused on preserving accessible homes and expanding affordable homeownership opportunities for people with disabilities.

ONE SHARED GOAL

These 13 priorities address different programs, systems and policies, but they are connected by a common principle:

People with disabilities and older adults should have meaningful choices about where and how they live.

Strong Home and Community-Based Services help people receive support where they choose to live. Reliable transportation connects people to work, health care, family and community life. Accessible and affordable housing gives people a place to call home.

WILN calls on Wisconsin policymakers to work with people with disabilities, older adults and the Independent Living Network to build systems that support independence in our communities, regardless of age or ability.

For additional information about any priority, refer to the corresponding WILN Issue Sheet.