



Information and Advocacy

*For persons with disabilities
& their families*



ADRC of Brown County

920-448-4300
300 S. Adams Street
Green Bay, WI 54301



www.adrcofbrowncounty.com
facebook.com/adrcbrowncountywi

*Serving older adults, adults
with disabilities, and their
caregivers in Brown County.*

Expertise and Experience

The organizations in this booklet have the expertise and experience to answer your questions. They understand your challenges.

The descriptions are meant to give you a short overview of what each organization does. We encourage you to contact them directly for more information.

Organizations Active in Advocacy

The organizations listed in this booklet serve people with disabilities and are active in personal, public, and legislative advocacy. Many teach individuals how to advocate for themselves.

What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is simply trying to influence others who provided services or make policies that affect our lives. By participating in advocacy you move from a powerless bystander to a person empowered and in control of the quality of your life and/or the people you care about.

Types of Advocacy

Personal Advocacy - Helping yourself or others understand their choices and/or get services. Sharing ideas at a support group, accompanying someone to an appointment or meeting with a service provider (some listed in this booklet) or others to help represent their needs.

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Public Advocacy - Activities that educate the general public to gain understanding. Speaking to a club, church or other organization, writing a letter to the editor or submitting an article, posting a blog.

Legislative advocacy - Working to influence legislation on a local, state or national level.

Call **920-448-4300**

Monday - Friday


8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

300 S. Adams Street, Green Bay, WI

Appointments are available before or after hours by prior arrangement.

Visit the transition page on our website at: www.adrcofbrowncounty.org.

Like us on Facebook at:

 [adrcbrowncountywi](https://www.facebook.com/adrcbrowncountywi)

Disabilities - General

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)

Disability Rights Wisconsin is a statewide resource for individuals, families, service professionals and others concerned with disability issues. Designated by the Governor to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and system change, the private nonprofit group is part of a national system of federally mandated independent disability agencies.

Disability Rights helps people across Wisconsin gain access to services and opportunities through information and referral, trainings, advocacy and legal expertise. Disability Rights challenges systems and society to create positive change and improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Website: disabilityrightswi.org

Contact Information:

131 W. Wilson Street Suite 700, Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-267-0214 **Toll Free:** 800-928-8778 **Email:** info@drw.org

Language translation provided by phone for non-English speakers

Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman Program is a free advocacy program for anyone over 60 years of age that is living at a facility or a community agency providing long-term care. Any residents, tenants, families and friends, or staff members can access this service. Ombudsman staff are direct advocates for people needing long-term care. The program is required by law, with the Board on Aging & Long Term Care being the direct provider of these services in the state of Wisconsin.

Recognizing the importance of quality of life and quality of care, an Ombudsman works with individuals and their families/caregivers to protect and promote the rights of long-term care consumers, while also working with facilities to define and achieve the highest standards possible. Ombudsman can answer questions about the different care options available, investigate complaints against care agencies, help residents & tenants resolve problems or concerns, and protect the rights of consumers guaranteed by state & federal laws. Ombudsman can be contacted by phone or give face-to-face assistance in a facility.

Website: longtermcare.wi.gov

Contact Information:

State of Wisconsin Board on Aging & Long Term Care
Ombudsman Program

1402 Pankratz Street, Suite 111, Madison, WI 53704-4001

Toll Free: 800-815-0015 **Brown County:** 920-662-5454 (Julie Button)

Email: boaltc@wisconsin.gov

Disabilities - General, continued

Options for Independent Living

Options for Independent Living empowers people with disabilities to lead independent and productive lives in their community through advocacy, and provision of information and referral, education, and technology.

Options for Independent Living assists people with disabilities and aging persons to be more independent in their home or work environment. Their one-of-a-kind facility showcases adaptive equipment and technology for both residential and business environments.

Website: optionsil.org

Contact Information:

555 Country Club Rd, PO Box 11967, Green Bay, WI 54307

Phone: 920-490-0500 **Toll Free:** 888-465-1515 **TTY:** 920-490-0600

WI FACETS

Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training and Support (WI FACETS) is a nonprofit organization that serves Wisconsin children and adults with disabilities and their families. It has become a leading source of information and support in Wisconsin for children and youth who have special needs, their families, and others who support them.

WI FACETS offers a variety of services including: information and referral, helps parents build a partnership with those who provide services to their children, educates parents on their rights and how to use those rights to become involved in their child's education, helps develop leadership and self-advocacy skills, parent support and assistance with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), parent leadership development.

Website: wifacets.org

Contact Information (Main Office)

600 West Virginia St., Suite 501, Milwaukee WI 53204

Toll Free: 877-374-0511 **TTY:** 414-374-4635

Contact Information (Zone 2/Brown County)

Toll Free: 877-374-4677

Email: mzellmer@wifacets.org (Matthew Zellmer)

***Assistance is available in Spanish (Español):** 877-374-0511

Disabilities - General, continued

WI Dept of Health Services Client Rights Office

The Client Rights Office ensures patient rights for people receiving services for developmental disabilities, mental illness, or substance abuse in the State of Wisconsin.

This office employs a Client Rights Specialist who can provide information and advocacy on issues related to guardianship and individual rights. Services are provided free of charge.

Website: dhs.wisconsin.gov/clientrights

Contact Information:

The Department of Health Services
Client Rights Office
P.O. Box 7851
Madison, WI 53707-7851

Phone: 608-266-5525 Clients Rights Office Supervisor

Wisconsin Statewide Parent- Educator Initiative (WSPEI)

WSPEI is designed to support parents of children with disabilities in their understanding of and participation in the special education process. It is a service for parents, educators and others interested in parent-educator partnerships for children with disabilities. The program is funded through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

WSPEI provides information and assistance in understanding special education services in Wisconsin. Services include advocacy for parents, help in contacting a parent liaison in your school district, and assistance with developing Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

Website: wspei.org

Local: CESA 7

595 Baeten Rd, Green Bay, WI 54304

Sara Nerenhausen 920-606-7791 **Email:** snerenhausen@cesa7.org
cesa7wspei.blogspot.com/

Disabilities - General, continued

WI State Legislature

Who Are My Legislators?

This feature of the Wisconsin State Legislature website helps you find out who your state and national legislators are.

Go to <http://legis.wisconsin.gov>

- Enter your address in the fields provided.

You can e-mail your representatives from this website. Telephone numbers are also provided.

Developmental Disabilities

The ARC - Wisconsin

The ARC-Wisconsin is an organization made up of people with disabilities, family members, caregivers, and concerned citizens that work to ensure services are available for people with disabilities. ARC-Wisconsin is a member of The ARC of the United States with 27 local chapters.

The ARC-Wisconsin advocates to make sure proposed laws and public policies benefit people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Trains people with disabilities to be self-advocates. Is involved with a variety of issues, including; education, human services programs, housing development, and transportation. Works with other community agencies and local government to offer training on how services and programs should be designed to assist people with disabilities.

Website: arcwi.org

Contact Information:

The ARC Wisconsin, P.O. Box 201, Stoughton, WI 53589

Phone: 608-422-4250 **Email:** info@arcwi.org

Developmental Disabilities, cont.

Waisman Center

The Waisman Center is a collaborative partnership with the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinic systems. There are 12 specialty clinics across the state that focus on helping children with developmental disabilities.

The center provides full, detailed assessments and evaluations of children with developmental disabilities, conducts research, and offers other services and outreach to individuals, families, and the surrounding community.

Website: waisman.wisc.edu

Contact Information:

Waisman Center Clinics, 1500 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI 53705

Phone: 608-263-3301

Waisman Resource Center

The Waisman Resource Center is a resource for more information on developmental disabilities.

The resource center will connect individuals and families to the range of community services and supports available for children with developmental disabilities.

Website: waisman.wisc.edu/wrc

Contact Information:

Waisman Center Clinics, 1500 Highland Avenue, Room 102, Madison, WI 53705

Toll Free: 800-532-3321

Email: wrc@waisman.wisc.edu

Developmental Disabilities, cont.

WBPDD

WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities was established to advocate on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities, foster welcoming and inclusive communities, encourage independence, and improve the disability service system.

Every five years, the Council develops a State Plan for systems change that guides all Council activities and provides publications that are useful to families of people with disabilities and offers grants and contracts to implement State Plan activities.

Website: wi-bpdd.org

Contact Information:

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
101 East Wilson St., Room 219, Madison, WI 53703

Toll Free: 888-332-1677 **TTY:** 608-266-7826

Email: jeremy.gundlach@wisconsin.gov

Mental Health

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Wisconsin

NAMI Wisconsin is the state branch of a national organization committed to providing education, advocacy and support to people affected by mental illness and their families. There is a Brown County affiliate of NAMI located in Green Bay.

NAMI provides crucial information to people affected by mental illness and their families and serves as their advocate on a state and national level. The NAMI Brown County affiliate offers monthly peer and family support groups. The NAMI Wisconsin website features an online directory of community services related to mental illness, a library of books and videos, and information about current legislative issues.

Website: namiwisconsin.org or www.namibrowncounty.org

Contact Information:

NAMI of Brown County, 923 Cherry St., Green Bay, WI 54301

Phone: 920-430-7460

Email: see contact form on website

Physical Disabilities

The Brain Injury Association of WI, Inc. (BIAW)

BIAW is a nonprofit organization committed to serving individuals with an acquired brain injury and their families/caregivers. The Wisconsin chapter is part of the National Brain Injury Association of America.

This organization provides a Resource Center with a toll free Family Helpline, website, loan library, and resources for families & professionals. BIAW will also provide education, prevention services, support group networks, and advocacy with individuals' personal goals, as well as the goals of community programs and public policies.

Website: biaw.org

Contact Information:

P.O. Box 46285, Madison, WI 53744

Phone: 262-790-9660 or **Mobile:** 608--206-6426

Toll Free HELPLINE: 800-882-9282

Email: admin@biaw.org

Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities is a state council created to make recommendations to state agencies on legislation relevant to physical disabilities, promote public awareness about the abilities of and barriers to people with disabilities, and encourage development of programs and policies to prevent physical disabilities.

The council's website provides links to resources related to: citizen advocacy, civil rights, disability-specific resources and service providers.

Website: <https://cpd.wisconsin.gov/>

Contact Information:

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

1 W. Wilson St., Room 551, Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-266-9354 (Lisa Sobczyk) **TTY:** WI Relay 711

Email: lisa.sobczyk@dhs.wisconsin.gov



*“Empower and enrich the lives of
older adults, adults with disabilities
and their caregivers.”*

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