

Wisconsin Family Care

The State's Most Cost-Effective Care

Let's ensure Day Services, along with all Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) for seniors and people with disabilities continue.

The following is provided to help you learn why increased funding for day services programming is critical.

What are Wisconsin's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)?

Adult Family Homes and Community-Based Residential Facilities

Adult family homes and community-based residential facilities, more commonly known as licensed “group homes,” are residences where one to four adults who are not related to the operator live together. They receive 24/7 care, treatment or services beyond basic room and board. Each resident may receive up to seven hours of nursing care per week.

Day Services

Programs offered outside a living residence for seniors and people with disabilities that provide structured activities to enhance socialization, self-help and adaptive skills, and foster independence and community engagement.

*****Day services are typically not provided by the 24/7 providers in adult family homes or community-based residential facilities.**

Wisconsin's Family Care's HCBS providers, offer:

1. The most cost-effective way to care for people with disabilities and seniors—**SAVING TAXPAYERS MILLIONS** vs. alternative / more expensive care.
2. The **BEST CARE** for the population with the least disruption.
3. The primary way people will be able to **LIVE AT HOME LONGER.**

Family Care impacts **11,000 HCBS providers** and their caregivers, serving **57,000 Wisconsinites** statewide.

LET'S KEEP
Funding and supporting
Wisconsin's family care.

HOW?
Through ongoing
Legislative support.

FOR?
Wisconsin's
most in need!

Thank You for Your Support

We appreciate the legislature's recent commitment to fund the minimum fee of \$15.75 (an investment of approximately \$212 million in the 2025–2027 biennial budget) for **24/7 care providers**. **This was a critical step forward.**



Our Next Challenge: Family Care & Day Services Remain Underfunded

- **Rising Costs:** Care expenses continue to climb.
- **Outpacing Ability to Pay Workers:** Current rates can't keep pace with increasing demand.



How Can You **Help Solve The Challenges** Facing Family Care & Day Services?

Secure Additional Funding: Approve a \$12 million state increase, unlocking an \$18 million federal match. This ensures that these life-changing services remain available, **strengthens Wisconsin's workforce** and **costs the state less** than operating state-run facilities.

Stop Service Denials: Add clear language to DHS/MCO contracts to **prevent duplication rules from blocking day services and programs.**





With additional funding for day services, Family Care allows stability for providers to offer member benefits:

- Enhance quality of life
- Reduce isolation, anxiety and depression
- Foster independent living skills and maintain dignity
- Save taxpayers millions vs. alternative and more expensive care
- Support more affordable options for people to live at own home longer
- Relief for caregivers: Caregiver support reduces stress, absenteeism, and keeps Wisconsin's workforce strong.

Without Additional Funding:

1. More family members **WILL LEAVE THE WORKFORCE** to provide care.
2. Quality of life for seniors and disabled **WILL WORSEN** (isolation, anxiety, depression).
3. Aging at home will be less likely—**RESULTING IN HIGHER COST** options (higher taxpayer burden).
4. Providers face deficits; **WILL BE FORCED TO REDUCE SERVICES OR CLOSE.**
5. **WAITLISTS WILL RISE.**
6. **HEALTHCARE COSTS WILL INCREASE.** Day services provide supervision, health monitoring and early intervention—preventing falls, complications, and emergency room visits that drive up hospital and healthcare costs.

JOIN US

Caregiver workforce shortages and low pay create a care crisis.

With additional funding, organizations can stabilize to offer the most cost-effective way to meet the needs of Wisconsin's most vulnerable.

Your commitment to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) for people with disabilities and seniors makes a lasting impact.

Because of you, thousands of Wisconsinites can live with dignity, choice and independence.

OUR FAMILY CARE STORIES



Nancy and Jeff's Story:

When Care Transforms Lives for Members and Caregivers

Nancy Jacobe, a cherished member of Curative Connections, has been attending our dementia-specific programs since early 2024. Nancy's husband, Jeff, is her loving, devoted caregiver. His kindness and care are truly inspiring as he navigates this challenging journey alongside Nancy.

In the beginning, Nancy was reluctant to attend our programs. However, with time, she has grown to love being here, often expressing her desire to attend every day. Jeff, who for the first month, stayed in the lobby all day just in case Nancy needed him, now feels confident enough to leave, knowing she is in good hands. He has also found support in our caregiver support group, where he connects with others who understand his experiences. Caregiving can be a lonely road and Curative Connections is focused on providing caregivers with the resources and support they want and need.

From Worry to Wonder: Nancy Finds Peace in Yesteryear Village

Nancy was among the first members to attend Curative Connections West, featuring Yesteryear Village—an innovative, proactive approach to reminiscence care for people living with memory loss. On opening day, Nancy was feeling a bit agitated and worried that Jeff, wouldn't return to pick her up. Jeff has been early for every pickup, but memory loss robs people of their security. Because Nancy was upset, Curative President and CEO Jeanne Stangel asked Nancy if they could check out the individual spaces and they could look for him while they toured. In the passenger train car, Nancy lit up and shared a beautiful memory of riding on a passenger train with her mom and sisters from Milwaukee to Texas. She described the layout of the train car and how passengers accessed the beds, shifting her focus from looking for Jeff to engaging with a joyful memory.

Nancy's story is a testament to the positive impact of our programs, not only for those living with memory loss but also for their dedicated caregivers.

OUR FAMILY CARE STORIES



Michael's Story:

Living a Life no one Expected

Once he graduated from high school, there was nowhere for Michael Kallies to go. Nothing for him to do except spend every day at home. Jon and Krissy, Michael's parents, made the difficult decision for Jon to quit his job so he could be with Michael, who is diagnosed with fragile X syndrome and autism. But it wasn't enough. "Michael likes to be part of something," said Jon. "He likes to do different things every day." Spending all day at home, he was bored and frustrated. "He would get angry and slam doors. He just wasn't himself."

Never a Bad Day

Where they lived in Antigo, there wasn't any programming or resources for people with special needs. Michael needed a long-term solution, so Jon and Krissy searched throughout central and northeastern Wisconsin until they found Aspiro. They quickly enrolled Michael in Aspiro's Day Services and his life changed on the first day. Every day is different for Michael, according to Jon. "Sometimes he goes on an outing and does a workout. Some days he wants to go to an art class or a music class," he said. Michael has a group of friends he gets to see every day, and he can choose what he wants to do. He never has a bad day. "He's thriving, and he loves it."

A Sense of Comfort

As much as Aspiro has done for Michael, Jon says it's been equally important for him and Krissy. "Michael's a really good kid. He did well in school, then when he graduated everything came to a sudden stop," he recalled. He added that Aspiro has given their son a sense of purpose and belonging, and it's given him and Krissy a sense of comfort knowing their son is safe and thriving. "It has meant the world to Michael," he said. "I don't know what we would do without Aspiro."

We invite you to visit us, and those we care for
in your district, today!



aspiroinc.org



wearecp.org



curativeconnections.org



innovativecareservices.org



sunshinehouseinc.org



dspn.org



optionsil.org



newcommunityalternatives.com



remarkablewi.org



vpiwi.org