New Voter Law Changes

The new Wisconsin Voter Law has made some changes you will need to know to vote this year and beyond. Below is a list of pertinent changes.

Voters must present a photo ID issued by a specified list of issuers.
Acceptable ID’s for voting in Wisconsin are:

- An unexpired Wisconsin driver’s license
- An unexpired photo ID issued by the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)  Note: Photo ID’s are issued free-of-charge by the Wisconsin DMV. When you go to apply for your ID tell the person at the DMV you need an ID for voting purposes.
- An unexpired U.S. passport
- An unexpired ID issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe an unexpired ID issued by an Wisconsin accredited college or university.

Further information for Elderly and Voters with Disabilities:

- Those who vote at the polling place must sign the poll list. However, voters who are unable to sign because of a physical disability are exempt from this requirement.
- Curbside voting is available if a voter cannot enter the polling place due to disability on Election Day. Photo ID must be provided. Proof of residence must be provided if you are not registered. Two poll workers will bring a ballot to the individual needing assistance, and conduct voting at their vehicle, or at the polling place entrance. These voters are not required to sign the poll list.

Additional changes:

- Increase of Residency Requirement - for state elections, the residency requirement for voter eligibility was extended from 10 days to 28 days.
- Decrease of Period to Cast Absentee Ballots - the time period allowed for absentee ballots to be cast is now 14 days before elections instead of 30 days. In addition, absentee ballots must be cast in person in front of the specified municipal clerk. Under AB-7, absentee ballots must also now be cast no later than Friday before any election. Indefinitely confined electors (permanent absentees) may provide a copy of their photo ID, but the witness certification on the absentee envelope will qualify as a substitute proof of ID.

For detailed information about the Voter ID law and polling place accessibility, please visit the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) website: http://gab.wi.gov or call 1-866-VOTE-WIS or contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at 608-261-2028 or for TTY 1-800-947-3529. You may also contact your local Clerk of Courts.
From the Director: Options has had a complete transformation in the past year. We have remodeled and updated many of the features of the David L. Hall Showcase Home & Office Complex. The building interior has been repainted new carpeting and flooring throughout the facility are just a few of the changes. Perhaps the biggest and most exciting change is that all the restrooms are upgraded thanks to a donation from Kohler Company. In most instances, bathroom accessibility is one of the biggest problem areas to independence for people with physical disabilities and those who are older. Now, we have state-of-the-art technology in all the restrooms.

In addition, front page newsletter article is about voting and new voter ID requirements. I urge everyone to get “registered” so you can exercise one of the greatest rights afforded American Citizens – the right to vote to choose your political representatives. The Spring Primaries will be approaching very soon. Being registered is a prerequisite to be able to vote. Please review the article carefully and register. Remember those infamous words of Justin Dart, the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act: “Get into politics as if your life depended on it. It does.”

By Thomas J. Diedrick, Executive Director

Still having problems getting your Medical Assistance transportation through LogistiCare? Let Options help...

By Sandy Popp, Independent Living Coordinator

As you are aware, on July 1, 2011, ForwardHealth (WI Medical Assistance) began using a new non-emergency medical transportation manager called LogistiCare to arrange all rides to medical appointments covered by Medical Assistance and Badger Care Plus. LogistiCare has been in business for over 6 months and people across the state continue to have problems acquiring their Medical Assistance transportation through LogistiCare.

Whether it is LogistiCare not responding to the many calls of concerns, providers showing up with inappropriate vehicles or not showing up at all, or even the lack of providers, people are not receiving the rides they desperately need to their medical appointments. In addition, many have just given up, delayed their medical needs, or found alternatives. This should not be happening as Medical Assistance transportation is your right!

Options would like to assist you with receiving the Medical Assistance transportation you deserve through LogistiCare. Call Options toll-free at (888) 465-1515 and an Options IL Coordinator will work with you and LogistiCare to make sure you get the medical assistance transportation you need. Together we can make sure LogistiCare does what they were hired to do!

On a side note: A LogistiCare business card was just published giving all the pertinent LogistiCare numbers. Options thought you would like the information. Here are the numbers:

Reservation Line — (866) 907-1493
“Where’s My Ride” and Complaint Line — (866) 907-1494

Also do not be afraid to ask for the phone number for the provider LogistiCare will be sending to pick you up. LogistiCare must give you the phone number if you ask. Some people have called the provider the day before to make sure they would be picked up and to make sure the provider was bringing the right vehicle. Be proactive!
Wisconsin WisLoan Program

WisLoan is a state-wide alternative loan program helping Wisconsin’s residents with a disability to purchase assistive technology that assists them in living more independently and productively. Any Wisconsin resident with a disability over the age of 18 in need of assistive technology or home modifications is eligible to apply for a loan.

Some examples of assistive technology include wheelchairs, hearing aids, CCTV’s, and vehicles with modifications. In addition, loans have been approved for home modifications such as ramp construction and roll-in showers. Loan amounts range from $500.00 to $50,000.00, but the actual loan amount will depend on the items purchased and your ability to repay.

Current interest rate on a WisLoan is 6.5%. If you have bad credit, including bankruptcy, your application will still be considered. The focus is on the ability to make monthly payments to pay back the loan. Reasons for bad credit are taken into consideration. For more information or to apply for WisLoan call Options at 920-490-0500 or toll-free at 888-465-1515.

WisLoan is a federally-funded project of the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation, and a cooperative service of the WI Dept. of Health and Family Services, IndependenceFirst, and M & I Marshall and Ilsley Bank.

Telework Loan Program

The Wisconsin Telework program is a statewide, alternative loan program that allows Wisconsin residents with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home or from other remotes sites away from the office, such as work on the road or at a Telework center. Loan the funds can be used to purchase equipment, training to use equipment, extended warranties, and cost of maintenance and repairs.

You can apply for the amount you need, but actual loan amounts will depend on the item purchased and your ability to repay the loan. The interest rate is 6.5%. Term length depends on the amount of the loan and the item purchased. For more information contact the staff at Options for Independent Living at (888) 465-1515 (V/TTY) or 490-0500 (Voice) or 490-0600 (TTY).

This program is made possible through a grant from Rehabilitative Services Administration and authorized by section (303)b of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and implemented by subsequent program regulation 34 C FR Part 373. The Department of Workforce Development-Division of Rehabilitation received the grant and provides programmatic and fiscal oversight. IndependenceFirst, a community based and consumer-controlled independent living center based in Milwaukee, administers the program in partnership with M & I Marshall and Ilsley (M&I)Bank and seven WI independent living centers.
Options for Independent Living’s
Medicaid Personal Care Program

Options offers a Personal Care Program for people with disabilities who are:

- Medicaid beneficiaries,  
- require personal care services,  
- and have identified an individual to provide personal care.

The program is consumer directed and includes personal care assistance with: bathing, dressing/undressing, prosthetics, grooming, eating, mobility in home, toileting, transferring, and incidental services (laundry, light housekeeping, meal prep).

The consumer must agree to responsibly use personal care services and have back-up support available as needed. Options does not provide emergency or back-up personal care services.

Consumers utilizing Options Personal Care Program must have chosen an individual who they are interested in hiring. The Personal Care Worker (PCW) candidate must be at least 18 years old and, ideally, be trained in the skill(s) necessary to provide cares to the consumer. The PCW can not be a parent/guardian of a minor child or a spouse.

If you have a referral or would like more information on Options Personal Care Program please contact Lynn Smits, HR Manager/Personal Care Coordinator, at (920) 490-8270 ext. 114 or toll-free at 888-465-1515, ext. 114 or e-mail at lynns@optionsil.org.

Social Security Gives Cost of Living Raise (COLA)

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 60 million Americans will increase 3.6 percent in 2012. The 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) began with benefits that nearly 55 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2012. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries began on December 30, 2011.

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to $110,100 from $106,800. Of the estimated 161 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2012, about 10 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum.

Although this is good news for beneficiaries, the increase may be partially offset by increases in Medicare premiums. The new Medicare Part B average premium for outpatient care will be $99.90 a month for 2012, which is an additional $3.50 a month higher than last year.
2012 Changes to take note of for State benefits like FoodShare, Medical Assistance, Badger Care, etc.

The new year has brought changes for WI residents who receive, or are eligible to receive, assistance such as FoodShare or Medicaid. Starting January 2012, consumers will not be able to leave a voice mail message on their Economic Support caseworker's direct line nor will they, when reporting changes related to the services they receive, necessarily be talking to a caseworker.

These changes are reportedly part of "efficiencies" that the State of Wisconsin has implemented in its income maintenance budget. Starting in January every Wisconsin county except Milwaukee be part of a multi-county consortium to provide income maintenance services. The major change that consumers will experience is they no longer can leave messages with their Economic Support caseworker when they need to make changes or ask questions related to their services.

From now on requests for these service will be handled by trained economic support workers who will be available at a "call change center" via a toll-free phone number. One positive aspect of this new call center is you will get a live person on the phone whenever you call. Also, consumers can arrange an in-person appointment with an Economic Support Worker in their home county through the call center.

How To Get Help
If you are a Northeast WI County resident who is a recipient or potential recipient of FoodShare, Medical Assistance, Badger Care Plus, or Family Planning Only services, listed below is the toll-free telephone number of the consortium you will need to contact for the county in which you reside. The phone lines of the consortium will be answered from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Use this number to apply for benefits, report changes, ask questions, or make an appointment for services. You also may get assistance online at: access.wi.gov.

Bay Lake Consortium for Brown, Door, Marinette, Oconto, Shawano Counties
Phone Number: 1-888-794-5747
Lead Agency — Brown County

East Central IM Partnership for Calumet, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marquette, Outagamie, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago,
Phone Number: 1-888-256-4563
Lead Agency — Marquette County

Moraine Lakes Consortium for Fond du Lac County
Phone Number: 1-888-446-1239
Lead Agency — Fond du Lac County
Accessible Travel Information

WI State Parks

WI State Parks have many accessible camping alternatives for the camper with a disability. There are accessible campsites, accessible cabins, and rustic cabins for person with disabilities. If you are able to camp, most parks have accessible camping sites, picnic areas, park offices and toilet/shower facilities. The accessible cabins are like small cottages and contain beds, a bathroom, cooking area, etc. inside the cabin. Rustic Cabins have a bed and bunks, but do not contain an inside bathroom. Also the cooking area is the outside pit area. These are for individuals wanting a more tent like experience.

For those who are not able to tent camp the following accessible cabins/cottages are available:

- Mirror Lake State Park in Baraboo (608) 254-2333
- Buckhorn State Park in Necedah (608) 565-2789
- Kettle Moraine State Forest in Eagle (262) 254-2333
- Potowatami State Park in Sturgeon Bay (920) 746-2890
- High Cliff in Sherwood (920) 989-1106
- Kohler-Andrea in Sheboygan (920) 451-4080
- Richard Bong State Recreation Area in Kansasville (262) 878-5600

Rustic Cabins are located at:

- Blue Mound State Park in Blue Mound (608) 437-5711
- Copper Falls State Park in Mellen (920) 492-5836

Reservations fill up quickly each year, therefore try to make your plans early. For more information on the accessible camp sites and cabins call the numbers listed. For information on WI Parks call your local WI Department of Natural Resources or the State of at (608) 266-2181 and (608) 267-2752 TTY or toll-free at (888) 936-7463. You can also check out the website at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/access/cabin.html.

Accessible Bed and Breakfasts

- Welcome HOME located in Newburg
  For information or reservations: Call (262) 675-2525
  www.hnet.net/~welcomehome/

- The Feathered Star located in Egg Harbor
  2 rooms have roll-in showers
  For information or reservations: Call toll-free (877)743-4066
  www.featheredstar.com
Accessible Travel continued...

Lodges/Resorts

Sunset Pines Resort
Willard, WI
(715) 267-6989
www.sunsetpinesresort.com

Accessible Tours Travel Planners

Abel Trek Tours
Reedsburg WI
(800) 205-6713
(608) 524-8302
www.abletrektours.com

Internet Resources

http://accesstravelcenter.com/

http://www.easyaccesstravel.com/about.html

**Please note, Options staff have toured the Bed and Breakfast’s listed and they are very accessible for individuals who use wheelchairs. Also the State Park Cabins are very accessible. We have not toured the resorts or lodges nor have we worked with any of the travel planners. It is best to call and make sure the type of access you require will be provided.

In addition, this list is compiled from information in our library. There may be other accessible places to stay or travel planners we are not aware of. Help us make our list more complete. If you know of any others please feel free to share the information by calling us at Options toll-free (888) 465-1515.
Options for Independent Living Inc.
Vision and Mission Statements

VISION STATEMENT
Options for Independent Living empowers people with disabilities.

MISSION STATEMENT
Options for Independent Living, serving people with disabilities in 17 counties of Northeast Wisconsin, is the pre-eminent non-profit organization of choice to empower people with disabilities. Options provides opportunities, through advocacy and education, for individuals with all disabilities and ages, to actively access their communities, maximize their independence, and connect with the resources and funding available to them.

Join Options at their
4th Annual Daytona 500 Party Fundraiser

If you are a NASCAR fan this event is for you. Options is hosting its 4th Annual Daytona 500 Party Fundraiser on Sunday, February 26, 2012. It will be held at the Stadium View, Green Bay. Watch the “Great American Race” on 2 – giant 10 foot screens and 6 large flat screen TV’s. Even if you are not a race fan there is so much happening you will enjoy yourself. There will be raffles and a silent auction, a buffet lunch with hot & cold items, beer, soda and door prizes! All of this for a $20 ticket price. Doors will open 1 hour prior to race. Tickets can be purchased at Options for Independent Living or at the door.

All proceeds benefit the programs and services of Options for Independent Living, Inc. If you would like to purchase tickets or have any questions please contact Options toll-free at 1-888-465-1515.

Hope to See You There!
For Sale Items

Vehicles/Vans/ Accessories

2002 Dodge Van Caravan Sport - Has 63,000 miles with Braun/VMI Lift conversion. Excellent condition. Asking $12,000.00. Please contact Carrie at (715) 584-4033

Braun Transfer Assistance Seat (TAS) for Van
Less than a year old and only used for two months. Excellent condition. Asking $4,000. Contact Pearl at (920) 853-3285

Bruno ASL 400 Scooter Lift Jr - 6 years old. Located in Two Rivers. Asking $600, was $1200 new. Contact Gary at (920) 794-7885

Bruno ASL 250 Scooter Lift for back of mini van. Lifted a power wheelchair. In good condition. Appleton Area. Any reasonable offer will be considered. Contact Timothy at (home) (920) 364-0650 or cell (920) 915-9242

Excel Lift by VMT. Like new, used about 3 months. Any reasonable offer will be considered. It is at a small business location. Green Bay area. Contact Susie, Henry or Bill (920) 434-9099. Please call between 8 am - 5 pm

Hand Controls
Complete set of hand controls for gas and brake. Lena area. Asking $495. Contact John at 715-701-1795

Mobility Aids

Jazzy 1113 Power Chair, 2004 model with newer battery and charger in very good condition. Located in Green Bay. Any reasonable offer will be considered. Contact Karen (920) 425-3035

Pinto Power Chair Purchased from Scooter Store 4 years ago. Good condition. 300 lb weight limit. Includes battery and charger. $500 or Best Offer Contact Pearl at (920) 853-3285. Located in Hilbert.

Jazzy Model 1120-2000 Power Wheelchair Originally $5,900. 10 years old (used only 2 years). $400 or best offer. Call Pat at (920) 499-2653. Located in Green Bay.

For Sale Items Cont...

Miscellaneous Items

**Invacare Fully Automatic Hospital Bed** - 5 years old and in very good condition. Any reasonable offer will be considered. Appleton Area. Call Timothy at home (920) 364-0650 or cell (920) 915-9242

**FlexSteel lift chair** in very good condition. Cranberry color. Purchased in 2007 for $900. Asking $400. Cheryl Kjelstrup rckjelstrup@gmail.com

**Blue lift chair** Holds up to 300#, in great condition. Shawano area. Asking $250
Contact Carrie Habeck at (715) 584-4033

**Invacare 450 Hoyer Lift**  Asking $2,500 Holds 500 lb. Battery and charger, flat pad. Green Bay area. Contact Lory at (920) 621-4459

**Magna Sight CCTV**  Like new. Brand new $5000, asking $500. Manitowoc area. Contact Rick at (920) 901-4295

**New suction pump**  Never used. Any reasonable offer will be considered. Appleton Area
Contact Timothy at home at (920) 364-0650 or cell (920) 915-9242

**Wescolator Stair Glide**  11 1/2 foot rail, weight capacity 300#. Good condition. 5-6 years old. Was $2000 new. Any reasonable offer will be considered. Contact Gary at (920) 469-1231. Green Bay area.

Other Used Medical Equipment Resources


**UsedHME.com**: a free listing service where people can buy, sell, or donate "Used Home Medical Equipment". We are zip code driven so usedHME.com is local for everyone. Equipment that can be found: mobility scooters, power chairs, stair lifts, lift chairs, wheelchair accessible vans and much more.
Don’t Forget to Visit Options Website

Check out Options expanded website at www.optionsil.com. The website is updated frequently and features information on Options services, area events, helpful links, and assistive technology for sale. We hope you will find our website informative, up to date, and easy to use. Visit us at:

www.optionsil.com

Staff Directory

Main Office—Green Bay
555 Country Club Road
Toll Free 1-888-465-1515
Fax 920-490-0700
TTY 920-490-0600

STAFF DIRECTORY
To reach staff directly, Call (920) 490-8270, then the Extension below:

Executive Director
Thomas J. Diedrick Ext 111
tomd@optionsil.org

Assistant Director
Kathryn C. Barry Ext 183
kittyb@optionsil.org

Rehabilitation Technology Specialist
Steve LaFrombois Ext 122
stevefl@optionsil.org

Benefits Counseling
Karin Zuleger Ext 106
karinz@optionsil.org

Independent Living Coordinator
Sandra L. Popp Ext 179
sandyp@optionsil.org

Independent Living Coordinator
Vicky Lasch Ext 113
vickyl@optionsil.org

Grassroots Advocacy Organizer
Byia Martin Ext 108
byiam@optionsil.org

Assistive Technology Specialist
Calvin Richtig Ext. 130
calvinr@optionsil.org

Secretary
Barbara Guyes Ext 145
bargy@optionsil.org

Accountant
Peggy Maas Ext 142
peggym@optionsil.org

HR Manager/Personal Care Coordinator
Lynn Smits Ext 114
lynnm@optionsil.org

RN Supervisor—PCA Program
Bonnie Stankevitz Ext 184

RN—PCA Program
Ann Nelson Ext 181

RN—PCA Program
Dawn Tietyen Ext. 182

Certified Peer Specialists
Katy Gage—(920) 609-2142
Gail Herger—920-609-9467

Fox Valley Office—Appleton
820 W College Avenue

Independent Living Coordinator
John Meissner - Appleton office
920-997-9999
johnm@optionsil.org

Independent Living Coordinator
Lynne Wichmann
(920) 882-9309
lynnw@optionsil.org

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Race Fans Mark Your Calendars. It’s time for Options for Independent Living’s 4th Annual Daytona 500 Party Fundraiser

**Where:** Stadium View Sports Bar
1963 Holmgren Way, Green Bay

**Time:** Doors Open 1 hour before Race begins

**Cost:** $20 per person—kids under 12 $5

Includes buffet lunch, snacks, beer and soda.
Watch the race on 2—10 foot screens and 6 large screen TV’s
The event will also include a silent auction, raffles, door prizes, and much more. See you there!