

Centerpoint

Taking Control of Tomorrow

WINTER ISSUE 2023

From the Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As the weather cools and it seems like we are suddenly almost to 2024, I am excited to share the latest updates from Options for Independent Living!

The Options Community Expo held in August was a huge success. Options staff coordinated several durable medical equipment pick-ups throughout our service area in collaboration with many of the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. Following these pick-ups, we held an event at Option's Showcase Model Home in Green Bay. With tremendous community support we were able to fill an entire semi-trailer with unused or broken durable medical equipment! The items were then sent to the Red Granite Correctional Facility for refurbishment, offering them at significantly reduced prices. This not only keeps valuable resources out of landfills but also ensures that those in need can access essential equipment affordably.

Spring and early summer saw Options engage in strategic planning with our dedicated Board of Directors. I am delighted to announce that the strategic plan, a roadmap for our future endeavors, was approved at our May Board meeting. This plan reflects our commitment to understanding the evolving needs of the people we serve and taking proactive steps to enhance our services.

In talking about the future, next May

2024 Options David Hall Showcase Model Home and Office will be 25 years old! Time flies! In addition, Options has been serving people with disabilities and those who are aging in northeast WI approaching 45 years! Therefore, we are celebrating. Mark your calendars for June 13, 2024. More information to come in our next newsletter.

As we look forward to the future, the Options team is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. This newsletter will serve as a platform to share exciting highlights of the impactful work Options is doing throughout our service territory. From empowering individuals with disabilities and fostering community collaboration, Option's staff continues to be busy sharing our resources with the community.

I want to extend my wishes for a joyful and peaceful holiday season! Sincerely,



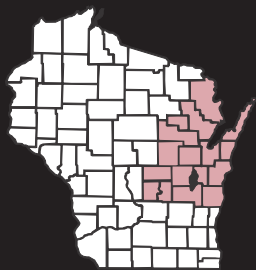
Josh Theis
Executive Director
josht@optionsil.org
920-393-1045

P.S. As we continue to expand our outreach efforts and connect with a wider audience, I want to invite you to join us on our journey through social media. Our Facebook page has become a vibrant space where we share stories, updates on events, and valuable resources. Take a moment to check it out!

Serving 17 counties in
Northeast Wisconsin
and the Fox Valley

In this Issue:

Consumer Spotlight	
-Navigator Program	2
5 Holiday Tips	2
Warmline Resources	3
Adaptive Adventures	3
-Consumer Highlight	4
Wheel Hike	5
WI State Park News	6
Join Act Now!	6
Tech Closet News	7
-Serene Alert System	8
TEPP Information	8-9
Welcome New Staff	
-Millie Kaster	10
Year At a Glance	10
Benefits Buzz Update	
-Social Security for 2024	11
2024 Election Information	12
HOME Loan Program	13
Personal Assistance Program	13
WisLoan-Telework Loan	14
Mission Statement	14
Directory	15



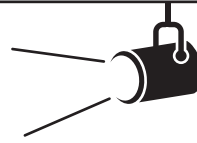
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Consumer Spotlight - Modification Navigator (NAV) Pilot Program Grant



People with disabilities face many physical and environmental barriers daily. In addition, navigating through a benefit system can prove to be overwhelming and equally frustrating. Through a grant awarded to Options for Independent Living, the Modification Navigation Pilot has been able to break down some barriers' consumers, such as Michael, had been presented with.


Michael had shared with Options' staff that he had challenges in getting out of bed before the arrival of his morning caregiver. After some discussion with the Options' staff, it was determined that a security pole could best eliminate this barrier. To date, the pole gives Michael a safe way to get out of bed. The security pole was one item that was purchased through the NAV Pilot Program.

In October of this year, through Options' LEND program, Michael received a power chair at no charge to him. After months of Michael not being able to get out into the community due to physical and environmental barriers, Michael was able to be independently mobile. Many workers at Options were present to celebrate this joyous moment as Michael socialized and enjoyed our Model Showcase and Office Complex, and our accessible garden.

Options continues to work on accessibility goals that will allow Michael and his caregivers to safely come and go from his home by a ramp.

If you are faced with similar barriers, are stuck, and are uncertain where to go for assistance, please consider contacting Options for Independent Living at 888-465-1515. The Modification Navigator Pilot program may be able to assist.

While the Modification Navigator Pilot is intended to assist those who are participants in IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-direct) and CLTS (Children's Long-Term Support) programs, please do not hesitate to call Options as there may be other programs available.

The Modification Navigator Pilot is made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), as the result of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). 

5 Tips To Keep Your Sanity During the Holidays

By Emily Cowles, AmeriCorps Service member at HopeChats Community

Recognize it is a season, with a beginning and an end - The holidays do not last forever. It is a special and stressful time. Enjoy Grandma's Thanksgiving pie and appreciate and enjoy all the wonderful holiday foods.

Eat regularly (every 4-5 hours) even if it is a snack - Skipping meals to eat a big one can lead to binge eating and overeating. You will enjoy yourself more if you eat regularly, even if it is a small snack until the main meal is ready.

Pair your Carbs with a fat, protein or fiber - The holidays are all about the carbs - pie, mashed potatoes, stuffing and green bean casserole. Making sure to eat protein, fat and fiber with your delicious carbs means you will be more satisfied and keep your blood sugar from spiking.

Continued on Page 3

Get quality sleep - Even if you are going to bed later during the festivities, getting up at the same time helps your body stay in a healthy rhythm. If you can get eight hours of sleep your body and mind will thank you.

Practice Gratitude - The holidays are stressful, but finding things to be grateful for help shift our minds into a healthy state by taking our bodies out of fight or flight mode. We are able to digest food better and absorb more nutrients when we are coming from a place of thanks. ☉

Emily Cowles, RD, Public Health AmeriCorps Member Serving at HopeChats Community, Marshfield Clinic Health System Community Corps Member RDEmily@emskitchentable.com <https://www.hopechatscommunity.com/>

New Warmline Resources:

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announces a new phone line is now available allowing all Wisconsinites to share their successes and challenges with a peer who will listen and offer support. Built by Mental Health America of Wisconsin under a grant from DHS for people experiencing mental health and substance use concerns, UpliftWI, can be reached at 534-202-5438 daily from noon to midnight, with 24/7 operation expected by the end of the year. This non-emergency service is free and confidential.

“We’re pleased to partner with Mental Health America of Wisconsin on this expansion of peer services in Wisconsin,” said DHS Deputy Secretary Deb Standridge. “The peer-to-peer support offered by UpliftWI is a proven way to help people get the help they need and stay healthy. This service is going to improve lives by providing preventive care for people experiencing stress or other challenges in their lives.”

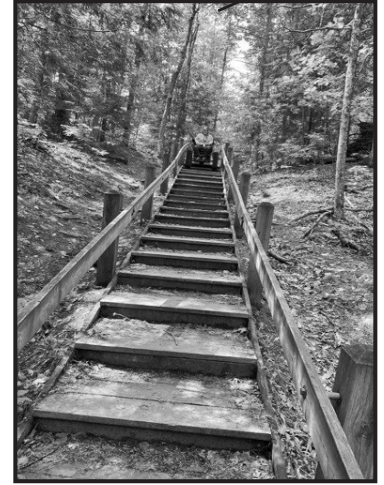
Callers to UpliftWI speak to certified peer specialists with diverse life experiences stationed across the state. A certified peer specialist is a person who has navigated their own mental health and substance use challenges, completed a training course, and passed a state exam that tests their skills and knowledge about how to support others. They use their personal experiences to help callers identify and pursue their own wellness goals and will share information about community resources if requested. Callers are not required to provide their name, address, or other identifying information. ☉

Options Adaptive Adventures Program

Options recently started an adaptive recreation program named Adaptive Adventures. Options AT staff person, Calvin Richtig, has written grants or accepted donations for numerous pieces of adaptive rec equipment. Currently Options has a Track chair, a Terrain Hopper, a Firefly attachment for a manual wheelchair to become similar to an E-bike, an E-Trike, and two tricycles. Options also has sled hockey sleds and will hold clinics throughout the year. If you’d like to learn more about the recreational equipment/programs available and how you or someone you know can experience being outdoors and active once again, please contact Calvin at 920-393-1037 or calvinr@optionsil.org to check on equipment availability and learn about great places to visit. ☉

Consumer Highlight - Adaptive Adventures

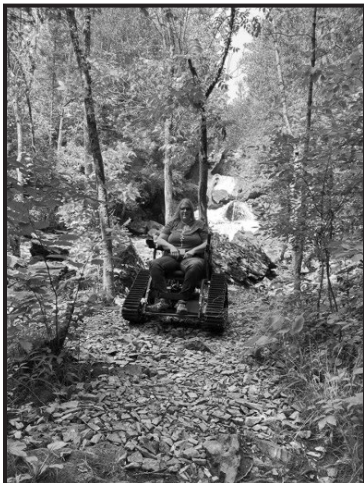
I just want to say "Thank You" to each party that helped to make using this chair available to so many people in need. We used it for our weeks' vacation this summer. We started by using it in Lakewood for a stroll through the paths of Cathedral Pines. It was nice to be able to make this easier on my husband. We hadn't been here in 15-20 years. We then proceeded to the next day's adventure of going to 10 of the falls in Marinette Park system. I was able to get to areas that would not have been easy to do with my own wheelchair. Going down & up these stairs with some assistance from my husband was a highlight of going to the falls. This was the first time we journeyed to some of these places because of accessibility. It was a huge blessing to have the track chair at Long Slide Park because it had a 220-yard steep path to go to the bottom & see the falls. There were a few bridges that were just big enough to go across. We spoke with a park person and informed him of the width needing to be made a little wider for the track chair. As you can see this was quite an incline to go up. We would never have attempted this in my chair, as my husband would have been done for the day if we had.



We then ventured into the UP to see a large number of stops. We started with a few falls along the way & then many of the sights in Pictured Rocks state park. Being able to get out on the beach & go for a stroll with my husband was a true joy, especially since we had not been able to get out in sandy area for so many years. Being able to look down at the shoreline as we went along the cliffs was great. Being able to take and go for the two plus mile hike to this off the drive path was much more pleasant for my husband not having to push me.

Again, I just want to say it is a beautiful blessing to have been able to borrow this track chair. The donation & sponsorship of this gift to the disabled is greatly appreciated. As I wrote this I was in tears. Thank you all so much for making life a pure joy by being able to use this track chair for our vacation.

Sincerely, Donna Roffers ☺



Wheel Hike Together

The second annual Wheel Hike Together event took place in October at Thunder Mountain Overlook in Marinette County during peak foliage. This event allows participants with limited mobility to use an outdoor wheelchair to access the trails. This event is headed by Marinette County Parks and Tourism departments in collaboration with Options for Independent Living and Marinette County ADRC.

We gathered up ten outdoor wheelchairs this year, which were available for one-hour reservations over the span of six days. Participants could then hike several miles of trails and an incredible lookout over beautiful Marinette County during the peak colors of foliage. This year 52 people used the outdoor wheelchairs. 129 total people participated in the event including family/friends/caregivers.

Surveys indicated that 97% of participants felt the use of the outdoor wheelchairs provided an opportunity to participate in an activity they otherwise would not have been able. When participants were asked what they enjoyed the most about using the outdoor wheelchair replies were: “Being with my bride”; “The ability to be able to go on a hike with my family”; “Watching my grandson enjoy the outdoors”; “Getting out and actually doing something”; “It brought me to places I never thought I’d go again”; “Getting my son to places he can’t see!”; “Feel independent and can do things at your own pace”; “It gave me freedom to do something I wouldn’t normally do”; and “Freedom”.

The feedback received indicated people want more frequent opportunities to do this type of an adventure because it was such a meaningful experience for them. Therefore, we hope to be able to collaborate with other groups to provide these types of experiences more often and in more places throughout our service area. ○



Wheel Hike Together 2023

WI State Parks - It's Soon Time to Reserve your Accessible Cabin!

With winter comes planning vacations for spring and summer. If you are looking for the right time to reserve one of the accessible cabins in one of our beautiful State Parks, the Wisconsin State Park System offers 10 accessible cabins. There are 8 larger cabins and 2 smaller, rustic cabins. These cabins are available only to people with disabilities and their guests and must be reserved ahead of time.

Reservations are needed for all accessible cabins in the Wisconsin State Park System. Only one reservation period will be confirmed per application. Due to the high demand, reservations will not be accepted for more than four consecutive nights and no more than four nights per year. There is a \$7.95 reservation fee in addition to the nightly cabin rate. The first day to make reservations is January 10. Applications will not be accepted postmarked or delivered before January 10.

The reservation request form lists cabin details, rules and regulations, rates, refund information and reservation conditions. Campers must fill out the form completely. This application does not guarantee your reservation – the property office will notify you when your reservation has been confirmed.

Mail or deliver your completed Cabin Reservation Request Form to the state park/for where you wish to reserve a cabin. Disabled applicants must identify themselves (or one of their camping party) on the application form. The addresses are listed on the form. Please make sure the envelope is marked "Cabin Reservation". You may reserve any cabin by calling the park between June 1 and the season's end, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by visiting the website at: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/camping/adacabins> ☉

Want to Get Involved in Legislative Advocacy?

It's easy, join Act Now!

Do you want your voice to be heard, but feel your voice alone would not be enough? Join Options' legislative advocacy network, Act Now! Individuals in the network receive legislative alerts and updates on issues impacting people with disabilities. When an alert or update is received, everyone on the network is encouraged to pursue the issue by contacting their area legislators, therefore combining your voice with many! Act Now alerts can be delivered either through email or US Postal Mail.

Contacting your legislators about issues that may affect you, or someone you know, is important. Your legislators want to hear firsthand how legislation being considered can impact your life positively or negatively. It helps in their decision making. Joining Act Now will assist you in those efforts. This network will educate you on the issues and help you to advocate more effectively. The more people in the network, the greater the impact.

If you are interested in joining Act Now, contact Sandy Popp at Options (920) 393-1043 or toll-free at (888) 465-1515, ext.179, or sandyp@optionsil.org. ☉

Options LEND Program

Options LEND Program is available for people who have temporary or long-term need for durable medical equipment such as walkers, wheelchairs, bath benches, etc. Options takes in donated durable medical equipment that is in good working condition, cleans it up and gives it back to those who need it in our community. We do not take items with electrical cords, power wheelchairs, medical supplies, or hospital beds. Options LEND closet is open 9 to 11:30 am and 12:30 – 3 pm Monday through Friday. For any questions contact Roxanne at Options at 888-465-1515.

LEND Program Consumer Highlights:

*Just wanting you to know how much your "Lend Program" has helped my husband and I out. It's a blessing that this program is available. We have needed to borrow things in the past and as we speak. Without this program we wouldn't have the things we need to survive for the moment. Living on a fixed income makes it impossible to buy the things needed when they are needed in a pinch. We are just so grateful for this program and hope it sticks around for the needy for a long time. You guys are "Angels" in disguise. We are so grateful for this program. It has helped us out many times.

*I am so appreciative of Options for Independent Living. My husband who has Parkinson's was able to get a transfer wheelchair, shower chair, and a walker, a true God send for us. I also got a shower chair for my daughter that was recovering from surgery. The staff has been so kind and helpful. Options is a true asset to our community and will be forever grateful for them.

*Absolutely Amazing! Incredibly grateful we can borrow instead of buy – low funds on a fixed income. You are all awesome. Thank You. ☺

Tech Closet News

Options has Assistive Technology (AT) Specialists who can assess an individual with a disability to determine the role assistive technology can play in achieving greater independence. For more information on assistive technology that can help you reach your goal of independence, contact Calvin Richtig, Options AT Specialist, at 920-393-1037 or toll-free at 888-465-1515, ext.130.

Assistive technology partially supported by the WisTech, Assistive Technology Program. Telecommunication partially is funded by the Universal Service Fund (USF.) ☺



NEW Assistive Technology Serene Alert System with Doorbell and Bed Shaker

The new and improved alert system with an LCD screen receiver and doorbell transmitter, this kit also includes a wired bed shaker in case you have difficulty waking up to just the sound of an alarm. The updated alert system has an audible speaking voice that informs you when a specific alarm is set off in your home. This device is perfect for someone who may be visually impaired but still needs to be told that a person is at the front door, or a smoke alarm is going off somewhere in the home. This device also includes a flashing light and a loud ringer to get your attention if you are hearing impaired.



If you'd like more information about this item or would like a demonstration of how it works reach out to Ian Kaster (Assistive Technology Specialist) at 920-393-1053. ☎

What is the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP)?

TEPP helps people with disabilities buy equipment they need to use basic telephone services. The TEPP is paid for by the Wisconsin Universal Service Fund (USF) established by the Public Service Commission. Money is collected from Wisconsin telephone service providers to fund the USF. TEPP requires that an applicant:

- Be a Wisconsin resident.
- Be a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired, or mobility or motion impaired.
- Needs special equipment to use the telephone in the home or when traveling (like a TTY, amplification, visual alert system, etc.).

There is no age or income limit, but an individual can only get a TEPP voucher once every three years for the same type of disability. For more information on the TEPP program, contact Ian Kaster, Options AT Specialist at 920-393-1053. ☎

More Information on Page 9

The Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP)

is a funding source through the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin that helps people with disabilities buy specialized equipment they need to use with basic telephone services. The allocated funds at the state level help offset the price of equipment, which in turn makes the device more readily available to those who may not have the funds to purchase the device entirely on their own.

An application would be applied for with an AT specialist, then TEPP would issue you a voucher (physical copy) a few weeks after filling out that said application with us. The voucher can then be applied to an item of your choice. The items eligible for purchase with this TEPP voucher are subject to change and we will help you understand what eligible items are allowed to use your voucher for and what items are not able to be purchased with your voucher.

People often have trouble understanding how to navigate the state program to determine exactly how to use the TEPP program. We will help you make an educated choice on what voucher best fits your needs. We will also help direct you toward the equipment that would benefit you the most by demonstrating how equipment works and possibly loaning items to you. This would allow you to trial a device before you make a purchase. The final installation of a new device and pairing of equipment that is received can sometimes become an obstacle, so we will also help you with the learning and adaptation of that new device in your home.

Many lives have changed due to the help of our staff at Options for Independent Living. Here are just a few of those testimonies that helped empower people to live independent and productive lives:

It has been a pleasure to have the AT specialists at Options work with me. They patiently set up a medical alert device in my home. Without help from your staff at Options I would have been in trouble. Thank you for all the fine work you do at Options and thanks from all of us who need your help. So grateful.

- *Anonymous Consumer*

Our family thanks you so much for helping us find a wireless bed alarm and motion sensor. We can now be alerted as to when our parents get out of bed in the middle of the night and need our help. You have given us peace. We know our family is safe because of the device you showed us today.

- *Anonymous Consumer*

Thank you for your quick response to our need and your knowledge about pill dispensers with alarms. We appreciate all the advice and guidance we've received from you as to where to find a suitable pill dispenser.

- *Anonymous Consumer* ○

Meet Options New Independent Living Coordinator!

Hi, my name is Millie Kaster and I'm the new Independent Living Coordinator here at Options. I was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland and had a rough place to grow up but it has made me the person I am today. My passion for helping others and it has brought a broad spectrum of life and work experience to this job. I worked for the government working for Transportation Security Administration as a passenger support specialist worked closely with passengers who had difficulty or a disability getting through the checkpoint and needing more assistance, a Tact force specialist-trained other airport TSA employees on new dangerous items to be on the lookout for and also a traditional passenger screener at airport checkpoints before boarding airplanes. I love to help people with things they are struggling with or are just in need of an ear for someone to listen to.



I enjoy spending time with my family and going hiking outdoors with my good friend Michelle. When I'm not pregnant I love running, weightlifting and walking my German Shepard, Sweetheart. I enjoy traveling to different hiking places in Wisconsin and the nearby states. My favorite thing to do besides spend time with my children, is to spend time with my Husband Ian and talk for hours about life. He's truly my best friend and I'm very blessed to have him in my life and to help guide me through this messy life. ☺

Options a Year in a Glance...

With 2023 coming to an end let's take a look back at Options activities the past year. Options served over 3000 consumers in our 17 county service area in 2023. We provided 49 presentations/trainings to over 1500 individuals, had 40 booths set up in 15 counties at senior/health/Transition fairs and provided 201 individuals with a tour of Options showcase model home.

Events included two wheelchair washes (Fox Valley and Green Bay), 5 sled hockey clinics; an Expo in August collecting a semi filled with used DME; attended the statewide Independent Living Legislative day in Madison where Options Board and staff visited all our State Senators and Assemblypersons urging them to support programs and services for people with disabilities and those who are aging in the 2023-26 Biennial budget. Staff attended Disability Advocacy Day in April to again promote the needs of people with disabilities in our state budget; Options began Certified Peer Specialist office hours 1 day a week for two hours at the Micah center in Green Bay to be available to people with mental health issues. Other events/trainings included a Caregiver event at the Botanical Gardens in Green Bay; a Transition Fair for students with disabilities in the Fox Valley; and trained 50 students with disabilities from 4 counties the importance of self-advocacy. Staff have been busy working to keep people out of facilities and in the community. We hope 2024 will be even better!

BENEFITS BUZZ - 2024 SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

There will be a 3.2% COLA for 2024. This means Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will increase 3.2%. The increase will start in January 2024 for Social Security benefits and December 29, 2023, for SSI benefits. There will also be changes to certain work incentive amounts. I show some of the changes below. I based this handout on the 2024 Social Security Changes Fact Sheet, which you can view at <https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2024.pdf>. You can find more information at <https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/2023/#10-2023-2>.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Trial Work Period: The amount that counts a month as a Trial Work month will be \$1,110.00 per month in 2024. It is \$1,050.00 per month in 2023.

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)

Non-Blind Amount: The SGA level for people who are not blind will be \$1,550.00 per month in 2024. It is \$1,470.00 per month in 2023.

Blind Amount: The SGA level for people who get SSDI based on blindness will be \$2,590.00 per month in 2024. It is \$2,460.00 per month in 2023.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI Federal Benefit Rate

Individual Amount: It will be \$943.00 per month in 2024. It is \$914.00 per month in 2023.

Couple Amount: It will be \$1,415.00 per month in 2024. It is \$1,371.00 per month in 2023.

SSI Resource Limits

Individual Amount: It will be \$2,000.00 per month in 2024 (the same as previous years).

Couple Amount: It will be \$3,000.00 per month in 2024 (the same as previous years).

SSI Student Earned Income Exclusion

Monthly Limit: The monthly limit for this Exclusion will be \$2,290.00 in 2024. It is \$2,220.00 in 2023.

Annual Limit: The annual limit for this Exclusion will be \$9,230.00 in 2024. It is \$8,950.00 in 2023. ○

2024 Elections

Please Remember to Vote! Your Voice Counts!

2024 will be an important voting year for everyone. We will be voting for President, and in US house and Senate seats, and Senate and Assembly seats. Please make sure you are registered to vote and be aware of where you can vote in your area. Below is information on upcoming elections in WI and how to make sure you are registered or how to register, find your polling place, etc. Remember, voting is a right! Please exercise your right to vote!

- April 2, 2024: Presidential preference primary
- February 20, 2024: Spring primary
- April 2, 2024: Spring general election
- August 13, 2024: Fall primary
- November 5, 2024: Fall general election



To check if you're registered to vote, register to vote, request an absentee ballot, find out what will be on your ballot, and more, visit: www.myvote.wi.gov.

In Wisconsin, you can register to vote 4 different ways:


- Online at myvote.wi.gov/ This requires a photo ID and can be done up to 20 days before the election.
- By Mail This can be done up to 20 days before Election Day. Mail in the completed registration form to your municipal clerk.
- In-person at the municipal clerk's office through the Friday before the election. You must provide proof of residence.
- On Election Day at your polling place. You must provide proof of residence and a photo ID.

To find out about acceptable forms of Proof of Residence visit:

<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/ProofofResidence>

To find out about acceptable forms of Photo ID visit: <http://bringit.wi.gov>

Have Questions? Any of the resources below can help!

- Contact your Municipal Clerk: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Municipal-Clerk>
- Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline: 1-844-347-8683 / 1-844-DIS-VOTE
info@disabilityvote.org
- Wisconsin Elections Commission: <https://elections.wi.gov/> or call 1-866-VOTE-WIS (868-3947)
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Voter ID Hotline: 844-588-1069
- WI Disability Vote Coalition: disabilityvote.org/ 

Options has HOME funds for Home Accessibility, Rehabilitation, or Repair

The HOME Loan Program provides deferred payment / no interest second mortgage loans to make homes accessible or make home repairs. The loans are focused on providing resources to households that include someone who has a disability or is older and is at low-to-moderate income status. Options receives funds for the HOME from the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development through the State of Wisconsin Dept. of Administration, Division of Housing to administer the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME Loan Program.)

The loan must be paid back when the property is sold, transferred, or ceases to be the borrower's principal place of residence. Types of projects include (but not limited to) ramp construction, bathroom, kitchen, and bedroom modifications, along with general housing rehabilitation and repairs.

The counties served by this program include Brown (outside Green Bay City limits), Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago counties. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements to be considered for a loan. For more information contact Steve LaFrombois at stevel@optionsil.org, 920-393-1044, or toll-free at 1-888-465-1515, ext. 122. ☉

Options' Personal Assistance Program for Those on Medicaid

Options' Personal Assistance Services (PAS) Program empowers people & families with disabilities to manage their in-home cares, including the selection of their Care Worker so that they can maintain a strong relationship with them and remain involved in the daily life of their family.

Certified to provide services through Medicaid and to sub-contract services through IRIS, Options' PAS program has been helping adults in need of in-home care for years.

Benefits of Using Options for Personal Care Services:

- Options is not a Staffing Agency. Individuals can have family or friends provide the care.
- Options can provide training for new Care Workers.
- A Case Manager will provide supervision of the Care Worker and coordinate service needs.
- Benefits include Health, Dental & Vision insurance as well as Retirement Savings Accounts for full-time Care Workers (30+ hrs./week.)

For More Information contact: Karen Phillips – PAS Program Director.
karenp@optionsil.org. 920-393-1036. Toll Free: 888-465-1515 ext. 182

Jennifer Lardinois – CLTS Case Manager / Care Coordinator. jenniferL@optionsil.org.
920-393-1032. Toll Free: 888-465-1515 ext. 181 ☉

Wisconsin WisLoan Program

WisLoan is a statewide alternative loan program helping Wisconsin residents with a disability 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, Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV's), and vehicles with modifications, or the modifications necessary to make a vehicle accessible. For more information or to apply for WisLoan call Options at 920-490-0500 or toll-free at 1-888-465-1515.

WisLoan is a federally funded project of the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation, and a cooperative service of the Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, IndependenceFirst, and BMO Harris Bank.

Wisconsin 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 remote sites, e.g., work on the road or at a telework center. Loan funds can be used to purchase equipment, training to use equipment, extended warranties, and cost of maintenance and repairs. For more information, contact the staff at Options for Independent Living at 920-490-0500 or toll-free at 1-888-465-1515.

This program is made possible through a grant from Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA) and authorized by Section (303)b of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and implemented by subsequent program regulation 34 C F R 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 BMO Harris Bank and Wisconsin Independent Living Centers.



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.

Visit us on our Website or Facebook!

Options website is: www.optionsil.com

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options
for independent living^{inc}

**GREEN BAY
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Green Lake	Oconto	Winnebago
Kewaunee	Outagamie	

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