

Centerpoint

Taking Control of Tomorrow

SPRING ISSUE 2024

From the Director

Dear Friends and Supporters, 2024 marks important milestones for Options. Options is approaching 45 years of advocating and serving people with disabilities. Additionally, it marks 25 years since the construction of the Showcase Model Home. On June 13th from 4:00-7:00pm at Options, we will be celebrating these milestones. The Showcase Model Home has served as a valuable resource for our communities displaying how homes can be modified and adapted to improve accessibility. It remains a valuable resource for people in our communities with disabilities, home builders, educators, and advocates. The list goes on. We would like to invite all of you to join us for the celebration!

In February, our team joined forces at IL Days with Independent Living Centers throughout the State in Madison to advocate for legislation aimed at improving the lives of people with disabilities. Options staff had the opportunity to attend educational sessions about many of the services we provide and network with peers who work in independent living throughout the State. Together, we then headed to the Capitol to make our voices heard and championed initiatives that will have a lasting impact on our community.

At Independent Living Days there is an awards ceremony that recognizes individuals that tirelessly advocate. I am pleased to share

that Autumn Nordall, our Advocacy Coordinator, was awarded the prestigious Relentless Badger Award for her tireless efforts in advocacy. Autumn's dedication and passion exemplify the spirit of Options, and we are incredibly grateful for her fierce advocacy on behalf of our community.

We are excited to share that ABLE accounts are now available in Wisconsin, marking a significant milestone in financial empowerment for individuals with disabilities. These accounts provide a pathway to greater independence and financial security.

Just a reminder to VOTE in all the upcoming elections this year! Letting your voice be heard is an important right we have as citizens. Exercising your right brings everyone's voices together making the voices stronger and more powerful. In the words of Disability Advocate Justin Dart, "Vote as if your life depends on it, cause it does."

More information on all the above can be found in the newsletter.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission. We look forward to celebrating these milestones together and continuing our journey! ☺



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

Serving 17 counties in
Northeast Wisconsin
and the Fox Valley

In this Issue:

SAVE the DATES	2
IL Days in Madison	3
2024 Relentless Badger -Autumn Nordall	3
ABLE Act Enacted	4
Remember to Vote!	5
Disability Advocacy Days	6
Join Act Now!	6
NAV Program	7
Adaptive Adventures	7
DOT Input Opportunity	8
Success Story!	9
LEND Program	10
Tech Closet News	10
TEPP Information	11
Benefits Buzz Update -Social Security Key Updates	12
HOME Loan Program	13
Personal Assistance Program	13
WisLoan-Telework Loan	14
Mission Statement	14
Directory	15



A publication of:

options
for independent living, inc.
optionsil.com



Wheelchair & Adaptive Stick Curling Saturday, April 13 at 10am-12pm Free Event for Anyone To Join!

Anyone, any age, with a disability is welcome to join. Bring your family, friends, care givers to try out stick curling and learn about the sport, no experience necessary.

Please bring a pair of clean athletic shoes if you plan to walk on the ice, sticks and instruction provided. Due to limited availability RSVP required. Please contact Dave at 920-393-1055 or davew@optionsil.org with questions. ☉

Fox Valley Wheelchair Wash Friday, April 26 at 11 am-3pm – New Venue!

For those attending the Wash last year, this year there is a change of venue for the Fox Valley Wheelchair Wash. It will be at VPI Inc., and United Way Facility, at 110 N Kensington Drive, Appleton WI, from 11 am – 3 pm. Go towards the United Way sign. All chairs will be cleaned and inspected. Trained individuals will be available for safe transfers. There will be a light lunch. There will be information by Hagar Comfort Dog and the Quantum secure system by Valley Transit on site. Reservations are required and can be made at Making the Ride Happen at 920-225-1719. Walk-ins may have longer wait times. So come and join us on Friday, April 26 and have a little lunch, visit with friends, all while getting your mobility device cleaned and inspected!

The Fox Valley Wheelchair Wash is sponsored by: ALS Association, Easter Seals, WI, Lutheran Social Services, Make the Ride Happen, NuMotion, Options for Independent Living, United Way, Valley Transit, and VPI Inc. ☉

**You are Cordially Invited to
Help Options Celebrate its Anniversary!**

HAPPY
Anniversary

Options is holding a 25/45 Year Anniversary on June 13th!

It has been 25 years since our Showcase Model Home was built and 45 years of serving consumers with disabilities in Options service area! Options is holding the celebration from 4:00-7 pm on Thursday, June 13th at Options, 555 Country Club Road, Green Bay. There will be hors d'oeuvres, tours of Options highlighting the history, speakers, and much more. Please come celebrate this wonderful occasion with us! ☉

Options staff and Board members traveled to Madison on February 13-15 for IL Days.

Every year Options staff, some Board members, and consumers meet with staff and Board from all the WI Independent Living Centers in Madison for a day of training and a day of meeting with our legislators. We call this IL Days. Options group met with over 20 of the 30 legislators/staff serving Options 17 county service area. This year, as we have done for many years, our topics for discussion with our legislators ranged from an increase for independent living centers throughout the state, to increased transportation options for people with disabilities, funding for mental health programs, and the personal care crisis in Wisconsin. Educating our legislators on these important topics, and more, helps them to consider the needs of people with disabilities when creating pieces of legislation or supporting legislation that is out there. Pictured below is Options IL days

Team with Senator Cowles and Options Team after meeting with a group of our legislators. ☺



Options Relentless Badger Recipient 2024 – Autumn Nordall

Each year as part of Independent Living Days, each of the eight Independent Living Centers celebrates someone from their region who embodies the Independent Living philosophy as a “Relentless Badger” by being excellent advocates for people with disabilities through the years. This year Options nominated Autumn Nordall as its recipient. Autumn has only been the Options Advocacy Coordinator for just over a year, however her advocacy journey spans more than 22 years.



Autumn became an Options Board member and later Board President through COVID, advocating with Options staff throughout her time on the Board. Even before that, Autumn has always had a passion for advocating for the rights of people with disabilities in her community and throughout the state. Since her accident in 2002, which left her using a wheelchair, Autumn strives to have barriers removed, for herself and for others. Autumn is a passionate “fire in the belly” kind of advocate, always doing her best to remove whatever barrier to independence that is in the way. It can be individual advocacy, community advocacy, State and Federal legislative advocacy, etc. Autumn has her hands in it all! Congratulations Autumn, you deserve this! Keep up the good work!!! ☺

WI Legislators Adopt the ABLE Act for Wisconsin's Residents with Disabilities!!

What is the ABLE Act? On December 19, 2014, the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act was enacted in Wisconsin as part of P.L. 113-295. This Act permitted states to establish tax-advantaged savings accounts for certain individuals with disabilities to use for certain disability-related expenses. An ABLE account allows individuals with a disability to save and invest money without losing certain federal benefits. Income from the account is tax-free when used for qualified expenses.

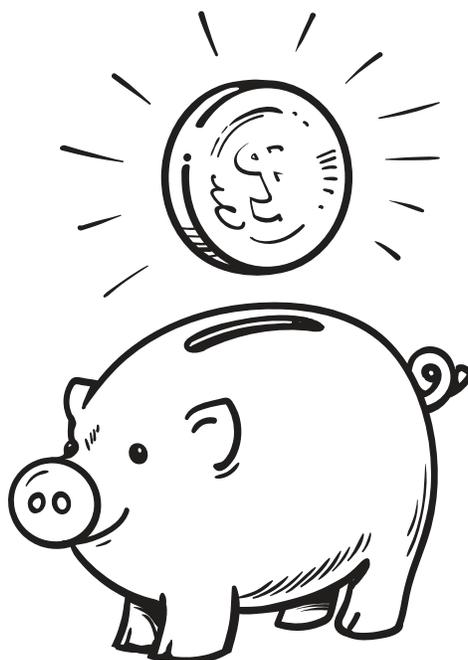
Who is eligible? An individual who became blind or disabled before the age of 26 is eligible to open an ABLE account. Age at diagnosis is not a factor if the disability began before age 26.

Who is considered the owner of the account? The designated beneficiary is the eligible individual who established and is the owner of the ABLE account. However, if the eligible individual is a minor child or is otherwise incapable of managing the account, the individual's agent, under a power of attorney, or if none, a parent or legal guardian can establish the account for the eligible individual. A designated beneficiary is limited to only one ABLE account at a time.

Are ABLE accounts available in Wisconsin? Wisconsin has adopted the provision of federal law that allows ABLE accounts to be established in any State, not just in the State of residence of the disabled individual. Individuals with disabilities may establish an ABLE account in another state as Wisconsin does not have an ABLE program.

For more information on the ABLE Act, or how to apply click this link:

https://finances.extension.wisc.edu/files/2021/01/6_steps_ABLE_account-Extension-edits.pdf



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 Staff Attends Disability Advocacy Day in Madison

Options Advocacy Coordinator, Autumn Nordall, and her son went to Disability Advocacy Day in Madison on March 20 with hundreds of others from Wisconsin. Disability Advocacy Day (DAD) connects you directly with your legislator so you can discuss issues that matter to you.



Everyone started the day with visits to the voting information table, then came a legislative briefing, followed by lunch. After lunch everyone made their way to the Capitol to join in a rally. After the rally outside the Capitol, where chants were heard “Nothing about us without us”, legislative visits followed. Autumn and her son were able to connect with several of her legislators that day educating them on the various issues facing individuals with disabilities in our state, transportation, personal care workers, mental health care, etc. It was a great event! Disability Advocacy Day is held in Madison every year in March. ☉

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. ☉

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 have been presented with. If you are faced with barriers to your independence, are stuck, or are uncertain where to go for assistance, please consider contacting Steve Lafrombois at 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. ○

Options Adaptive Adventures Program

Did you know Options 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 recreation equipment. Currently Options has a Track chair, a Terrain Hopper, a Firefly attachment for a manual wheelchair to become like an E-bike, an E-Trike, and two tricycles. Calvin also wrote a grant and was able to acquire an adaptive kayak to add to the collection. Kayak clinics will be held this summer. Check with Calvin for dates. Options also has sled hockey sleds and has held 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.

Adaptive Adventures Consumer Highlights

- I wanted to reach out and say thank you for letting my dad use the track chair. He has a lifelong love of golden retrievers and going hunting with them. Yesterday I met up with my mom, Dad, and their dog, May. The track chair allowed him to accompany me through the fields with May and my Weimaraner, Edelweiss. The dogs were wild with energy at first but after an hour and 3 pheasants, they finally settled down. My mom took the picture below as we're coming back to the vehicles with the dogs and birds. Thanks again for allowing us to have a great time together! ○

Let your Voice be Heard!

For Those of You Who Fly with a Mobility Device and Have Had Problems, This May Interest You!

Input Opportunity: Ensuring Wheelchair Users Can Fly With Dignity Comments due Monday, May 13, 2024

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is seeking public comments on a new proposed rule designed to ensure airline passengers who use wheelchairs can travel safely and with dignity.

An estimated 5.5 million Americans use a wheelchair, and many encounter barriers when it comes to air travel. In 2023, 11,527 wheelchairs and scooters were mishandled by carriers required to report data to DOT.

The proposed rule would set new standards for prompt, safe, and dignified assistance; require enhanced training for airline employees and contractors who physically assist passengers with disabilities and handle passengers' wheelchairs; and specify actions that airlines must take to protect passengers when a wheelchair is damaged during transport.

Notably, the proposed rule would require airlines to provide passengers with two options to repair or replace their wheelchairs if mishandled by the airline. The two options are:

- The carrier handles the repair or replacement of the wheelchair with one that has equivalent or greater function and safety within a reasonable timeframe and pays the associated cost.
- The passenger arranges the repair or replacement of the wheelchair with one that has equivalent or greater function and safety through their preferred vendor and the airline pays the associated costs.

In addition, the proposed rule would make it easier for DOT to hold airlines accountable when they damage or delay the return of a wheelchair to its owner by making it an automatic violation of the Air Carrier Access Act to mishandle wheelchairs.

As part of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, DOT is also requesting input on two topics not currently included in the proposal: lavatory size on twin-aisle aircrafts and reimbursement of the fare difference between a flight someone could've taken if their wheelchair fit in the aircraft and the more expensive flight they had to take instead.

Comments can be submitted online, by mail or fax, or hand-delivered through Monday, May 13, 2024.

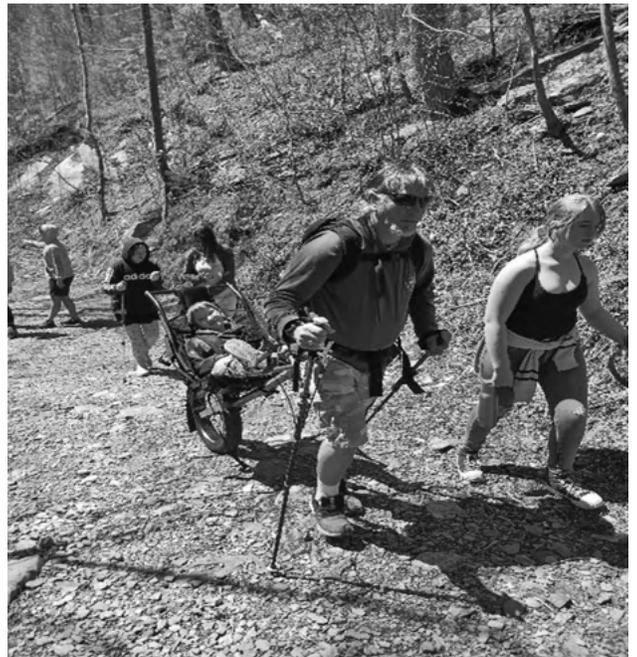
The proposed rule was announced at a White House convening on protecting the safety, rights, and dignity of air travelers with disabilities.

Read DOT's press release for a summary of key provisions. 

Success Story - Outdoor Recreation Victory!

A few weeks ago, as spring approached, a family contacted Options' Assistive Technology Specialist, Calvin Richtig, to inquire about a device that could help them more easily explore the Smokey Mountains with their son who has spina bifida. They had an opportunity to spend time at a remote campsite that would be difficult to access via a wheelchair. They inquired about a device, the Huckleberry Hiking Cascade Cart. We discovered that the device, while gaining popularity and buzz, hadn't been released yet and wouldn't be available for commercial purchase prior to their trip.

Calvin contacted Huckleberry Hiking to explain the opportunity and see if they had a pre-order device available for purchase, but unfortunately the production devices just wouldn't be completed in time. In brainstorming, Huckleberry offered to send one of their hand-made beta testing devices to the family if they were willing to provide feedback and help with further development of the device. The family happily agreed to the terms. With fears that the device wouldn't arrive on time, Options also ordered an alternative device, WCK (We Carry Kevan) 2.0 Backpack which would also provide another product to try. Thankfully, both devices arrived a week prior to their family trip. Calvin set up, learned the Cascade Cart, and provided a demonstration with the mother and son in a room full of smiles and excitement.



When they got back the Cascade Cart was returned with the same smiles, along with added stories and pictures of how much of a success the cart had made their family trip. "The trip would not have been possible without the cart. We went on a 3-mile hike on what was normally a clear trail. However, there were storms earlier and we found 10 to 12 trees across the trail. The Cart nimbly maneuvered under, around, and over them all. We even crossed a few small creeks with no trouble. My son (9 years old) gave it a big thumbs up."

After the extremely successful trial and upon the family's strong recommendation, Options has opted to purchase a Huckleberry Hiking Cascade Cart that will be available for demonstration and loan, thanks to funding from the Green Bay Packers Foundation. ○

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:

- I am so thankful that you are able to collect medical equipment such as wheelchair, transport chairs, walkers, etc. that are no longer needed by some. This helps others like me out so much! To be able to get a gently used transport chair is so important to me as mine is at least 15 years old. The left front threads that go into the leg of my chair were stripping (held in by liquid weld) for now. Being able to get a chair from Options is a blessing! I no longer need to worry if my wheel will fall out when I am somewhere in public. This was an expense I could not afford; I truly appreciate this program & those who donate to help others out. Thank you very much.
- Thank you for allowing me to use your equipment. After surgery I was non weight bearing for 3 months. My insurance did not cover the cost of a commode, so for me a donation was great. My mother also had surgery and needed your service at the same time. Thank you so much for what you do. This is a great service. ☺

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.) ☺



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.

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: ○

BENEFITS BUZZ - Social Security Announces Four Key Updates to Address Improper Payments

Social Security launched a comprehensive review in October 2023 of agency overpayment policies and procedures to address payment accuracy systematically. (See [Learn about Overpayments and Our Process | SSA and Press Release | Press Office | SSA](#)). These changes are a direct result of the ongoing review. Additionally, the agency recently announced it is working to reduce wage-related improper payments by using its legal authority to establish information exchanges with payroll data providers that will significantly reduce the number of improper payments, once implemented. (See [Press Release | Press Office | SSA](#) for more information). The agency will continue examining programmatic policy and making regulatory and sub-regulatory changes to improve the overpayment process. More details on these updates will be shared as they become available.

To watch the testimony and read Commissioner O'Malley Statement for the Record, visit [Keeping Our Promise to Older Adults and ... | Senate Committee On Aging and Hearing | Hearings | The United States Senate Committee on Finance](#).

Benefits - Consumer Highlights

- Options Work Incentive Benefits Specialist helped a consumer advocate with Social Security to waive SSI overpayment. Karin answered consumer's mother's questions about asset limits for Medicaid and SSI. Offered info on ABLE Accounts, etc. Mother reported Karin "is a very good advocate" for people like her and her son."
- The consumer had \$23,683 SSDI overpayment because Social Security thought she earned too much. Options work incentive Benefits Specialist Karin helped her fill out appeal and gather proof showing she was below the earnings limit once they applied certain work incentives. Karin submitted appeal paperwork to Social Security and in less than a week they decided in the consumer's favor. ○



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

Facebook is: <https://www.facebook.com/optionsil.greenbay/>

options
for independent living^{inc}

**GREEN BAY
OFFICE**

555 Country Club Road, Green Bay, WI 54307

Front Desk 920-490-0500 Toll Free 1-888-465-1515 • Fax 920-490-0700

Executive Director	Josh Theis	920-393-1045	josht@optionsil.org
Assistant Director	Sandy Popp	920-393-1043	sandyp@optionsil.org
Accountant	Peggy Maas	920-490-8270	peggym@optionsil.org
Housing Program Manager	Steve LaFrombois	920-393-1044	stevell@optionsil.org
Accessibility Assessment Specialist	Sarah Dunks	920-393-1034	sarahd@optionsil.org
Accessibility Assessment Specialist	Marie Smith	920-393-1046	maries@optionsil.org
Accessibility Assessment Specialist	Becky Bookter	920-393-1048	beckyb@optionsil.org
Assistive Technology Specialist	Calvin Richtig	920-393-1037	calvinr@optionsil.org
Assistive Technology Specialist	Ian Kaster	920-393-1053	iank@optionsil.org
Work Incentives Benefits Specialist	Karin Zuleger	920-393-1039	karinz@optionsil.org
Independent Living Coordinator Supervisor/ Memory Loss Technology Specialist	Stacie Scheibe	920-393-1050	stacies@optionsil.org
Independent Living Coordinator	Millie Kaster	920-393-1038	milliek@optionsil.org
Advocacy Coordinator	Autumn Nordall	920-393-1035	autumnd@optionsil.org
Supportive Home Care Program Director/Personal Assistant Services	Valerie Tschampl	920-393-1036	valeriet@optionsil.org
Supportive Home Care Program Director/Personal Assistant Services	Karen Phillips, MSN, RN	920-764-2446	karenp@optionsil.org
Personal Care Program Care Coordinator	Jennifer Lardinois	920-393-1032	jenniferl@optionsil.org
Billing Specialist	Missie Olm	920-393-1048	missieo@optionsil.org
Secretary	Barb Guyes	920-490-0500	barbg@optionsil.org
Office Assistant/LEND Lead	Roxanne Kiefert	920-393-1054	roxannek@optionsil.org
Certified Peer Specialist	Dave Zanon	920-609-9467	davez@optionsil.org

OPTIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS and MEMBERS

Scott Anderson, President

Connie Greenawald, Vice President

Jacob Ruatti, Treasurer

Lynn Smits, Secretary

MEMBERS

Steve Boney

Keith Pamperin

Eric Stream

Christy Coenen

Sherrill Revolinski



555 Country Club Road
PO BOX 11967
Green Bay WI 54307-1967

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Event!

Wheelchair & Adaptive Stick Curling

Saturday, April 13th

Fox Valley Wheelchair Wash

Friday, April 26th

***You are Cordially Invited to help
Options Celebrate its Anniversary!***

June 13th, 2024

Counties Served

Brown	Menominee
Calumet	Oconto
Door	Outagamie
Fond du Lac	Shawano
Green Lake	Sheboygan
Kewaunee	Waupaca
Manitowoc	Waushara
Marinette	Winnebago
Marquette	

OPTIONS website
www.optionsil.org

FACEBOOK
facebook.com/optionsil.greenbay/