

For Immediate Release

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Disability Rights Wisconsin Commends Funding for Disability Services

Disability Rights Wisconsin thanks Governor Evers for allocating CARES Act funding to provide financial assistance to providers who serve people with disabilities, including home and community based-services and long term care providers.

COVID-19 is particularly dangerous to people with disabilities, older adults, and people with certain underlying conditions. "The majority of people with disabilities live in the community and rely on community providers, largely small businesses, to maintain their health and independence in their homes," said Lea Kitz, DRW Executive Director. "The Governor's action will help provide needed funds to ensure that these important services and providers will remain viable, at a time when COVID-19 has taken a significant financial toll on so many provider agencies."

DRW continues to be concerned about the lifting of safety precautions and strongly recommends that the necessary protections remain in place for people with disabilities, whether services are coming into their home or they live in a congregate setting, such as a group home or nursing home. This includes the provision of sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 testing. This allocation of CARES Act funding will help to ensure that more people with disabilities can stay healthy and safe in their own homes and communities.

Disability Rights Wisconsin is the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy system for the State of Wisconsin, charged with protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and keeping individuals free from abuse and neglect.

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