

# Summary of Advocacy-Related Resources for Children With Special Health Care Needs in Wisconsin

## Advocacy Organizations:

[Wisconsin FACETS](#) – 1-877-374-4677: A Parent Training and Information Center for the state of Wisconsin which offers programs to help parents support and enrich their children's lives.

Great Lakes Intertribal Council – [Native American Family Empowerment Center](#) : 1-800-472-7207: The Center provides an opportunity for Native American parents to gain updated knowledge and the confidence and empowerment they need to become effective advocates for their children.

[Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy](#) – 1-800-928-8778: The Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy (WCA) is a private, nonprofit agency chosen by Wisconsin's Governor to provide protection and advocacy for people with disabilities throughout the state.

[ABC for Health](#) – 1-800-585-4222 : Advocacy and Benefits Counseling for Health is a Wisconsin-based nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to ensuring health care access for children and families, particularly those with special needs or who are at risk.

[Family Voices of Wisconsin](#) – 1-608-233-3726: Family Voices of Wisconsin provides information and training to families on accessing health and community supports and services.

[The Arc Wisconsin](#) – 1-877-272-8400: The Arc provides information, assistance and advocacy in many areas, including direct services, guardianship, funding, health care, housing, transportation, and legal services to people with disabilities and their families.

## Leadership programming:

[Parents As Leaders \(PALs\)](#) – 1-800-532-3321: PALs is a group of parents (of children with special needs birth to 6) and other caregivers who meet together five times during a year to learn about resources, connect with other families and develop leadership and advocacy skills.

[Parents in Partnership](#) – 1-877-844-4925: The Parents In Partnership program (PIP) is a four or five part leadership opportunity for parents, foster parents, or other care givers who have children, 6-14 years old, or youth 13-21 years old with special needs.

## Parent Support Groups:

[Parent to Parent of Wisconsin](#) – 1-888-266-0028: Parent to Parent of Wisconsin provides the one-to-one connection for parents new to having a child with special needs, experiencing a time of stress or simply seeking support, resources and information with another parent who has been there

Find local parent support groups through your [Children With Special Health Care Needs Regional Center and Wisconsin First Step](#): 1-800-642-7837: Five Regional CSHCN Centers in Wisconsin provide free and confidential assistance to providers and children with special health care needs and their families.

The [National Organization for Rare Disorders \(NORD\)](#) 1-800-999-6673: NORD provides information on parent support groups and contacts for specific disabilities.

## Summary of Resources for Unexpected, Immediate Needs and Crisis

- [Wisconsin First Step](#): A Toll-free Information and Referral Service for families raising children with special health care needs – 1-800-642-7837
- [Children With Special Health Care Needs Regional Centers](#) – Find your regional center by calling 1-800-642-7837.
- 211: [Emergency Telephone Networks for Social Services](#)
- Mental Illness: [NAMI Wisconsin](#) 1-800-236-2988, [SAMHSA](#)
- Substance Abuse: [DHFS Addiction Services](#) 1-866-211-3380 (including information on gambling and tobacco use in minors)
- Tools for Coping: [Tools for Parents of Children with Special Needs](#)
- Child Abuse and Neglect: [Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin Directory](#) 1-800-CHILDREN, [DHFS Child Protection Services](#), [Family Resource Centers](#) 1-866-640-3936
- The [National Coalition for the Homeless](#) 1-202-462-4822
- [America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin](#) (food bank) 1-800-236-1208 or 1-888-643-7074
- [Adjusting to Unemployment](#) (an article) Wisconsin Job Center – 1-888-258-9966
- [BadgerCare](#) 1-800-362-3002 Wisconsin's program to provide healthcare to uninsured families.

## Key Resources to Connect Families to at or Before Transition

[The Family Support Program](#) - The Family Support Program is offered in each Wisconsin county and provides individual services and supports to families that include a child with severe disabilities. Call Wisconsin First Step to find your local program - 1-800-642-7837. If there is a waiting list for services, a family may wish to add their name for future assistance.

[The Children with Special Health Care Needs Regional Center](#) – Find your local program by calling -1-800-642-7837. The CSHCN Program works to support children with special health care needs and their families. They can offer some of the functions of service coordination after a family leaves Birth to 3.

For families who will continue to receive **special education services**:

[Wisconsin FACETS](#): 1-877-374-4677 - Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support, Inc. (WI FACETS) is a nonprofit organization serving Wisconsin children and adults with disabilities, their families and those who support them.

Great Lakes Intertribal Council – [Native American Family Empowerment Center](#) : 1-800-472-7207: The Center provides an opportunity for Native American parents to gain updated knowledge and the confidence and empowerment they need to become effective advocates for their children.

[Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative](#): 1-877-844-4925 - The Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI) is a service for parents, educators, and others interested in parent-educator partnerships for children with disabilities.

For families who will continue to have **complex health concerns** for their child:

[Medical Assistance – Katie Beckett](#) - The Katie Beckett Program (Medicaid Recipient Services 1-800-362-3002) is a special eligibility process that allows certain children with long-term disabilities or complex medical needs, living at home with their families, to obtain a Wisconsin Medicaid card.

[ABC for Health](#) – 1-800-585-4222 - Advocacy and Benefits Counseling for Health is a Wisconsin-based nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to ensuring health care access for children and families, particularly those with special needs or who are at risk.

[Respite Care and/or Personal Care Agencies](#): Contact your local Family Support Program, Children with Special Health Care Needs Regional Center (mentioned above) or the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin – 1-866-702-7229.