

Annual Report 2024

10/1/2023 to 9/30/2024

*protection and advocacy
for people with disabilities*



Disability
Rights
WISCONSIN



Our Vision

All persons with disabilities and their families shall be empowered to exercise and enjoy the full extent of their rights and to pursue the greatest possible quality of life.

Our Mission

Disability Rights Wisconsin challenges systems and society to achieve positive changes in the lives of people with disabilities and their families.



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Our Work by the Numbers

Protection and Advocacy
Victim Advocacy Program
Disability Benefits Specialists
SSI-Managed Care External Advocacy Project
Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program

P&A

Protection and Advocacy

About the Program

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) is the Governor-designated, federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system for people with disabilities in Wisconsin. The Protection and Advocacy system is a national network of agencies throughout the United States and its territories receiving federal funds to address disability-related issues affecting people in Wisconsin through individual and systems advocacy using a variety of tools and remedies.

Our mission is to challenge systems and society to achieve positive changes in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. To accomplish this, our team of P&A advocacy specialists and attorneys:

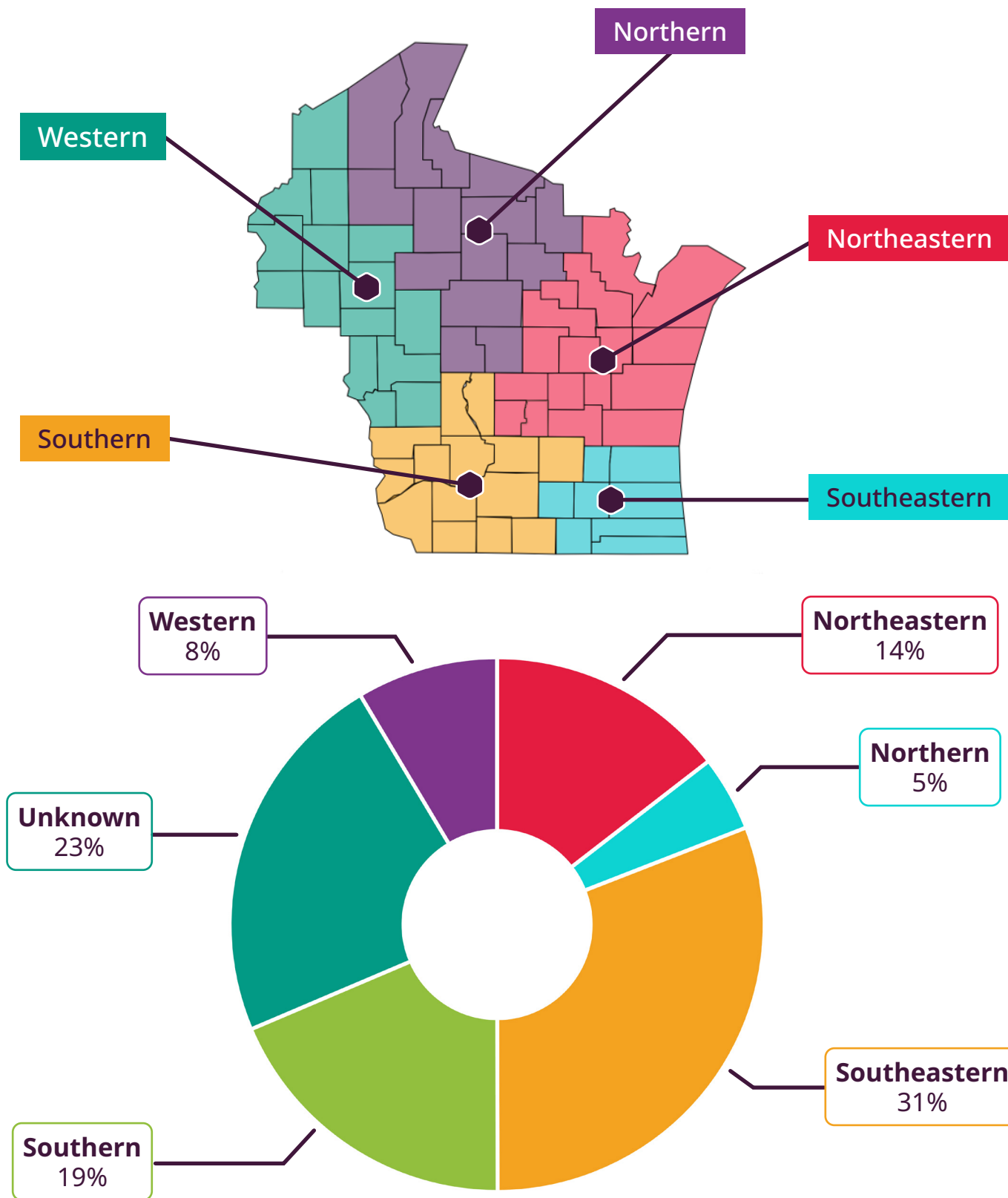
- work on issues with individual clients.
- advocate on systemic public policy issues at local, state, and national levels.
- participate in grassroot initiatives in partnership with self-advocates and other advocacy agencies.
- conduct investigations; monitor situations.
- release reports related to events and situations important to the disability community.

Our Protection and Advocacy programs provide a variety of services to support individuals with disabilities on a variety of disability related issues. Because of high demand for our services, we have to limit the number of cases we can accept. Depending on the nature of the situation and resources available, our team of Intake Specialists take information about the request for help and forwards the intake to our Advocacy Specialists and Attorneys who may provide:

- **Information and Referral (I&R) services**, where we give clients resources, information, or referrals to other agencies that can best help with their specific concerns.
- **Technical Assistance**, where we give short-term help through coaching, advice, resources, and tools. Our short-term help supports people in advocating for themselves or on behalf of a person with a disability.
- **Individual Case Representation**, where we give more substantial support or representation for people with disabilities.
- **Legal Representation in court or administrative hearings** to resolve a dispute, make an appeal, or protect an individual's rights.

Program Statistics

◆ Percentages of Protection and Advocacy Cases, By Region



★ Number of Protection and Advocacy Cases, by Region

Region	Individual Advocacy	Information & Referrals	Total
Northeastern	335	305	640
Northern	113	88	201
Southeastern	689	672	1361
Southern	414	407	821
Western	193	184	377
Unknown	99	908	1007
Grand Total	1843	2564	4407

★ Number of Protection and Advocacy Cases, by Disability

Primary Disability	Information and Referrals	Individual Advocacy	Total
Developmental Disability	465	417	882
Mental Illness	646	448	1094
Physical Disability	599	1585	2184
Sensory Disability (Hearing or Visual)	62	74	136
Traumatic Brain Injury	71	40	111
Grand Total	1843	2564	4407

◆ Number of Protection and Advocacy Cases, by Issue Area and Case Type

Issue Area	Ind. Rep	Technical Assistance	Information & Referral	Total
Abuse and Neglect	24	1	91	116
Assistive Technology	8	0	13	21
Benefits	5	0	159	164
Community Support and Services	16	3	49	68
Corrections	28	2	83	113
Employment	43	0	257	300
Housing	23	0	436	459
Mental Health Services	36	0	102	138
Other or Miscellaneous	16	0	2088	2104
Other Rights	34	3	187	224
Special Education	293	6	259	558
Transportation	35	0	24	59
Vocational Rehabilitation	56	0	27	83
Grand Total	617	15	3775	4407

VAP

Victim Advocacy Program

About the Program

The Victim Advocacy Program (VAP) works to ensure that survivors with disabilities receive the advocacy, legal representation, services, and support they desire to move forward, find justice, and obtain safety and stability in whatever form the survivor needs. A main goal of the program is to promote self-determination for survivors with disabilities.

Program Statistics

Total Clients
Served

279
clients

★ LAV Statistics

Number of LAV Cases, by Disability

Disability	Clients
Developmental Disability	2
Mental Illness	9
Physical Disability	2
Sensory Disability	2
Other	2
Grand Total	17

Number of LAV Cases, by Issue Area

Issue	Clients
Criminal Issues	3
Family Law	6
Housing	1
Immigration	6
Protection Orders	1
Grand Total	17

◆ SASP Statistics

Number of SASP Cases, by Disability

Disability	Clients
Developmental Disability	4
Physical Disability	1
Grand Total	5

Number of SASP Cases, by Issue Area

Issue	Clients
Abuse	5
Grand Total	5

◆ VOCA Statistics

Number of VOCA Cases, by Disability

Disability	Clients
Developmental Disability	86
Mental Illness	93
Physical Disability	45
Sensory Disability	8
Traumatic Brain Injury	11
Other	14
Grand Total	257

Number of VOCA Cases, by Issue Area

Issue	Clients
Abuse	80
Civil Legal Advocacy	24
Community and Support Services	1
Criminal Justice Advocacy	80
Education	17
Employment	1
Family Law	30
Healthcare	1

Issue	Clients
Housing	12
Immigration Assistance	7
Neglect	3
Privacy Rights	1
Program Access	1
Other	3
Grand Total	261

✦ Victim Advocacy Program Cases, by Region

Region	LAV	SASP	VOCA	Total
Northeast	7	5	99	111
Northern	0	0	14	14
South Central	4	0	53	2
Southeast	2	0	57	57
West Central	3	0	31	59
Out of State	1	0	1	1
Unknown	0	0	1	34
Grand Total	17	5	256	278

✦ Victim Advocacy Program Cases, by Victimization Type

Victimization Type	Clients	Victimization Type	Clients
Adult - Physical Assault	61	Human Trafficking - Sex	4
Adult - Sexual Assault	49	Identity Theft, Fraud, Financial Crime	34
Adult - Sexually Abused / Assaulted as Children	13	Kidnapping (custodial)	1
Burglary	5	Kidnapping (non-custodial)	1
Child Pornography	1	Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g. Hit and Run)	4
Children - Bullying	16	Robbery	5
Children - Physical Abuse or Neglect	30	Sexual Assault	6
Children - Sexual Abuse or Assault	32	Stalking or Harassment	51
Domestic or Family Violence	91	Survivors of Homicide Victims	1
Domestic Violence or Dating Violence	14	Teen Dating Victimization	2
DUI or DWI Incidents	1	Terrorism (Domestic or International)	1
Elder Abuse or Neglect	2	Other	13
Hate Crime	5	Grand Total	446
Human Trafficking - Labor	3		

DBS

Technical Assistance and Training
for Disability Benefits Specialists

About the Program

The Department of Health Services contracts with Disability Rights Wisconsin to provide technical assistance support and training for the Disability Benefits Specialists (DBSs) at Aging and Disability Resource Centers. This support makes sure that Disability Benefits Specialists can best help individuals with disabilities receive the benefits to which they are entitled and that match their needs. When formal legal intervention is required, specialists can refer their clients to Disability Rights Wisconsin for direct representation.

Program Statistics



★ Disability Benefits Specialists Program Service Requests, by Priority Area

Priority Area	Requests
Application	705
SSA Reconsideration	488
General Questions	483
Post Entitlement	391
O/P Waiver	107
Administrative Law Judge Hearing	53
Appeals Council	9
SSA Informal Hearing or PC	4
State Fair Hearing	4
Medicare Reconsideration or Review	2
Other	577
Grand Total	2823

MED D

Disability Drug Benefit Helpline - Medicare Part D

About the Program

Since 2006, through a contract with Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Disability Rights Wisconsin has had a Medicare Part D helpline for the people of Wisconsin with disabilities, their caregivers and professionals who support and work with them. The helpline provides advocacy, technical assistance, training to professionals, and outreach to Wisconsin Medicare beneficiaries.

Program Statistics

Number of
Helpline Calls

278
calls

SSI-MC

SSI-Managed Care External Advocacy Project

About the Program

The Department of Health Services (DHS) contracts with Disability Rights Wisconsin to provide direct assistance to people with disabilities enrolled in Medicaid HMOs. Advocates provide information, referrals and advocacy on accessing SSI-Managed Care covered services, enrollment questions, exemptions, continuity of care, transportation, and billing issues.

Program Statistics

Information
& Referral Cases

96

Advocacy
Cases

204



Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program

About the Program

The Department of Health Services (DHS) contracts with Disability Rights Wisconsin to provide ombudsman (advocacy) services for people between the ages of 18-59 who are enrolled in or are seeking eligibility for Wisconsin’s Long-Term Care programs: Family Care, Family Care Partnership (FC/FCP), Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE), and IRIS. People who are enrolled in these programs set up care plans that identify what services or supports they will receive and who will provide them.

At times, some of the 56,782 members in Family Care / Family Care Partnership and 26,805 participants in IRIS experience issues with supports, services, or eligibility for these programs. When issues arise, program participants can ask Disability Rights Wisconsin for help from an independent ombudsman. Ombudsmen work with individuals to find ways to informally resolve the situations when possible, support self-advocacy and may help with appeals or state fair hearings.

Note: Our numbers for program participants are derived from DHS data as of 10/01/2024.

Program Statistics



★ FCIOP Clients, by Disability Type

Disability Type	Clients
Developmental Disability	209
Physical Disability	454
Physical Disability and Developmental Disability	307
Grand Total	970

★ FCIOP Service Requests, by Issue

Common Issues	Service Requests
Denial or delay of new request for service, medication or equipment	185
Relocation	90
Self-directed supports	52
Abuse/Neglect or Safety	63
Reduction or termination of existing services	67
Other	677
Grand Total	1134

Summary of DRW's Financial Activities

Summary Statement of Financial Activity
Our Donors



Summary Statement of Financial Activity

2024 Financial Report

Total Revenue Without Donor Restrictions	\$7,825,286
Total Expenses	\$7,855,604
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions, beginning of year	\$1,070,440
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions, end of year	\$1,040,122
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions, beginning of year	\$155,912
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions, end of year	\$435,556
Net Assets Released from Restrictions, purpose satisfied	\$222,556
Change in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	\$279,644
Change in Net Assets (Total)	\$249,326

Revenue

Grants	\$4,081,042
Contracts	\$2,795,308
Contributions	\$745,120
Other	\$14,055
Total Revenue	\$7,635,525

Expenses

Salaries	\$5,189,831
Fringe Benefits	\$1,497,295
Subcontractors, professional fees & Honoraria, membership & dues, Insurance	\$371,390
Rent and Utilities, Telecommunications	\$404,969
Travel	\$141,823
Printing and Copying	\$34,015
Staff Development, Books, Subscriptions & Reference	\$98,875
Advertising	\$2,826
Other	\$114,580
Total Expenses	\$7,855,604

Expenditures by Program

Protection and Advocacy	\$2,748,935	35%
FCIOP / SSI-MC	\$2,176,258	28%
Disability Benefits Specialists Program Attorney	\$1,203,771	15%
Victim Advocacy Program	\$969,385	12%
Management & General	\$757,255	10%
Total Program Expenditures	\$7,855,604	

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Disability Rights WI

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Contact Us

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Disability Voting Rights Hotline:
844-347-8683

Visit us online: disabilityrightswi.org

2024

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