

# DISLOCATED WORKER WITH A DISABILITY

## resource guide



### *Are you suddenly jobless? Do you have a disability?*

Losing a job as a result of a business closure or workforce reduction can make for scary times – loss of income, benefits, security and confidence. For a person with a disability (or possible disability), dealing with these changes may be even scarier.

If you have a disability or think you may have a disability, you are not alone. Fifty (50) million Americans are currently living with a disability. Disabilities range from the very obvious to those that are “hidden” or “invisible” such as mental illnesses, learning disabilities, epilepsy, cancer, arthritis, brain injury and AIDS. Difficulties with reading, learning, maintaining stamina, concentration or managing new tasks may be caused by a disability.

#### Learn more about some of the best resources to help you:

- understand the rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities
- get job training or assistance with finding employment
- go back to school – and receive needed accommodations
- apply for temporary or long-term public benefits

### Find EMPLOYMENT

#### **Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Dislocated Worker Unit**

[www.dwd.wisconsin.gov/dislocatedworker](http://www.dwd.wisconsin.gov/dislocatedworker)

608-266-7406 (Voice)

This service helps workers and employers when staff reductions, business closings and mass layoffs occur.

#### **Department of Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

[www.dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr](http://www.dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr)

800-442-3477 (Voice); 888-877-5939 (TTY)

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides employment services and counseling to people with disabilities.

### Know your RIGHTS

#### **Great Lakes ADA Center**

[www.adagreatlakes.org](http://www.adagreatlakes.org)

312-413-1407 (Voice/TTY)

The Great Lakes ADA Center provides information, materials, technical assistance and training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

#### **Job Accommodation Network (JAN)**

[www.askjan.org](http://www.askjan.org)

800-526-7234 (Voice); 877- 781-9403 (TTY)

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) is a source of expert and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues.

#### **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)**

[www.eeoc.org](http://www.eeoc.org)

800-669-4000 (Voice); 800-669-6820 (TTY)

#### **State of Wisconsin, Equal Rights Division**

<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er>

608-266-6860 (Voice); 608-264-8752 (TTY)

#### **Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)**

[www.disabilityrightswi.org](http://www.disabilityrightswi.org)

800-928-8778 (Voice); 888-758-6049 (TTY)

DRW is a protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities.

## Get an EDUCATION

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### Wisconsin Technical Colleges, Disability and Financial Aid Services

<http://systemattic.wtcsystem.edu/Studentserv/virtualresource/disabilitiesR.htm>

Wisconsin's Technical Colleges have designated disabilities services, specialists and counselors on every campus throughout the state to assist and accommodate students with disabilities.

### University of Wisconsin (UW) Colleges Student Accessibility Services

[www.uwc.edu/students/accessibility/](http://www.uwc.edu/students/accessibility/)

888-463-6892 (Voice); 608-265-5766 (TTY)

UW Colleges specialize in general education and foundation courses to prepare for transferring to a bachelor's degree program. The Student Accessibility Services Office coordinates services for students with disabilities.

### University of Wisconsin (UW) System Disability Resources

[www.uwsa.edu/acss/disability/index.htm](http://www.uwsa.edu/acss/disability/index.htm)

The UW System is committed to making individuals with disabilities full participants in its programs and activities providing needed accommodations. Services for students with disabilities are located on all UW campuses.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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### Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI):

[www.ssa.gov/disability/](http://www.ssa.gov/disability/)

### Medicaid (Forward Health):

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/)

### Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP):

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/Publications/p-10071.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/Publications/p-10071.htm)

### Disability.gov:

[www.Disability.gov](http://www.Disability.gov)

### Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP):

[www.dol.gov/odep](http://www.dol.gov/odep)

## Understand/Apply for public BENEFITS

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### Wisconsin Disability Benefits Network (WDBN)

#### Work Incentives Benefits Specialists

[www.eri-wi.org/WDBN.htm](http://www.eri-wi.org/WDBN.htm)

855-401-8549 (Voice) | Email: [wdbn@eri-wi.org](mailto:wdbn@eri-wi.org)

The WDBN is a resource for information about how working impacts public benefits such as Social Security and healthcare programs such as Medicaid and Medicare. The WDBN can connect you with a Benefits Specialist who can answer your questions about applications, how working impacts benefits, or benefits for the elderly.

### Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)

#### Disability Benefits Specialists

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lcicare/adrc/](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lcicare/adrc/)

Disability Benefits Specialists at the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) can help you apply for Social Security and other public benefits. ADRCs are available in most Wisconsin counties and offer information on a broad range of programs and services available to people with disabilities.

### Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan (HIRSP)

[www.hirsp.org](http://www.hirsp.org) | 800-828-4777 (Voice)

HIRSP provides access to high quality, affordable healthcare to eligible Wisconsin residents. If you have a disability or medical condition that is preventing you from getting health insurance or you have lost your employer-sponsored coverage, you may qualify for coverage under HIRSP.

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**This publication was created in collaboration with:**



## Questions? Contact:



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