



Why Are Wisconsin Teens Participating in Promise?

It will help me be a better me.

It's a program to help me become someone and follow my dreams.

It will give me the opportunity to gain skills and not be limited by my disability.

It looked like an awesome opportunity.

To help me and my family live better.

Welcome to Wisconsin Promise
A promising future starts today...

The **PROMISE** initiative is intended to improve services for youth SSI recipients and their families.

The services help youth recipients achieve better education and career outcomes, including:

- graduating from high school ready for college and a career,
- completing postsecondary education and job training, and
- obtaining competitive employment in an integrated setting.

As a result, these youth SSI recipients can achieve their goals and move toward a stronger financial future.



Phone: 855 • 480 • 5618
 Email: contact@promisewi.com
www.promisewi.com

[facebook.com/wipromise](https://www.facebook.com/wipromise)
[instagram.com/wisconsinpromise](https://www.instagram.com/wisconsinpromise)
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Frequently Asked Questions

Phone: 855•480•5618

Email: promise-grant@cesa12.org

www.promisewi.com



Who?

Teenagers receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their family members.

What? *Wisconsin Promise can help both youth and family members reach school and work goals!*

- Help getting or trying a job
- Career information
- Talk about benefits
- After high school planning
- Social skills training
- Health Promotion
- Family Advocacy
- Self-Advocacy
- Help with GED and training after GED or high school.
- Connect with needed services or supports.

Where?

Promise youth and families are located all over Wisconsin!

When? Now until September 30, 2018

Why?

- Earn money
- Learn new skills
- Improve mental and physical health
- Gain confidence
- Meet new challenges
- Make new friends

How?

To connect with Promise, contact your Promise Counselor:

<http://promisewi.com/counselor>

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Services for the whole family...

Promise services are customized to help you and your family. Tell us what you need...

The goal of Wisconsin Promise services are to help teens and their families achieve better education and career outcomes. Ask us about:

- Managing your social security and other public benefits while increasing your work earning
- Improving your finances through coaching and planning
- Building better relationships through soft skills training
- Becoming a better self-advocate and discovering your potential.
- Tips for helping your teen prepare for adulthood
- Ideas for decreasing stress and improving overall health and well-being

Here are just some of things families ask us about...

- ✓ Preventing Drop Out
- ✓ Assisting Family Members (e.g. GED completion)
- ✓ Developing new skills
- ✓ Learning to read
- ✓ Connecting to school supports like financial aid, child care, transportation
- ✓ Connecting to job supports like additional training or job search resources
- ✓ Solving transportation concerns
- ✓ Assisting with housing and living arrangements
- ✓ Other needs as defined by you!

These are just some of the ways Promise can work with your family. Tell us what you would find helpful. Contact your Promise Counselor to find out more:

<https://promisewi.com/counselor/>



Promise Services:
**Benefits
Counseling**



Benefits Counseling Services

Did you know **you can work** even if you receive disability benefits? It's true. If you have disability benefits and want to work, program rules called work incentives make work possible.

You can learn about these incentives by contacting a Work Incentives Benefits Specialist. These benefit specialists can show you how to establish and use work incentives like:

- Plan to Achieve Self-Support
- Impairment Related Work Incentives
- Student Earned Income Exclusion
- Continued Medicaid coverage for Individuals who Work 1619(b)

These are just a few!

Navigating Benefits and Work

If you have multiple benefits, it can be difficult to navigate all of the different systems. Benefits like FoodShare, Housing, Medicaid, and others may change when you are working. A Work Incentive Benefits Specialist can support you with these changes while you work.

When you connect with a Work Incentives Benefits Specialist, you will find out:

- What work incentives are available to you.
- How to report your earned income.
- How to minimize overpayments.
- How to access and maintain your health insurance.
- What happens when you increase your income.

More about this service 

Benefits Counseling Services

Work Incentives Benefits Specialists can assist you at all stages of employment. Services may be just-in-time, ongoing, and for the short-term or long-term. Some of the services you could receive include:

- support with communicating with various agencies such as Social Security or Human Services.
- benefits Summary & Analysis – a written report summarizing your current benefit and employment situation.
- ongoing support when there are changes with your income, insurance, or household.
- developing a plan for coordinating and managing work, work incentives, and working off of benefits.

If you have benefits and want to work, a benefits specialist can provide you with the tools to manage your benefits or work off of your benefits. You will find out how you can be more self-sufficient and increase your income. Building a relationship with a benefits specialist early on can contribute to a long lasting resource throughout your career.

Your Promise DVR Counselor can help you connect with a Work Incentive Benefits Specialist.

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Training Overview “Transition and Employment”

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Email: promise-grant@cesa12.org

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Introduction

People with disabilities CAN work. More Americans with disabilities are finding and keeping jobs. Youth in Wisconsin can work too!

It is important that youth with disabilities have paid job experiences while still in high school. Early job experiences lead to better chances of being employed as an adult. Having a job while still in high school teaches youth about time management, following directions, and developing a work ethic. Youth who work need support from their families. Families can do many things to support their child’s success on the job.

By the end of this workshop, you will...

- Identify that your child with a disability can work
- Learn solutions to common barriers to having a job
- Describe your child’s strengths and abilities in a positive way
- Identify steps you can take now to support your child for life after high school

Workshop Description

This three-hour workshop is for parents, caregivers, and other family members.

More about this workshop▶

Part 1 will focus on:

Getting and Keeping a Job

- Employment myths and facts.
- Services that can support my child to work.
- Common barriers to employment and some solutions to consider.

Part 2 will focus on:

Getting Ready for Life after High School

- Thinking about life after high school.
- What do I need to consider?
- How can I prepare while my child is still in high school?

More Information

If you would like to participate in this workshop, have any questions, or want more information, please contact your Promise DVR Counselor.

Help to offset the costs of childcare and transportation is available.

This workshop is provided by the [Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities](#) for the Wisconsin Promise grant.

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Training Overview

“Make Your Money Talk”

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Email: promise-grant@cesa12.org

www.promisewi.com



Introduction

Financial Capability Education: Learning = Power = Independence

The purpose of this personal money management program is to provide you with the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in order to plan for your financial wellbeing. “Make Your Money Talk” is a four session personal finance program covering economic and financial education.

The program focuses on practical information that will improve your quality of life by covering topics like credit repair, how to create a spending plan and major purchases. The goal is to create a life-changing practice of becoming a saver for life.

By the end of this training, you will...

- ▶ Understand how managing your money allows you to achieve your financial goals.

Training Description

The “Make Your Money Talk” program meets over several weeks. Each session is three hours long and includes a trainer as well as guest speakers depending on the topic for the session. The sessions include group discussions, exercises, and take home projects to help you create a personal financial guide.

More about this training ▶

Training Outline

Session One - Making Choices about Money

Session Two - Creating a Spending Plan

Session Three - Being a Good Spender

Session Four - Banking On It, Understanding and Using Credit, Saving, and Investing

Session Goals

Session One

- Learn the difference between wants and needs.
- See how values shape your spending choices.
- Learn how to create your own financial goals.
- Learn different methods to budget your money.
- Learn how to discuss money with family members.

Session Two

- Learn how to track spending and how to set up a spending plan.
- Identify fixed and flexible expenses.
- Understand how to create a system for bill paying and record keeping.

Sessions Three - Four

- Find ideas for spending less and saving more money.
- Understand the rights and responsibilities of a spender.
- Describe the difference between credit and debt.
- Basic knowledge of choosing the right credit (amounts/types).
- Understand how to use a bank account responsibly.
- Shop for a bank or credit union.
- What is included on a credit report.
- Building a good credit history.
- Know how to correct information on credit reports and who can help.
- Understand what you are worth.
- Understand basic investing.

More Information

If you would like to participate in this training, have any questions, or want more information, please contact your Promise DVR Counselor.

This training is provided by the [Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation](#) for the Wisconsin Promise grant.

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Training Overview

Becoming a Self-Advocate

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Email: promise-grant@cesa12.org

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Introduction

Self-advocacy means speaking up for yourself. It requires knowledge of your personal strengths and challenges, understanding of rights as a citizen, and acting in an assertive manner to make your needs known to others. During this self-guided program, you will explore concepts to help you become a better self-advocate and discover your potential.

By the end of this training, you will learn important skills and knowledge including...

- Using disability-related terminology.
- Self-assessing disability and accommodation needs.
- Identifying possible careers of interest.
- Understanding laws and legal rights.
- Setting goals for the short-term and long-term.
- Planning for education.

Training Description

This training is self-guided and accessed online.

Program Outline & Learning Objectives

Chapter One: The Importance of Self-Advocacy and Related Terminology

- Apply personal definition of self-advocacy.
- Learn definitions to new terms related to self-advocacy.

Chapter Two: Assess Disability and Identify Accommodations Needed

- Assess disability, its features, and its impact on life activities.
- Identify resources and professionals who can help with accommodations.
- Apply self-advocacy principles related to knowing your disability.

More about this training▶

Chapter Three: Determine Career Options Based on Interests, Skills Levels, and Career Market Criteria

- Define relevant terms.
- Explore career interest.
- Determine essential functions needed for career choices.
- Evaluate individual strengths and challenges related to career choices.
- Determine the relationship between career interest, essential functions of the career, current skill levels, and career market criteria.

Chapter Four: Comprehend Federal and State Laws Pertaining to Individuals with Disabilities

- Be familiar with the following:
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
 - Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act
 - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Chapter Five: Researching Postsecondary Educational Options

- Research college websites, school counselors, and current college students.
- Research admission procedures at potential postsecondary institutions.

Chapter Six: Create a Plan for Disclosure

- Define disclosure terms and use in self-advocacy applications.
- Research the “if, when, and how” of disclosure.
- Create a plan for disclosure.
- Apply self-advocacy principles related to disclosure.

Chapter Seven: Create and Use a List of Self-Advocacy Resource Agencies and Support Groups

- Research agencies and organizations that offer disability help.
- Collect contact information for self-advocacy agencies.
- Contact at least one agency and request meeting and/or application.
- Complete agency involvement requirements.
- Conduct follow-up with agency.
- Apply self-advocacy principles as related to resource agencies and support groups.

More Information

If you would like to participate in this training, have any questions, or want more information, please contact your Promise DVR Counselor.

This training is provided by the [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#) for the Wisconsin Promise grant.

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Training Overview
Skills to Pay the Bills:
Soft Skills Training

Phone: 855•480•5618

Email: promise-grant@cesa12.org

www.promisewi.com



Introduction

Soft skills help you get along with other people at home, at school, and at work. You use soft skills every day when you talk to someone, work with someone, make a decision, and more. Employers like to hire people with good soft skills. So, how do you develop good soft skills? You practice!

By the end of this training, you will learn more about the importance of...

- Communicating well in different ways
- Having a positive attitude
- Being a team player
- Networking your way to success
- Problem solving and critical thinking
- Being professional

Training Description

In the Skills to Pay the Bills training, you will join a small group of Wisconsin Promise participants and youth receiving DVR services. Groups meet six times. Each session lasts 2 ½ to 3 hours. You will learn about a different soft skill each time you meet.

A trainer will guide you through activities that will help you learn about soft skills and practice them in your groups. No lectures here, just different kinds of hands-on activities!

Check out the soft skills you will learn about and some of the activities you will do.

Communication

- Learn about the different ways to communicate (besides talking!)
- Practice good communication skills
- Activities include: Oh, Puh-leeeeeze! And Quit Talkin'! I Know What to Do!

Enthusiasm and Attitude

- Learn why employers want to hire people with positive attitudes
- Practice being positive
- Activities include: A Super Ball and a Raw Egg and Life is Full of Hard Knocks

Teamwork

- Learn about why being a team player is important
- Practice being part of a team
- Activities include: There is No “I” in Team and The Good, the Bad, and the Reasonable

Networking

- Learn about how networking (talking to people, connecting with friends, going to an event) can help you find a job.
- Practice the process of networking
- Overcome your fear (this is very common!)
- Activities include: You Expect Me to do WHAT? TALK to People? And Text Vs. Email...Does it Really Matter?

Problem Solving and Critical Thinking

- Learn about how to solve problems
- Practice how to solve problems in many ways
- Activities include: Praise, Criticism, or Feedback and Perception vs. Reality

Professionalism

- Learn why being professional is important no matter what kind of work you do
- Practice using your soft skills to show you know how to be professional
- Activities include: The Cultural Divide and Is it Considered “Professional” to Have Friends in the Workplace?

More Information

If you would like to participate in this training, have any questions, or want more information, please contact your Promise DVR Counselor.

This training is provided by SVRI for the Wisconsin Promise grant.

You can check out [*Skills to Pay the Bills*](#) on the following website:

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills>

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