

# Partnering For Success!

Wisconsin Promise Parent and Youth Advisory Committee



# Promise Overview

## Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income

Fund States to implement model demonstration projects (MDPs) that promote positive outcomes for **teenagers** who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their **families**.

PROMISE is intended to -

- Improve the provision and **coordination** of services and supports for child SSI recipients and their families
- To enable them to **achieve improved outcomes**.

These outcomes include -

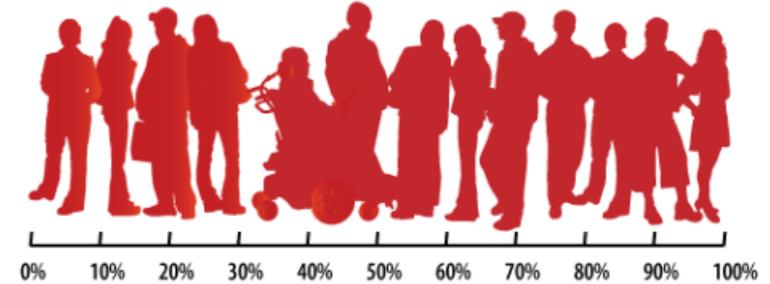
- Graduating from high school ready for college and a career,
- Completing postsecondary **education** and job training,
- Obtaining competitive **employment** in an integrated setting **and, as a result -**
- Increasing youth and family financial self-sufficiency.





- Enrolled youth ages 14, 15, and 16 receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their families
  - Half services as usual
  - Half **Wisconsin Promise Services**
    - Employment Services (at least one paid job)
    - Work Incentives Benefits Counseling
    - Financial Coaching
    - On the Job Social Skills Training
    - Family and self-advocacy training
    - Health Promotion





- **Wisconsin Promise Services**

- Services available for at least 2.5 years to both the **youth** and their **family**
- Provided by Department of Workforce Development's (DWD's) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
- DVR, schools, mental health programs, long term care programs, and child welfare programs work together to support youth and families

- **More information about Wisconsin Promise**

- <http://promisewi.com/>





# Key Aspects/Lessons Learned

- State and local systems collaboration
- Early, proactive and ongoing engagement
- Individualized counseling for youth and family
- Family services and supports
- Case management/case coordination/navigation
- Education and empowerment (financial, health, advocacy, soft skills)
- Customized Employment and Supported Employment Capacity Building
- Inter-agency Data Sharing for and beyond Promise
- Community Conversations: Empowering Local Communities

# Wisconsin Promise Service Summary

- **571** Promise Families have met with a Family Advocate
- **506** Met with Work Incentives Benefits Specialist
- **496** Promise Families met with a Financial Coach (Make Your Money Talk)
  - **283** Promise Youth have savings accounts
- **408** Youth have completed the Self-Advocacy Modules
- **395** Youth have completed Social Skills Training (Skills to Pay the Bills)
- **278** Youth have completed the Health Promotion Modules





# Wisconsin Promise Outcomes

- At Enrollment **302** family members and **16** Wisconsin Promise youth were working when they enrolled in Wisconsin Promise
- As of 6/22/18, **616** family members and **551** Wisconsin Promise youth have had a job since enrolling in Wisconsin Promise
- So far **122** youth have graduated high school; **32** Education Attainment for Promise Family Members

# Wisconsin Promise Outcomes

## At Enrollment

- Family Members: **315** jobs, averaging **34** hours per week and **\$12.19/hr**
- Youth: **17** jobs, averaging **14** hours per week and **\$7.68/hr**

## As of 6/22/18

- Family Members: **806** jobs; **567** active jobs averaging **31** hours per week and **\$12.31/hr**
- Youth: **997** jobs; **267** active jobs, averaging **20** hours per week and **\$8.65/hr**



# Promise Panelists

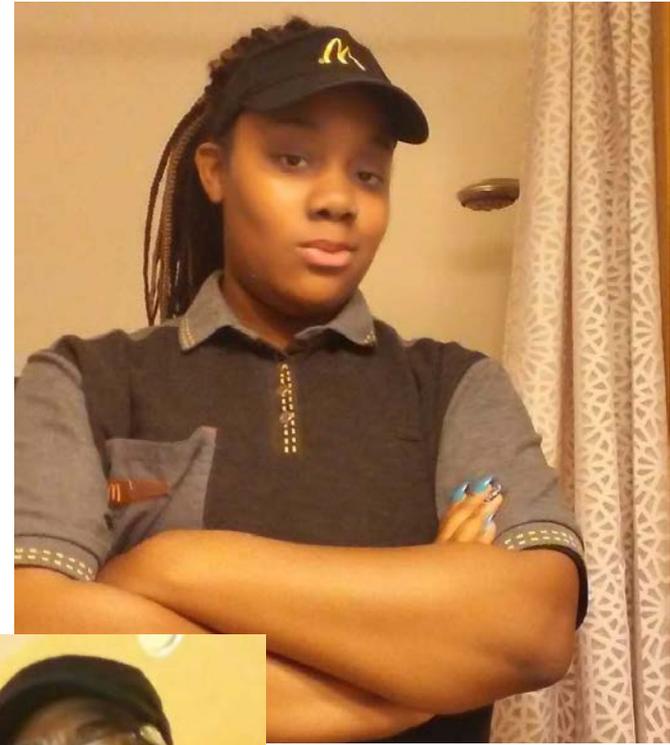
- Jessica and Alesia
- Gaynelle and Henry
- Catherine Foster
- Cynthia and Cordaruis



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# Alesia – About Me

- I am 20 years old, from Milwaukee
- I love animals, doing hair and crocheting
- My goal is to become a lawyer and fight for the disability community
- I had to advocate to graduate with my class.
- I am going to UW-Madison
- I am looking for a part time job now



# Parent Perspective – Jessica

- My hope is for Alesia to reach goals one at a time
- I'm her biggest fan and encourage her to do what she puts her mind to
- Teachers have been her biggest support
- My advice for parents: Never give up
- I learn and research all I can to give teachers and the support people in Alesia's life the information, resources, and strategies needed to support her to be successful



# Henry – About Me

- I am 19 years old, from Gresham (formerly Kansas City)
- I love music - especially the drums – and my 'son' (my chihuahua)
- I work at Gresham Town Mart (maintenance and stocking)
- I am 'retiring' from school in 2019. I use school as a responsibility building experience for work
- My goals: to get my driver's license and work in security at Milwaukee Children's Hospital



# How People Helped Me

- School staff were my extended family. Helped me through my father's passing
- Promise family advocate, John, helped me become a self-advocate
- Sean, my teacher, expects big things from me - he's my mentor
- I am most proud of being Native American Idol for 2015



# Parent Perspective - Gaynelle

- Henry's interests have been developed through exposure
- We made the decision to stay in school two extra years to polish skills for independence
- Developing self-advocacy skills are key to success - one to one teaching with self-advocate helped Henry understand
- We work on developing skills at home (example: learning to run errands took two years)
- Being included in the community is so important.
- My advice for parents:
  - Build a team and work side by side. (pastor, school, etc). Focus on open communication and trust building.
  - Research the issues you encounter. Know who is who to get things done now. Ask people "What is your part on our team?"



# Parent Perspective - Catherine

## My hopes for Patrick:

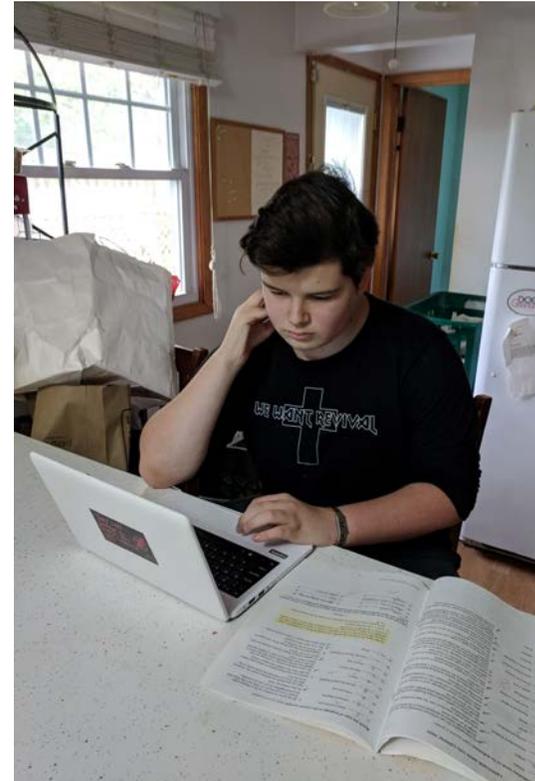
- Become a husband, father, and youth pastor

## How I support Patrick:

- Taught him to think ahead and make healthy choices that benefit his future
- I've learned to ask the right questions to get access to resources
- I always try to have a game plan in mind and will take control when I need to
- I make lists of needs and wants and connect with people to make them happen

## Advice to other parents:

- Don't give up, even when you are told 'no'



# Cordaruis – About Me

- I love football, math, and helping people
- I love helping people - I volunteer at the food pantry serving food
- My teachers (Mrs. Ellie and Mr. Daniel) are a big support - they help me stay on track
- I wouldn't change anything about high school - I just graduated!
- My goal is to be an NFL player or engineer



# Parent Perspective – Cynthia

- Helping other has helped Cordarius grow and mature
- School and Promise has helped him learn how to respect others (soft skills)
- Family is important but people who treat you like family play a big role.
- Advice to parents: listen and really try to understand your kids - once you understand your kids you'll have all you need



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# Building Partnerships with Parents

In general, research has shown that what families want most from professionals is respect and acceptance (Blue-Banning, 2004). Parents want professionals to see their children as individuals in the context of the family instead of just a client. Parents want professionals to listen to them and to acknowledge them as experts on their child.”



*Fostering Parent and Professional Collaboration Research Brief,*  
Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers, PACER  
Center

[www.utoledo.edu/education/grants/partnerproject/focus/docs/Parent%20and%20Professional%20Collaboration%20Research%20Brief%20-%20Final.pdf](http://www.utoledo.edu/education/grants/partnerproject/focus/docs/Parent%20and%20Professional%20Collaboration%20Research%20Brief%20-%20Final.pdf)

# What Professionals Can Do:

1. Keep your promises
2. Be hopeful and honest about the youth's abilities and potential
3. Help parents identify their strengths
4. Help parents identify choices available
5. Demonstrate/model (creative) problem solving skills
6. Accept parents as equal partners
7. Be flexible and considerate of the parent's point of view
8. Consider the family's preferences in all aspects of planning
9. Support parents as their child's best advocate
10. Take care of the logistic details of a meeting or event
11. Involve parents in systems change



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Fostering Parent and Professional Collaboration Research Brief, Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers, PACER Center

# What Parents Can Do:

1. Recognize the professional's commitment and expertise as practitioners
2. Thank professionals who have been helpful
3. Consider the professionals are often limited to systems
4. Reinforce at home what is being learned at school
5. Be flexible and considerate of the professionals point of view
6. Be honest and speak up if you don't understand
7. Follow through
8. Commitment to work to find solutions when disagreements arise (disagreements are honest differences of opinion, not personal attacks)
9. Remember life is full of compromises



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# Promise Family Advisory Committee Advice for Professionals:

- Recognize that parents might be too overwhelmed to reach out or speak up when they need to
- Please try more than once to connect with us (and maybe in more than one way...)
- Behavior is communication. A youth's negative behavior could be a result of being excluded, feeling rejected, having a lack of confidence
- Take the time to ask families the questions "What do you need to be successful?" and "How can we help?"

# Promise Family Advisory Committee Advice for Parents:

- Dig to find the resources – keep chiseling even when you think you find them
- Once you learn about resources and strategies for your child, give back by sharing this information with other families and supporting each other
- Know where you are going and what you want to achieve – show by example
- Consider whether or not you are a barrier to your child's independence. Are you enabling them or limiting them by focusing on disability too much?
- Consider if you have to change the atmosphere for your child – explore all of your school options

# Questions & Discussion?



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