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Family Advocacy Services

Wisconsin Promise has Family Advocates who can work with families to complete the Family Advocacy training. Family Advocates can meet with families in their homes or in the community. Together they will work through the information in the training so that families know more about transition, about planning for employment, and what to advocate for on behalf of their child.

Family Advocates can help families in other ways as well. They can:

- Help identify community supports such as:
 - o Transportation
 - o Food Pantries/Free Meals
 - o Housing
 - o Child Care Resources
 - o Local Care Providers
- Help families connect to long-term care supports through the Children's and Adult Medicaid Waivers.
- Help connect families with other families to grow their circle of support.
- Help families get information about guardianship and supported decision making.
- Assist the youth with the Promise Self-Advocacy training.
- Help families and youth apply for college or other training programs. Help with financial aid applications.
- Help families understand IEPs and prepare for meetings.
- Help families connect to local Independent Living Centers and ADRCs.
- Help connect with families who have been hard to reach.

More topics Family Advocates can talk with families about ►

There are nine Family Advocates who live around the state including:

First Name	Last Name	Work Email	Work Phone	Region(s)
Lakiela	Harris	ljharris4@wisc.edu	608-512-9397	WDA 1; Racine/Kenosha, WI
Juvosha	Diggins	jdiggins@wisc.edu	608-440-1559	WDA 2 & 3; Milwaukee, WI
Fatima	Becerra	fbecerra@wisc.edu	608-800-7253	WDA 2 & 3; Milwaukee, WI
Tara	Adams	tadams9@wisc.edu	608-512-9167	WDA 2 & 3; Milwaukee, WI
Terri	De Garo	tdegaro@wisc.edu	608-512-7069	WDA 2 & 3; West Allis, WI
John	Jahnke	jjahnke3@wisc.edu	608-512-7393	WDA 4 & 5; Green Bay, WI
Michelle	Steffen	mek@wisc.edu	608-440-1560	WDA 6; Wausau, WI
Kim	Campion	kim.campion@wisc.edu	608-512-8134	WDA 7; Northwestern WI
Tricia	Thompson	plthompson@wisc.edu	608-512-7946	WDA 8 & 9; Western WI
Elise	Butterfield	ebutterfield@wisc.edu	608-512-7614	WDA 10 & 11; Madison, WI
Sherry	Gundlach	familiesmatter4@gmail.com	920-896-1003	Statewide
Molly	Cooney	Molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov	608-266-0266	Statewide

To meet with a Family Advocate, families can contact their Promise VR counselor.

The Promise Family Advocates can share information with families about the following topics:

- **Employment Planning**
 - o Creating a Positive Description of a Child with Disabilities
 - o Identifying Interests, Transferrable Skills, and Ideal Conditions for Work
 - o Addressing Employment Barriers and Concerns
- **School**
 - o IEPs
 - o 18-21 year old Transition Programs
 - o Class Selection
 - o Meeting with School Guidance Counselors
 - o Graduation
 - o Dual Enrollment and Postsecondary Education
 - o Employment Goals with School
- **Transitioning to Adulthood**
 - o Supported Decision Making/Guardianship
 - o Access to Health Care
 - o Advance Directives
 - o Age 18 Redetermination
- **Community Resources**
 - o Children’s Long-Term Support
 - o Adult Long-Term Care
 - o Housing/Food/Clothing
 - o Transportation
- **Other Topics**
 - o Support with Technology
 - o Self-advocacy Training

More Information

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

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