



Phone: 855•480•5618
Email: promise-grant@cesa12.org
www.promisewi.com

Promise Evaluation Questions & Answers

The information in this document may be used to answer questions that potential Promise enrollees have about the study.

General Questions about the Study

What is this study?

Wisconsin Promise is part of a new federal program to help with school and work goals. The goal of this study is to learn what services are best at helping meet school and work goals. Youth must be 14, 15, or 16 years old and currently receiving SSI to enroll in Promise.

What is the name of this study?

Wisconsin Promise

How is it supported?

Promise is a federal grant.

- Service Funding: U.S. Department of Education
- Research Funding: Social Security Administration (SSA)
 - National Researcher: Mathematica Policy Research

Do I have to take part in this study?

It is your choice if you want to be part of this study. This choice will not affect your SSI or other benefits that you get.

Can I quit this study later?

You may stop being a part of this study at any time by writing to the Wisconsin Promise researcher. There is no penalty for dropping out. Any data you shared before dropping out will still be a part of this study.

Researcher Contact Info:

John W. Lui, Ph.D., MBA, Executive Director
Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute
221 10th Ave., VR101A
University of Wisconsin-Stout
Menomonie, WI 54751
715.232.2470 (Voice) | 715.232.5008 (Fax) | luij@uwstout.edu (Email)

Study Groups

Why are there two study groups?

There are two study groups. We want to learn if Promise services are better than usual services at helping meet school and work goals. Everyone has an equal chance to get into one of the two groups. This way the results are not biased. We will track and compare what happens with both of these two groups.

What services are available to youth in each group?

1. **Usual Services Group.** Half the youth and their families will have access to all usual school, state, and local services. Families will receive transition information along with two \$15 gift cards for participation.
2. **Program Group.** Half the youth and their families will have access to added services provided by Wisconsin Promise. These services will include:
 - a) Exploring school and work goals;
 - b) Help finding a job that matches your skills and dreams;
 - c) Help meeting school goals;
 - d) Help with public benefits and earned income; and
 - e) Computer tablet with data plan.

Can I switch groups or apply again if I don't like the group that I'm assigned to?

No, you cannot switch groups or apply again if you don't like the group you are assigned to.

Why can't everyone get Promise program services?

Funding for Promise is limited. The fairest way to choose who will receive Promise services is to pick them randomly. That way, everyone has an equal chance of receiving these services.

To know if Promise services are effective some people will get the services and others will not. Researchers will then study the results. A computer will assign participants to one of two groups based on chance, like a lottery. Half will receive Promise services and the other half will not. Doing a study like this is the best way to find out if new services are better than current services.

If I'm in the Wisconsin Promise program group, does this mean I will get all of the services that Promise offers?

To access to Wisconsin Promise services:

1. You must be in the Wisconsin Promise Program Group
2. The services must be available
3. The services must be based on what you and your Wisconsin Promise Resource Team decide that you need. This will be based on assessments and discussions.

If I'm in the program group, will I be required to participate in any or all Promise services?

No, you will not be required to participate in any services that you do not want.

If I'm in the usual services group, does this mean that I will never be able to receive any services?

No. You will be free to seek community services as you normally would. You will have access to all usual school, state, and local services. You will not be able to receive Promise services.

What happens if I move during the study period?

If you are in the Wisconsin Promise Program Group, and you stay in Wisconsin:

1. You can still have Wisconsin Promise Services.
2. Work with your Wisconsin Promise DVR Counselor. He/she will help move your services to the new area.
3. No matter where you move to, you will still be in the evaluation.

If you are in the Wisconsin Promise Program group, and you move out of Wisconsin:

1. If you move to a state with Promise, you may be able to still have Promise Services.
 - States with Promise services: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Maryland, Montana, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, or Utah
 - (In some states Promise is called ASPIRE.)
 - Work with your Wisconsin Promise DVR Counselor. He/she will help move your services to the new area.
2. If your new place is close to Wisconsin, talk to your Wisconsin Promise DVR Counselor. He/she can help to figure out if you can still receive Promise /ASPIRE services.
3. If you move to a state without Promise, you will no longer receive Promise services.
4. No matter where you move to, you will still be in the evaluation.

If you are in the usual services group and you move:

1. No matter where you move to, you will still be in the evaluation.

Group Assignment

What are my odds of being in each study group?

You have a 50 percent chance of being assigned to each study group.

How are youth assigned to the study groups?

A computer will assign youth to one of two groups based on chance, like a lottery. The group assignment is random. Promise staff cannot control the results. Everyone who enrolls in the study has the same chance of being in one of the study groups. No one has an advantage. Your race, gender, age, or disability will not affect what group you are in. Nothing about you, will affect what group you are in.

Why is group assignment random? I think the process is unfair.

Random assignment is like picking names out of a hat or flipping a coin. Everyone is treated the same. Everyone has the same chance of being in one of the two study groups. Your race, gender, age, or disability will not affect what group you are in.

What happens if more than one youth in my family is eligible for Promise?

The intake form will ask you questions about other family members. It is important that you write information about other youth who live with you on the intake form. If more than one youth in your family qualifies to enroll in Promise, then both youth will be assigned to the same study group. This is to make sure that the results of the study are accurate.

If two siblings live in different households and do not have a lot of interaction with one another, then they do not have to be assigned to the same study group.

When will I find out the study group that I'm in?

First, you need to mail your consent and intake form to UW-Stout. A letter will be mailed to you within about two weeks. The letter will tell you what study group you are in.

Consent Form

If I sign the consent form, will I get to receive Promise services?

The consent form must be completed for you to be a part of the study. Once you are part of the study, a computer will assign you to one of two groups. The group you are assigned to will determine what services you may be able to access. You will have access to Promise services if you are assigned to the Promise Program Group.

Can I think about it and sign the consent form later or do I have to sign it now?

You may complete and sign the form later if you wish. Youth must be 14, 15, or 16 years old and still receiving SSI when the consent form is completed. You can only enroll in the study during a two year period. To be in the study, you must complete a form before the end of this two year period, currently April 2016. You will receive services as usual until you fill out the consent form.

What is the purpose of the consent form?

The consent form is your way of telling us that you understand what it means to be in the study. This is the way you agree to take part in the study. If you do not sign it, you cannot be in the study.

If you sign the form, you agree to

1. Two follow-up surveys.
2. Provide your Social Security Number. This is to track your disability benefits and other state records.
3. If you are in the Program Group, researchers will ask you and your family about your needs. They will also ask about your progress in school and work.

Everything you share during this study will be used for research only. Your information will be in locked files. State and federal privacy laws will be followed. Your name will not be used in any public reports. Identifying information will not be in any public reports.

What happens if I don't sign the consent form?

You will not be included in the study. You will have no chance of receiving Promise services. You will be able to access other services as you normally would.

I don't feel comfortable giving you my Social Security Number (SSN). Can I still be in the study?

If you don't provide your SSN, you cannot be in the study. It is important that you provide your SSN. Your SSN is needed so that the study team can track the services and benefits you receive. Your SSN and all of the other info you share as part of this study will be protected. Everything you share during this study will be used for research only. Your information will be in locked files. State and federal privacy laws will be followed. Your name will not be used in any public reports. Identifying information will not be in any public reports.

National Evaluation Surveys

What is the purpose of the national surveys?

There will be two phone surveys as part of the national evaluation. One will be 18 months after you sign consent. The other one will be 5 years after you sign consent. Researchers will ask about the services that you receive. They will also ask about school and work. This will help the study team to pinpoint how effective Promise services are. The info you provide will not be shared with anyone who is not a part of the national study team, unless required by law. It will not be shared with Promise staff members. You will not be identified by name or in any other way in any study reports.

How many people will the study team survey?

12,000 nationwide; 2,000 in Wisconsin

When will the study team survey participants?

There will be two phone surveys as part of the national evaluation. One will be 18 months after you sign consent. The other one will be 5 years after you sign consent.

How much will the study team pay me for completing the surveys?

Youth and parents will each receive a gift card for the completion of each national survey. The gift cards will be for Target or Walmart.

What if I want to participate in the study, but not in the surveys?

You do not have to participate in the surveys if you do not want to. We hope that you will. If you wish to participate in the study, but not the surveys, that is okay.

How do I know that my information will be safe and will not be given away?

The study team will follow strict rules to make sure that your info will be kept safe and secure. It will never be shared with anyone outside of the study team unless required by law.

How will the surveys be conducted?

The surveys will be done mostly by telephone. In some cases, the surveys may be done in person or through the Internet.