

People First Wisconsin (PFW) Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

People First Wisconsin (PFW) is a non-for-profit 501 (c) (3) membership advocacy organization run by and for people with disabilities, with chapters throughout Wisconsin. Our mission is to provide opportunities for people with disabilities in Wisconsin to speak up and be heard about healthcare, voting, employment, housing, and transportation issues. Over 100 members participate in various advocacy campaigns and events to strengthen the voice and presence of the disability community on a local, statewide, and national level. The majority of self-advocates participating in volunteer or paid work, are long-term care participants in Family Care or IRIS or have received Special Education services in the past. PFW can survey members who would participate in WisPact Grant activities to be sure they would be eligible for the funding/meet functional eligibility requirements of a WisPact beneficiary (even if they do not currently have a WisPact Trust.)

PFW has two grants from the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, the CORE Grant and the Living Well Grant. PFW also has a Disability Inclusion Fund Grant through Borealis Philanthropy. An office manager and grant managers are contracted to support the work of the self-advocates. Self-advocates lead groups and provide the Living Well Safe and Free Curriculum training over Zoom and in person, across the state. Other self-advocates are leading twice weekly meet-ups and a weekly speaker series over Zoom. All of these efforts have provided education, helped build connections, and reduce social isolation for people with disabilities. Many of our members are becoming more comfortable meeting in person and want to attend conferences, meetings, and the annual Disability Advocacy Day (DAD) in Madison in March 2023. PFW has always had a strong presence at DAD, in person and during the last couple of years, virtually. PFW is an active member of Wisconsin's Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations and works with them ensure self-advocates understand issues that impact their lives, and are prepared and empowered to share their stories with legislators.

PFW has had virtual board meetings since 2020. Historically, the full PFW Board has met the day before DAD for a quarterly meeting. PFW would like to offer a pre-event briefing/training in 2023. This would offer a nice opportunity to support PFW chapters that have struggled during the pandemic and help members prepare their messages for their DAD legislative meetings. Funding from the WisPact Foundation would be used to cover expenses for members to gather for the pre- event briefing and DAD, with the goals to increase the number of self-advocates in attendance and strengthen local chapters. Legislators need to hear directly from constituents with disabilities to know how bills and policies impact their daily lives.

Statement of Need

People with disabilities have been especially isolated during the pandemic due to the caregiver shortage, in some cases due to being more susceptible to the effects of COVID, and not having accessible and reliable transportation. This has had a significant impact on our members. The need this grant would address is to help our members participate in training and advocacy events. The target population for this project is people with disabilities.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

The purpose of this project is to provide more opportunities for people with disabilities to become stronger advocates for themselves and others, through training and connections. This would be achieved through education at conferences, the PFW training/briefing and participation in advocacy events such as DAD This project relates to the WisPact priority areas of education/recreation and transportation for people with disabilities.

Goal: More self- advocates will participate in advocacy events in-person, such as Disability Advocacy Day.

Objective: PFW will provide scholarships to PFW members and their support providers to cover transportation, lodging, and registration/lunch for Disability Advocacy Day (DAD) and other advocacy events.

Goal: Social isolation of PFW chapter members will decrease through greater participation in PFW activities.

Objective: The PFW Executive Board and Executive Director will plan a pre-event briefing/training for PFW self-advocate members, their advisors, PFW staff and contracted outreach self-advocates to meet prior to Disability Advocacy Day. PFW will contract with a hotel to provide lodging, food and meeting space/s.

Goal: PFW self-advocates will increase their knowledge and confidence in self-direction and self-advocacy.

Objective: PFW will provide scholarships for self-advocates to participate in conferences at the local, state, and national level. Scholarships will cover transportation, registration, and hotel costs.

Project Implementation Plan

Project Implementation Plan Objective	Activities	Person/s Responsible	Target Date
PFW will provide scholarships to PFW members & their supporter providers to cover transportation and registration/lunch for DAD and other advocacy events.	Create & Share Scholarship Application Form, announce rewards, report	PFW: Sydney Badeau, Outreach Self-Advocate & Nancy Gapinski, Office Manager	1/15/2023-scholarships open and 3/1/2023 awards
Plan a pre-event briefing/training for PFW self-advocate members, their advisors, PFW staff & contracted outreach self-advocates to meet prior to DAD.	Create agenda. Pre-event Plan: Secure hotel & conf. rm/s, menu, parking.	PFW Exec Board PFW Director, Cindy Bentley Sydney Badeau & Nancy Gapinski	3/22/2023
PFW will provide scholarships for self-advocates to participate in conferences.	Create Scholarship App. Form. Award.	Form: Sydney Badeau & Nancy Gapinski Approval: Cindy Bentley	Form: 1/15/2023 Awards by: 5/1/2023

Evaluation Plan

PFW's Sydney Badeau and Nancy Gapinski will create a scholarship application form. The form will collect demographic information to ensure that an applicant is eligible for WisPact Foundation Grant funding. Scholarship recipients will be surveyed and asked to share what they learned at the pre-event briefing/training or conference and how it might benefit their advocacy efforts. PFW will record and report how many people with disabilities were able to participate in grant activities, noting if this was their first time participating in DAD or a training opportunity in person. Costs will be accounted for

through the scholarship application form, invoices, and receipts. The required grant report information will be submitted by 7/2/2023.

Budget

Budget Items	Cost	Funding Source
Pre-event Briefing/Training on 3/22/23		
• Parking Fees 3/22-3/23/23, \$20/per day/20 vehicles	\$400	WisPact
• Conference Room/s Usage Fees, Meals for 50 people.	\$3000	WisPact
• Hotel Rooms Approx. \$150 per night X 20 rooms	\$3000	WisPact
Disability Advocacy Day		
• Registration (\$11 per person X 40 persons)	\$440	WisPact
• Transportation Costs for PFW Members and Supporters (mileage reimbursement, bus fares) 3/22/23-3/23/23	\$1500	WisPact
Scholarships for Conferences	\$1660	WisPact
TOTAL	\$10,000	WisPact
In-kind Contributions		
• PFW Staff and Contractor Time: Planning and supporting at the Pre-event Briefing & Training	\$2000	PFW & BPDD
• Hotel Rooms for 5 staff persons on 3/22/23	\$765	PFW & BPDD
• DAD Registration for 10 persons at \$11 per person	\$110	PFW & BPDD
TOTAL	\$2875	PFW & BPDD

Staff Recommendation

The grant can be recommended for approval. The proceeds will provide a scholarship allowing more persons with disabilities to participate in the pre-session briefing and then present before legislators at the Disability Advocacy Day. The grant aligns with the initiatives of the foundation and the funds requested are allowable costs.

