

2007

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Who We Are:

Rehabilitation For Wisconsin, Inc. (RFW) is a statewide non-profit membership association of over 50 community rehabilitation providers. Members provide services that address the vocational, residential, and community support needs of people with disabilities or other disadvantages.

RFW, Inc.

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Increasing the Daily Rate of the Community Integration Program 1B

BACKGROUND:

Approximately 38,473 people with developmental disabilities live and work in the community, instead of in an institution. 30,000 direct care workers assist these individuals to live independently and be productive members of society.

THE PROBLEM:

Community-based services are in crisis. Since 1995 the number of people with disabilities living in the community has tripled. The daily rate of the Community Integration (CIP) 1B waiver program **increased by just 2.8%**.¹ Inflation has **increased 23%**.² The current CIP 1B rate is **\$49.67/day**.

In Comparison:

- ✓ The rate of Minnesota's waiver program, since 1995, increased **by 26%**.
- ✓ **Institutional settings increased as much as 59%** (see graphs below)
- ✓ The median earnings for direct care workers are 72% of the median earning for women in Wisconsin and 50% of the median for men.³
- ✓ Public direct service workers earn 26% more than private workers.⁴
- ✓ Many private service providers experience 40-50% staff turnover rates and are unable to keep pace with skyrocketing health care costs.

THE SOLUTION:

Increase the CIP1B rate to its actual costs:

\$89.20/day for 2005
\$90.99/day for 2006⁵

CIP1B is a Wise Investment:

- For every \$1 DHFS allocates to CIP1B the federal government gives Wisconsin \$1.43 in federal dollars.
- Serving people with disabilities in the community is more economical than in an institution.

¹This percentage and the institutional setting percentages were provided by DHFS; ²Bureau of Labor Statistics; ³Wage & Benefit Survey, Mulliken, Melissa. Commissioned by WCDD and BDDS, 2003. ⁴Bureau of Labor Statistics; ⁵In 2001 DHFS identified the actual cost of CIP1B to be \$83.14. The numbers used are based on the actual cost of the daily rate in 2001 plus a 2% increase per year for inflation.

