

# Make It Work Milwaukee! Coalition

*Strengthening Milwaukee County through better health and human services*

ADAPT SE Wisconsin  
Alzheimer's Association,  
SE Wisconsin Chapter  
American Red Cross in  
Southeastern Wisconsin  
ARC of Greater Milwaukee, Inc.  
Automated Health Systems  
Badger Association of the Blind and  
Visually Impaired  
Bell Therapy, Inc.  
Curative Care Network  
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging  
Groups  
Community Advocates  
Community Care, Inc.  
Disability Rights Wisconsin  
Eisenhower Center  
Goodwill Industries of Southeastern  
Wisconsin, Inc.  
Grand Avenue Club, Inc.  
Guest House of Milwaukee, Inc.  
HealthWatch  
Impact  
IndependenceFirst  
Independent Care Health Plan  
Interfaith Conference of Greater  
Milwaukee  
Jewish Family Services  
Justice 2000, Inc.  
Managed Health Services  
Mental Health America of Wisconsin  
Meta House, Inc.  
Milwaukee Mental Health Task  
Force  
Milwaukee Aging Consortium  
Milwaukee Center for Independence  
Milwaukee Jewish Council for  
Community Relations  
M&S Clinical Services  
NAMI Greater Milwaukee  
Our Space, Inc.  
Partnership Council Public Policy  
Committee  
People Can't Wait  
Public Policy Committee, Milwaukee  
Child Abuse Prevention Services  
Coalition  
Rosalie Manor Community & Family  
Services, Inc.  
Southeast Wisconsin ADAPT  
Transitional Living Services, Inc.  
Vital Voices for Mental Health  
UEDA  
Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.  
Wisconsin Council on Children  
and Families  
Gwen Jackson

## 2010 Milwaukee County Budget

### ***Put People First & Maintain the Safety Net!***

In these tough economic times, it is more important than ever to maintain the safety net of services provided by Milwaukee County. Let's come together to recommit to our Wisconsin values – to put people first, maintain the social safety net and ensure a decent quality of life that all people deserve. "Put People First" and support these vital services in the 2010 Milwaukee County budget:

#### **Restore funding for:**

##### ✓ **Mental Health Services**

Restore funds for targeted case management (TCM) and Outpatient Services and fully fund community-based services. This will help consumers to live independently in the community and reduce use of more-costly resources, such as crisis services, inpatient and long-term care.

##### ✓ **Interim Disability Assistance Program (IDAP)**

Restore fund for the **Interim Disability Assistance Program**, the last shred of the safety net for people awaiting Social Security disability determination. The wait for federal SSD/SSI benefits can be as long as three years. This delay causes great hardship for those too sick or injured to work who have no other source of income. The modest monthly payment (up to \$205 for individuals/ \$344 for married couples) **is a loan which is repaid to the county** from the claimant's retroactive benefit award.

##### ✓ **Disability Services**

We support Milwaukee County's commitment to moving forward with Family Care, which will hold great promise to serve people with disabilities aged 18-59 on the County's waiting list, over the next 3 years.

Contract services for people with disabilities remain an important part of the safety net, serving people on the waiting list as well as those who may not qualify for Family Care, but rely on more limited services which enable them live, work and contribute to our community. It is encouraging that some contract services are funded; however, the need is still great. A relatively small investment in services can be life sustaining and enable people to continue to live successfully in the community.

##### ✓ **Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Services**

Restore funding to maintain vital AODA services. The reduction in all alcohol and other drug abuse services of \$1,335,693 is a 7% cut in funding from the 2009 budget. This will result in reduction of detox capacity as well as prevention services, while will be inadequate for community needs.

*Contacts for MIWM:*

*Barbara Beckert, Disability Rights Wisconsin, 414-773-4646  
Tom Hlavacek, Alzheimer's Association, 414-479-8800*



## Maintain funding for:

- ✓ **Supportive Housing.**

Maintain funding for supported apartments which have helped to meet a pressing need in the community for affordable, accessible housing with supportive services for people with mental illness. Such housing helps people maintain their recovery and avoid the use of more costly services such as crisis facilities and inpatient care. This small investment of county dollars has been key to leveraging far more dollars from private developers, foundation funding, and the federal government.

- ✓ **Emergency Shelters**

Maintain Milwaukee County's contribution to the community emergency shelter system – the need for these services continues to grow as a result of the economic downturn. The county contribution of \$418,881 provides funding to six homeless shelters that provide 123,000 nights of shelter per year. These programs are proven to significantly reduce costs for sheriff, jail, parks social services, mental health and other units of government.

- ✓ **Paratransit & Fixed Route Bus Services**

Availability of accessible, affordable, and reliable transportation plays a major role in determining how independent, productive, and integrated older adults and people with disabilities can be. It is crucial to maintain the current county wide paratransit service area. Paratransit is essential to the independence of people with disabilities who have no other option for transportation. Cutting the service area to the ADA minimum requirement will leave many without transportation to employment, medical care, and other vital service while also restricting others who will still be eligible in their destinations

We support sustaining the current fixed route system services as well as examining options for restoring routes and increasing route frequency,

Current funding sources for public transit are not sufficient. We must work together to ensure a dedicated funding source for public transportation to support the Milwaukee County Transit System, so it will not be in competition for funding with other important services. A 0.5% sales tax dedicated to transportation is an option that will support transit and grow with inflation, and MIWM continues to advocate for this option with the state.