

Definition of Physical Disability

Wisconsin Statute 15.197 (4) defines a physical disability as:

- ❖ a physical condition, including an anatomical loss or musculo-skeletal, neurological, respiratory or cardiovascular impairment,
- ❖ which results from injury, disease or congenital disorder, and
- ❖ which significantly interferes with or significantly limits at least one of the following major life activities of a person: self-care, walking, mobility other than walking, breathing, employment, performance of manual tasks unrelated to employment, receptive and expressive language, education or capacity for independent living.

How to Contact the Council

For more information about the Council on Physical Disabilities, visit our website or contact us as shown below.



Council on Physical Disabilities
Post Office Box 7851
Madison, WI 53707-7851



608/266-7974 Voice
608/267-9880 TTY
608/266-3386 Fax



www.pdcouncil.state.wi.us

Second printing - August 2004
PCS-3025

Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

**A Voice for People with
Physical Disabilities**



The Council's Duties

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities was created by the state legislature in 1989. In section 46.29 of the state statutes, the legislature gave the Council five major responsibilities.

- ❖ Develop a state plan for services to people with physical disabilities.
- ❖ Advise state agencies on programs and policies that affect people with physical disabilities.
- ❖ Promote public understanding of the abilities and concerns of people with physical disabilities.
- ❖ Encourage development of programs to prevent physical disabilities.
- ❖ Submit recommendations in an annual report to the legislature.

The Council's Vision

The Council envisions a world where all persons with physical disabilities have access to the same opportunities and life choices as any other Wisconsin resident.

To achieve this vision, the Council promotes programs and policies that enable people with disabilities:

- ❖ to be included and integrated in their communities;
- ❖ to make their own life choices;
- ❖ to enter, re-enter or remain in the workforce to the maximum of their capacity;
- ❖ to participate in improving and evaluating services; and
- ❖ to utilize beneficial technology.

The Council's Goals

The Council's State Plan identifies four areas that are critical to people with physical disabilities: housing, long-term support, transportation and emergency preparedness.

Specific goals for each area are outlined in the State Plan, which is available from the Council's office.

Council Membership

The Council is made up of 14 members appointed by the Governor for staggered three-year terms. One Council position is reserved for the Governor's representative, and the rest are unpaid volunteers. At least six members must be people with physical disabilities, and at least one member must be a service provider to people with physical disabilities.

Public Participation

To help us accomplish our goals, we need to hear from people with physical disabilities and other concerned individuals.

Write or fax your concerns, opinions or suggestions to the Council. Contact information is listed on the back of this brochure.

You can also attend a Council meeting. A portion of every agenda is set aside to receive public comment. Contact us for details.

The Council will carefully consider the problems you cite, the laws you feel need changing, and the suggestions you have to make state programs more effective.