

ACCESSIBILITY & CIVIL RIGHTS



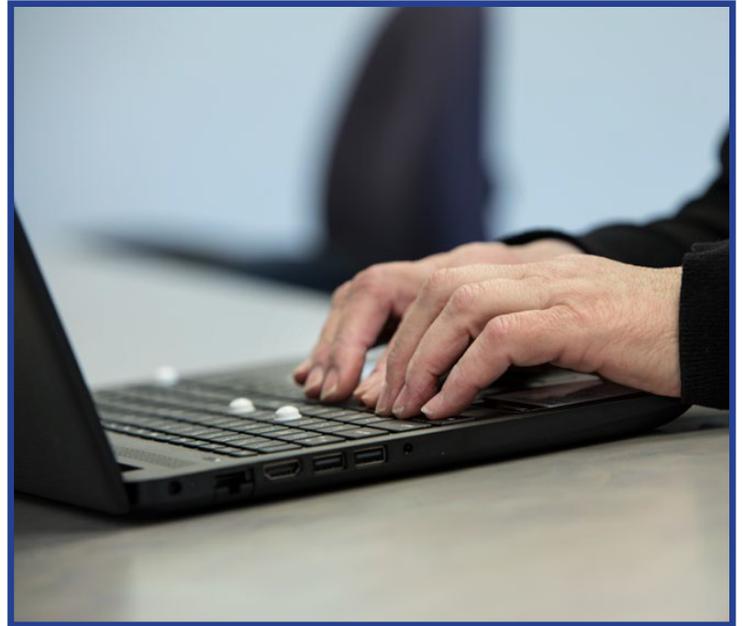
Prevent discrimination and promote full community inclusion of people with disabilities.

BUDGET ITEMS

Accessible Government Websites:

Take actions to ensure that all state websites are accessible and compatible with screen-readers and other technologies needed by individuals who are blind and visually impaired. Currently State of Wisconsin websites, online forms and applications have serious accessibility issues. Many state websites are not compliant with ADA Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, which means that those who are blind or visually impaired simply don't have the same level of access to information as sighted Wisconsinites.

Specifically, state websites do not consistently respond to the screen-reader or magnification technologies used by individuals who are blind and visually impaired across all agency sites. This means that we cannot read the content on state-run websites or complete online state forms.



Broadband Access:

WCBVI supports Governor Evers proposal to provide \$200 million to expand broadband access in Wisconsin. This will ensure that Wisconsinites with vision impairment can access telehealth, delivery services, work and other technology-based services.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Promote Service Dog Access:

Per federal ADA law, task-based service animals are the only animals having mandatory access to businesses and additional venues of public accommodation.

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Create an Accessible Absentee Ballot Option:

Provide funding to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) to create an ADA-compliant absentee voting option for voters with disabilities who require assistive technology to vote privately and independently. A bipartisan group of legislators introduced 2019 Assembly Bill 861/Senate Bill 794 which would have allowed overseas and military voters to vote absentee by electronic submission. This legislation should be reintroduced and expanded to include voters who cannot see, read or mark a ballot independently. It would allow voters with visual impairments to utilize screen readers and marking technologies to cast a private absentee ballot. A WEC fiscal estimate stated the IT upgrades to implement AB 861/SB 794 would cost roughly \$203,000.

WCBlind.org • 800-783-5213
Info@WCBlind.org