

Wisconsin

When a family or individual is faced with a progressive condition such as DM1 or DM2 they are often presented with additional financial expenses as well as loss of a steady income. This section attempts to gather financial resources that are available on a state level for persons living in the United States. By no means is this section complete; we invite you to share with us any resources you've identified.

This is an on-going project. We will add more resources as we gather them; please send us resources you know of that are not currently listed.

Please be advised that each organization has its own eligibility and application requirements. None of these organizations are affiliated with Myotonic. We hope you will share your experiences with us – let us know if you are successful in finding a good resource to help your family.

Caregivers

Wisconsin Caregiver Programs: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/caregiver.htm>

Education

Education Grants: If you are a low-income individual interested in attending college, you may be eligible for grants from the Wisconsin Higher Education Aid Board or the Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Program to help cover the costs of attending college. Visit the following sites for more information: <http://heab.state.wi.us/programs.html> and <https://dpi.wi.gov/weop>.

Employment

FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET): If you are receiving FoodShare, you may be eligible for FSET, which helps individuals build their job skills and find jobs through education and training services. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/fset/index.htm>

Job Centers: are open to all job seekers. Job Centers offer many services, including access to training programs, testing, and assessment of individual job seeker skills and interest, job referrals, job assistance, and job opportunities.

<http://wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory/>



Skills Enhancement Program: assists working, low-income individuals to obtain the skills they need to compete for living wage jobs. The program assists with tuition, books, and training-related transportation and childcare costs that participants could not otherwise afford. Check if your local Community Action Agency offers the Skills Enhancement Program: <http://wiscap.org/member-agencies/>.

Vocational Education and Training: The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) offers many short-term certificates and technical degrees or diplomas. This can help begin a career pathway that will help you get better jobs within your chosen field. <https://www.wistechcolleges.org/explore-careers>

Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR): is available to assist with obtaining, maintaining, or improving employment. <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/default.htm>

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA): You can apply to participate in education and training to help you get a job or a better job through WIOA. <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/WIOA/>

Financial Resources

Caretaker Supplement: is a cash benefit available to qualified low-income parents who are receiving Supplemental Security Income payments. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ssi/caretaker.htm>

Emergency Assistance: is a one-time payment you can apply for every 12 months if you are faced with an emergency due to fire, flood, natural disaster, energy crisis, homelessness or impending homelessness. You can apply at your local Wisconsin Works (W-2) agency: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/parents/locator>.

Exceptional Expense Supplement for Members of Supplemental Security Income (SSI-E): This program provides a monthly cash benefit of up to \$95.99 added to the State SSI payment of each SSI member who meets the program requirements and is certified for the benefit by a county agency. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ssi/ssi-e.htm>

Job Access Loans are short-term, no interest loans designed to assist eligible individuals to meet emergency needs that support employment. <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/parents/jal>

Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance: are available if you or someone in your family is a new refugee who is not eligible for W-2, Supplemental Security Income, or a Match Grant. <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/refugee/cma>

Supplemental Security Income in Wisconsin (SSI): is a monthly cash benefit paid by the federal Social Security Administration and the state Department of Health Services to people in financial need who are 65 years old or older of people of any age who are blind or disabled and residents of Wisconsin. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ssi/index.htm>

Wisconsin Works (W-2): is Wisconsin's primary Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. W-2 is a program that provides employment preparation services, case management and cash assistance to eligible families. <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/parents/w2>

Food/Nutrition

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): offers free, nutritious foods to low-income seniors aged 60 years and older. The monthly food package, worth about \$35, is available at no cost to eligible individuals. The foods are intended to be a supplement and do not provide a complete diet. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nutrition/csfp.htm>

Elderly Nutrition Program: This program includes community dining centers where older adults age 60 and older in each county and tribe can enjoy a hot, nutritious meal in a friendly atmosphere. The program also provides home delivered meals to older adults who are home-bound due to health reasons. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/nutrition.htm>

FoodShare: FoodShare is Wisconsin's version of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps people with limited money buy the food they need for good health. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/index.htm>

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (Senior FMNP): offers low-income older citizens an opportunity to purchase fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs from certified farmers. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wic/fmnp/senior.htm>

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): is a federal program that provides food commodities to distribution sites. Food pantries and prepared meal sites receive commodities and they are distributed with other foods. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nutrition/tefap/index.htm>



WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program: This is a nutrition program for pregnant women, infants, women who are breastfeeding, postpartum women, and children younger than 5. WIC also provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education, and support, supplemental nutritious foods, and connections to other community services.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wic/index.htm>

WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (WIC FMNP): provides a one-time food benefit per growing season to WIC families. Each family receives checks that are redeemed at local farmers markets from June through October.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wic/fmnp/index.htm>

Wisconsin Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed): works with state and local partners to help Wisconsin residents with limited incomes make healthy food choices. SNAP-Ed also shows participants who to be physically active.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nutrition/snap-ed.htm>

Housing

Homeless Assistance Agencies:

<https://www.hud.gov/states/wisconsin/homeless/agencies>

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP): may be available if you are unable to pay your heating or electric bill, if your furnace or boiler stops working, or if you have no heat. For more information on LIHEAP/WHEAP, please visit these links or call 1-866-HEATWIS (432-8947): <http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/> and

<http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/category.asp?linkcatid=239&linkid=118&locid=25>.

Living with Disabilities/Elderly

The Birth to 3 Program: is for children ages birth to three years old. Eligibility is based on a diagnosed disability or significant developmental delay in how a child plays, learns, speaks, and acts. The program values the family's primary relationship with their child and works in partnership with the family. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/index.htm>

Care4Kids Program: ensures that children in foster care receive individualized treatment plans in order to address their specific health care needs, including trauma-related care. As a result, children in community settings are expected to have improved physical and mental health, improved resiliency, and shorter stays in out-of-home-care.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/care4kids/index.htm>

Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program: This Waiver provides Medicaid funding for children who have substantial limitations in their daily activities and need support to remain in their home or community. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/index.htm>

Children's Community Options Program (CCOP): provides a coordinated approach to supporting families who have a child with a disability. The intention is to better support, nurture, and facilitate self-determination, interdependence, and inclusion in all facets of community life for the child and family. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ccop/index.htm>

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN): program promotes quality care for children and youth with special health care needs in Wisconsin. For more information about programs, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/index.htm>.

Family Care: is a long-term care program that helps frail elders and adults with disabilities get the services they need to remain in their homes. This comprehensive and flexible program offers services to foster independence and quality of life for members while recognizing the need for interdependence and support. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycare/index.htm>

Katie Beckett Program: is a special eligibility process that allows certain children with long-term disabilities, mental illness, or complex medical needs, living at home with their families, to obtain a FowardHealth card. Children who are not eligible for other Medicaid programs because the income or assets of their parents are too high to be eligible for Medicaid through the Katie Beckett Program. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/kbp/index.htm>

Youth in Transition: Visit this link to learn about supports and services available for students with disabilities after high school: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/transition/index.htm>.

Medical/Health-Related

BadgerCare Plus: is a health care coverage program for low-income Wisconsin residents. For more information, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/index.htm>.

The Chronic Disease Prevention Program: addresses environments, systems, and health behaviors associated with diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and obesity. For more information, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/chronic-disease.htm>.



Drug Donation Repository: This program takes unused medications that have been donated to a participating pharmacy or medical facility and given to those who cannot afford medications. It is available to Wisconsin residents who have a valid prescription from their physician, who have cancer, and do not have the means to pay for the medication. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/guide/cancer-drugrepo.htm>

ForwardHealth Program Resources:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/resources.htm>

Medicaid Purchase Plan: Health care coverage for people with a disability who are age 18 or older and are working or interested in working.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/medicaid-purchase-plan.htm>

Medicare Counseling for Wisconsin Residents: This page lists a variety of resources to help Wisconsin Medicare beneficiaries and their families and caregivers.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/benefit-specialists/medicare-counseling.htm>

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage: <https://www.medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d>

Medicaid: Wisconsin Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that provides high-quality health care coverage, long-term care, and other services to over one million Wisconsin residents. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/index.htm>

National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) Patient Assistance Program: can be helpful for finding free or reduced-fee prescription drugs if you or a loved one has a rare disease (like myotonic dystrophy). <https://rarediseases.org/for-patients-and-families/help-access-medications/patient-assistance-programs-2/>

NeedyMeds: can provide additional information on free or reduced-fee prescription drug programs available to those in need. <https://www.needymeds.org/>

Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE): provides a full range of long-term care, health care, and prescription drugs to older people with chronic needs.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycare/pace.htm>

Rx Outreach: offered by Express Scripts Specialty Distribution Services, Inc., a mail order pharmacy company, provides generic drugs in 90- or 180-day quantities for reduced prices. The program is available to individuals and families with incomes up to 250% of the federal poverty level who have no, or limited, prescription drug coverage.

<https://rxoutreach.org/>



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SeniorCare: A prescription drug assistance program for Wisconsin residents who are 65 of ageyears or older who meet program rules.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/seniorcare/index.htm>

Additional Resources

Muscular Dystrophy Association Wisconsin Clinics: <https://www.mda.org/clinic/childrens-hospital-wisconsin>

Wisconsin Shares: if you are low-income and working or participating in W-2 activities, you may be eligible for Wisconsin Shares Child Care for children under the age of 13. If a child has a special need, the child may remain eligible until the child's 19th birthday.

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wishares>