



# Circles of Life Conference 2021

## Paying for Conference Registration Using Waiver Funds

**Can my child's Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver or Children's Community Options Program (CCOP) funds pay for my family to attend the Circles of Life Conference?**

The Answer is **YES!** The Circles of Life Conference ([circlesoflifeconference.com](http://circlesoflifeconference.com)), Wisconsin's annual statewide conference for families who have children of any age with disabilities, is a great way to learn about programs and services and increase your ability to care for your child with a disability. CLTS and CCOP funds can support family participation at this annual event.

**Below is a step-by-step guide on how you can attend the Circles of Life Conference with help from your child's waiver funds – also see “Instructions for CWAs”**

- 1.** Contact your child's Service Coordinator and let them know you are interested in attending the Circles of Life Conference (May 6 and 7, 2021).
- 2.** Let the Service Coordinator know that this is a training event to increase your ability to care for your child and family. The Deciding Together process can support this conversation. For more information, visit: [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02246.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02246.htm)
- 3.** Talk with your Service Coordinator about the different services and programs that can support your family's participation in this conference, including:
  - CLTS: Training for Unpaid Caregivers, a service to support access to training for parents and/or guardians and families of children with disabilities to support and foster growth for their child or youth and their family (*see Waiver Manual description on page 2*).
  - CCOP funds can be used for a variety of goods and services that benefit and support the child in their home and community with additional flexibility beyond the CLTS Waiver Program.
  - Additional funds or resources identified by your family or Service Coordinator.
- 4. See the instructions on page 2 for details on how to register!** If your Service Coordinator is not familiar with the conference or has any questions about whether this event can be covered by CLTS Waiver funds, contact your county's [Technical Assistance Lead](#) or **Kate Johnson**, Bureau of Children's Services at the Department of Health Services at [SarahKate2.Johnson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:SarahKate2.Johnson@wisconsin.gov) or by calling **608.575-1062**.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COUNTY WAIVER AGENCIES (CWAs):

### How to Pay for Conference Registration

UW Stevens Point provides registration and support services for the Circles of Life Conference through processing primarily **online registration and payments**. They are not a CLTS or Medicaid provider and **do not have billing capacity**. There are two options for payment of registration fees for parents to attend this conference:

1. A CWA registers a parent using the **online registration link** - [circlesoflifeconference.com/registration/](https://circlesoflifeconference.com/registration/) and pays registration on behalf of the parent; then the CWA bills the TPA.
2. The parent registers via a paper process and CWA includes a paper payment (i.e. check) with the registration form. Then the CWA bills the TPA. A paper registration form is available on the Circles website at [circlesoflifeconference.com/registration](https://circlesoflifeconference.com/registration)

### **\*\*MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE\*\***

#### **When Can I Register for the May 2021 Conference?**

Conference registration is open and ends April 26<sup>th</sup> for the May 6-7, 2021 virtual conference. Go to the Circles of Life Conference website at [circlesoflifeconference.com/registration/](https://circlesoflifeconference.com/registration/) or call UW Stevens Point at **715-346-3838**.

#### **How Can I Learn More About the Conference?**

Go to the Circles of Life Conference website - [circlesoflifeconference.com](https://circlesoflifeconference.com) - for details on the keynote speaker and the 28 breakout sessions. Information on programming for youth, including a **Teen Hangout (May 6, 6:00 – 7:00pm)**, and **Sibshop** (for their siblings ages 8 to 12) is also available on the conference website.

#### **Wisconsin Medicaid Waiver Manual**

##### **Description of Training for Parents and/or Guardians and Families of Children with Disabilities (Training for Unpaid Caregivers):**

Training focuses on techniques for supporting children with and without disabilities, keeping family balance and harmony in the home, and communicating effectively, which promote inclusion, support independence, and foster growth for both the child or youth and their family. This service includes, but is not limited to, in-person training, parent-to-parent mentoring, **conferences**, resource materials, online training, registration and training fees associated with formal instruction. (See waiver manual p. 102 [dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02256.pdf](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02256.pdf))

This information sheet was developed by Family Voices of Wisconsin ([familyvoiceswi.org](https://familyvoiceswi.org)).

If you have questions, please contact [Lynn@fvofwi.org](mailto:Lynn@fvofwi.org).