DO YOU, A FRIEND, OR FAMILY MEMBER STRUGGLE TO USE THE PHONE??

HOW CAN MILC HELP??

- TRY BEFORE YOU BUY LOAN PROGRAM
- HELP APPLY FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM (TEPP)
- HELP ORDER AND SET UP NEW PHONE EQUIPMENT

CALL OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGES 2-3</th>
<th>PAGES 4-5</th>
<th>PAGES 6-7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amplified Telephone Can Help Your Loved One Stay In Touch</td>
<td>EVV Hard Launch</td>
<td>Uniphone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tech Time</td>
<td>New Freedom Transportation</td>
<td>Clarity Alto Plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sonic Bomb Wireless Vibration Alarm</td>
<td>COVID-19 Vaccine</td>
<td>Loan Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarity AlertMaster Visual Alert System</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Amplified Telephones Can Help Your Loved One Stay In Touch

“I just called to say I Love You” by Stevie Wonder is a song that most of us can sing in our head and can dance to the rhythm in our own way. But what if you or a family member cannot hear this important message? It may be time to acquire a telephone that can help provide access to communication that is essential. An amplified telephone can assist in making this possible.

Midstate Independent Living Choices offers a try-before-you-buy service to ensure that the telephone you purchase will work for you before you actually buy it. You can do this by utilizing our loan & demonstration program. Below is just one of the many phones we have available for loan:

**Serene CL-60**
All-in-one phone for severe hearing loss

- 50+dB amplification with High-Definition Sound and Digital Tone Control.
- Every conversation can now be clear and easily understood.
- Large LCD display.
- Display in English, French, or Spanish and talking features in English and French.
- Hearing-aid compatible with accessory jack for neck loop or headset.
- One-touch speed dials and emergency Help button.

Item description taken from [www.sereneinnovations.com](http://www.sereneinnovations.com)

An amplified telephone can make a world of difference to you or a loved one. Please reach out to us at Midstate Independent Living Choices by telephone at 715-344-4210, visit [www.milc-inc.org](http://www.milc-inc.org) or by stopping in at 3262 Church Street in Stevens Point, WI. Your ability to be able to communicate with the ones you love is very important to us! Hope to hear from you soon!

~ Oni Hendricks, IL Consultant

We have a workshop here at MILC called “Tech Time”, which meets every Tuesday from 1-2pm. Alex Lena, one of our IL Consultants, will teach people with disabilities how to use the accessibility features and basic skills on their computers, tablets, phones, and other devices. If you or someone you know is looking for assistance with learning about your device, please call Midstate Independent Living Choices at 715-344-4210, ext. 232 for Alex.
If you have a hard time hearing your alarm, the Sonic Bomb Wireless Vibrating Alarm by Sonic Alert may be a good option for you. This alarm connects wirelessly to your smartphone and you can set multiple alarms and notifications using the easy-to-use app. There are several options for each alarm so you are able to personalize it for your needs. You are able to give each alarm a separate name and you can turn the sound on or off so you have the option of just using the bed shaker. This way you won’t have to disturb others, and you are able to set the vibration pattern, strength, and duration, from 15 seconds to 10 minutes, for each alarm. You are also able to choose which notifications you want to receive from Gmail to text messages. The Sonic Bomb Wireless Vibrating Alarm comes with a built-in rechargeable battery as well as a one-year warranty.

If you think that the Sonic Bomb Wireless Vibrating Alarm might be a good choice for you or a loved one or if you would like to learn more about the many telecommunication devices available, please give one of the Independent Living Consultants a call at 715-344-4210. We’d love to hear from you!

~ Karalyn Peterson, Resource Coordinator

Do you have a hard time hearing environmental cues in your home such as the doorbell, phone, or other alarms? The Clarity AlertMaster Visual Alert System along with corresponding transmitters can help! This easy to use system has a large display that is easy to navigate and includes bright, flashing red alert lights and easily connects to the various areas of your home. There are alerts for phone, clock, fire alarm, motion/security detectors, baby or other sound monitors, as well as an alert for the door. Clarity Visual alert system connects wirelessly to the various transmitters to provide you with a streamlined way to stay connected within your home.

You may also purchase accessories to the system such as a personal signaler which will provide a vibrating alert so you can stay informed no matter where you are. With this easy to use, hassle free system, you can rest assured that you are staying safe and connected while inside your home. Call Midstate Independent Living Choices today to talk with an Independent Living Consultant about the Clarity AlertMaster Visual Alert System and wide variety of other assistive technology devices available for demonstration and loan.

~ Morgan Potter, Peer Support/Mental Health Coordinator
EVV hard launch

January 1, 2022, is the EVV hard launch date set by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. EVV data has been required for Medicaid-covered personal care and supportive home care services: procedure codes T1019, T1020, S5125, and S5126. Consequences will begin for dates of service on and after January 1, 2022, if EVV data is not captured for required services.

These consequences include:

- Claim denial
- Exclusion from future capitation rate setting development
- Possible disenrollment for IRIS participants

The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requires an EVV hard launch.

What is EVV?

EVV is an electronic system that uses technologies to verify that authorized services were provided. Workers will be required to send information at the beginning and end of each visit to an EVV system, including:

- Who receives the service
- Who provides the service
- What service is provided
- Where service is provided
- Date of service
- Time in and out

For more information, please visit https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/evv

Provider agencies, members, participants, workers, and program payers can contact Wisconsin EVV Customer Care by phone at 833-931-2035 or e-mail vdxc.contactevv@wisconsin.gov for help with technical and program-related questions. Wisconsin EVV Customer Care hours are Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–6 p.m. CT.

The New Freedom Transportation Program allows persons with disabilities and older adults to access transportation services for medical, shopping, and recreational trips. They utilize a call center, which is staffed by transportation specialists who coordinate travel for clients. Services are provided by either volunteer drivers who are reimbursed for their miles or a voucher program that reimburses clients who provide their own drivers.

The New Freedom Transportation Program covers an 18-county area and requires coordination across numerous agencies and organizations in the region.
What is the COVID-19 vaccine?
It is medicine that helps you to not get as sick from COVID-19. You get this medicine by getting two shots in your arm three or four weeks apart. You need both shots for the medicine to work. After that, you might have to get a vaccine every year.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?
The vaccine was tested with many thousands of people to make sure it is safe. These people were different ages and races and they had different health problems. Most people did not have any serious reactions to the vaccine.

Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?
People will also be getting the vaccine at their doctor or clinic, pharmacies, local health departments, at their jobs, and at large vaccination sites. Every county is doing COVID vaccination in different ways. The best way to find a local site is to go to: https://www.vaccines.gov/

How will I feel if I get the vaccine?
You get the vaccine as a shot in your arm with a needle. It is quick and easy. Your arm might be a little red or hurt after you get the shot. You might get a fever, feel tired, have a headache, or have aches and pains. This is normal and will last a day or two. It is a lot like what you might feel after a flu shot.

Should I get the vaccine if I already had COVID-19?
Talk to your doctor about this. People who have had the virus can get sick again. Experts are still learning about the virus and the vaccine. Your doctor should know the newest information.

Will I still need to wear a mask, social distance, and wash my hands after I get the vaccine?
Yes. It is important for everyone to do these things until doctors learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine. Wearing a mask, social distancing and washing hands will also help protect you from other viruses like the flu.

For the safety of all people in our community, MILC is encouraging everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

MILC staff are ready to assist you with the vaccination process, we can:
- Find your nearest vaccination site
- Schedule appointments
- Reminder you of appointments
- Arrange transportation to and from vaccination appointments
- Provide support during vaccinations

Call us today if you would like assistance in getting yourself vaccinated, or to learn more about other MILC services.
Landline telephones and typewriters, two items that many think are in the distant past. But if you combine them you get a device that can create equal access to telecommunications for an individual with hearing loss or speech impairment. This device is a teletypewriter or TTY phone. This device allows you to type instead of needing to speak into the phone. To make a call using a TTY phone to a non-TTY phone user, one needs to dial 711 to reach a relay service to help relay what you type and what they say back.

The Uniphone is an all-in-one combining a telephone, TTY and amplified phone. This phone can act as a regular phone for individuals who are hearing and an amplified phone or TTY phone for individuals who are hard of hearing/deaf or have a speech impairment.

At MILC we have this device and many more you can try. For individuals with hearing loss, mobility impairments, speech impairments, funding is available through the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP) to assist in covering the costs for a new device to increase your independence with telecommunications.

For more information on these devices or about TEPP, please call and ask to speak with one of our Independent Living Consultants.

~ Alex Lena, IL Consultant

The AltoPlus™ amplified corded telephone is the ideal solution for those with mild, moderate and severe hearing loss. The 53 dB phone is the first on the market to receive TIA-4953 certification, passing the new industry standards for amplified telephones. The large, tilting LCD display is easy to see and read.

**Features:**
- TIA-4953 certified for mild, moderate and severe hearing loss
- Amplifies incoming sounds up to 53 dB and outgoing speech up to 15 dB
- Digital Clarity Power™ incorporates hearing aid technology for clearer call quality
- Extra loud ringer volume: 100 dBA
- Large tilting LCD display with large font
- Clarity AudioCenter featuring ergonomic volume and tone control
- Built-in speakerphone
- Soft touch backlight keypad
- Three (3) one-touch speed dial memory buttons
- Clarity VoiceAssist talking keypad
- Oversized bright visual ringer
- Headset, neckloop and bedshaker ports
- Battery backup let you make calls when the power goes out
- TIA-1083 compliant for hearing aid compatibility

Ask us about our loan and demonstration program, which will allow you to try out this phone!

~ Eric Riskus, IL Program Director
**What is Wisloan?**

Wisloan is a statewide, alternative loan program that allows Wisconsin residents with a disability, or their families, to purchase adaptive equipment, assistive technology or modify their homes so that they can live more independently. The applicant must be 18 and a resident of Wisconsin who wishes to improve his or her quality of life through the acquisition of items (examples include assistive technology, modified vehicles, etc.).

Both Telework and Wisloan loan amounts will depend on the item being purchased and the ability to repay. The current interest rate is 6.5%.

Bad credit, including bankruptcy is not a reason to not apply. The focus is on the ability to make the monthly payments. Reasons for credit issues are taken into consideration by the review board. Contact an IL Consultant at the MILC office for assistance in completing an application.

**What is Telework?**

Telework is a statewide, alternative loan program allowing Wisconsin residents with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from remote sites away from the office, including at home, on the road or at a Telework center. In addition to the purchase of equipment, the loan funds can be used for training to use equipment, extended warranties, the cost of maintenance and repair.

**What is TEPP?**

Telecommunications, Equipment Purchase Program

If you are one of the millions of people who have difficulty using a telephone, you should know that help is available through the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program, or TEPP. The TEPP Program provides funding, (through the Universal Service Fund), for people with disabilities to purchase specialized telephones and related equipment.

The TEPP program issues vouchers, each with different dollar amounts, based on several categories of disability. For example, the Hard of Hearing voucher is $100, the Deaf/Severely Hard of Hearing voucher is $800, and the Mobility Impaired voucher is $1,600. (Vouchers over $100 require a $100 co-pay, but there are programs available that may help cover that cost).

If you don’t know what kind of phone will work for you, we have several different types of phones that you can borrow from our Wistech Loan and Demonstration Program so you can ‘Try before you buy’.

Please contact MILC for further information about the TEPP Program or to schedule an appointment to try a few phones. (We can also assist with the application).
Information regarding EVV: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/evv/index.htm

How To Get a Hold of Us:

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715-344-4210 or 800-382-8484
milc@milc-inc.org or www.milc-inc.org

Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Strike: I&R Specialist

To contact the following departments dial:
Mental Health/Peer Support: Ext. 243
IL Program: Ext. 238
PAS Program: Ext. 224
Human Resources: Ext. 226
Accounting: Ext. 214

MOVING?
Let us know so we can keep you on our mailing list.
Contact us at milc@milc-inc.org

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK