

# La Crosse County

## DISABILITY RESOURCE GUIDE

### ABC, Inc.

- Ability Building Community (ABC) provides services for individuals with disabilities through community inclusion.
- All ABC programs are dedicated to consumer choice. Programs include the following: Ability Enterprises, Ability Integrated, Ability Options, Abilities Unlimited, Center-Based Employment, Competitive Placement, Customized Employment, Employer of Record Services, Independent Living Skills, Supported Employment, Vocational Evaluation, and ABC Works.
- Judy Johnson, Houston County Program Director: [judyj@abcinc.org](mailto:judyj@abcinc.org), (507) 895-7161

### ADRC of La Crosse County

- The Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of La Crosse County provides Wisconsin residents with unbiased information related to aging or living with a disability. The goal is to help people maintain their independence by connecting them with the right resources.
- ADRCs serve older adults, people with disabilities, as well as the families, friends, and caregivers who work with and care for them. ADRCs serve every county and tribe in Wisconsin.
- Information provided at ADRCs is free of charge and may relate to resources such as: in-home personal care and nursing; housing options; housekeeping and chore services; home modifications; adaptive equipment; transportation; health, nutrition, and home-delivered meals; Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security; and caregiver support and respite.
- Carissa Pagel-Smith, Manager/Director: [cpagel@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org), (608) 785-6172

### Aptiv, Inc.

- Aptiv is committed to providing people with disabilities the opportunity to: showcase their aptitude for learning new skills, better engage and play a more active role in their community, live a more meaningful and fulfilling life, and find adaptive solutions that help them succeed in their goals.

### Aptiv, Inc. (cont.)

- Aptiv provides a spectrum of innovative support for individuals with disabilities so they may live more independent lives.
- Aptiv serves children and adults with many different types of disabilities grouping programs in Early Years (4-13 years old), Teen & Transition (14-24 years old), and Adults (18-65+).
  - Some of the early years programs include sensory activities, physical and mindfulness activities, social activities, and community activities.
  - Some of the transition-age services include the following: behavior services, range of motion, assistive technology services, housing counseling, benefits counseling, skills to pay the bills, internship/temporary work experience, healthy relationships and sexuality classes, job coaching, employment assessments, job development, and job shadows.
  - Supporting adults services include day services, bathing services, range of motion, behavior services, assistive technology services, healthy relationships and sexuality classes, housing counseling, benefits counseling, employment assessments, internships, job shadows, job development, and job coaching.
- Jenny Felty, President & CEO: [jenny.felty@aptiv.org](mailto:jenny.felty@aptiv.org), (608) 785-3567

### Chileda

- Chileda is a premier center for transforming the lives and behavior of individuals with extraordinary needs. Chiledda offers a spectrum of services to meet the individual needs of children and adults with cognitive and behavioral challenges.
- Chiledda provides support to children and adults through community outreach programs including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services and Mental Health Counseling.
- Other services Chiledda provides include residential care, adult family homes, day school, and community outreach.
- Derek Cortez, CEO: [DerekC@chileda.org](mailto:DerekC@chileda.org), (608) 782-6480

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### Department of Workforce Development (DWD)

- DWD works with 11 regional Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) to deliver services, support customized training, build community partnerships, and establish relationships with local employers, leaders, and job seekers. Our Western Wisconsin WDA 9 contact is below.
- Vicki Markussen, Director: [markussenv@westernwdb.org](mailto:markussenv@westernwdb.org), (608) 386-8421

#### *Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (WWWDB)*

- The Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (WWWDB) serves Western Wisconsin as District 9 in the following counties: Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon.
- Our Workforce Development Business Services team helps connect you to current job seekers including veterans, people with disabilities (DVR), and second chance individuals.
- Vicki Markussen, Executive Director: [markussenv@westernwdb.org](mailto:markussenv@westernwdb.org), (608) 386-8421

#### *Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)*

- The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is a federal/state program designed to obtain, maintain, and advance employment for people with disabilities by working with DVR consumers, employers, and other partners.
- Amy Studden, Business Services Consultant: [Amy.Studden@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Amy.Studden@dwd.wisconsin.gov), (608) 799-6308

#### *Workforce Connections*

- Workforce Connections, Inc. is a non-profit organization that partners with the One-Stop Wisconsin Job Centers partners. Since 1983, Workforce Connections, Inc. has assisted job seekers, laid-off workers, and youth with career planning, job search assistance, and skills training. In addition, employers are assisted with a wide array of services, including recruiting, retaining, and training of employees.
- Anna Benthin, Career Planner W2: [benthina@workforceconnections.org](mailto:benthina@workforceconnections.org), (608) 386-1291

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### ORC Industries, Inc.

- ORC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the independence, productivity, and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities through employment opportunities.
- Scott Iverson, President: [siverson@orcind.com](mailto:siverson@orcind.com), (612) 325-0080

### ORC Sheltered Friends Foundation (OSFF)

- OSFF's mission is to provide financial support, through grants, loans, and other financial assistance, to private non-profit, state or local government institutions that provide employment opportunities for individuals who are developmentally, physically or mentally impaired and other organizations that provide or support employment opportunities and other related lifestyle enhancements for people with disabilities.

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### *La Crosse Area Development Corporation (LADCO)*

- The La Crosse Area Development Corporation (LADCO) facilitates and promotes economic development in the Greater La Crosse Area through a "triad of development": the attraction of industry, the retention of business and industry, and the development of the area workforce.
- LADCO has partnered with the ORC Sheltered Friends Foundation (OSFF) to assist them with their mission of advancing the independence, productivity, and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities through employment opportunities and lifestyle support.
- Tim Kabat, Executive Director: [tim@ladcolax.com](mailto:tim@ladcolax.com), (608) 784-5488

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**ORC Industries Enclave Program provided excellent services to my business and helped me streamline my cleaning and warehouse maintenance program while providing an excellent benefit to community members who WANT to work and be of service. I will use ORC's Enclave Program again in the future.**

*-Black River Distributing*

### The Arc of La Crosse

- The Arc of La Crosse promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and development disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.
- Mary Bakalars, Administrative Coordinator: [arclacrosse@centurytel.net](mailto:arclacrosse@centurytel.net), (608) 782-4799

### VARC, Inc.

- The organization purpose and mission of VARC is to develop and provide meaningful employment, skill-building, and community inclusion services for individuals with varying abilities and other life barriers.
- VARC provides a wide array of youth and adult services and programs. Some of these services include child and youth services, childcare services, day services, supported employment, prevocational service, and recovery informed employment.
- Elizabeth Filter, President/CEO: [EMFilter@varcinc.com](mailto:EMFilter@varcinc.com), (608) 782-7010