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## **Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Expands Connections Program to Five Additional Counties in Southeast Wisconsin**

*More options available for those looking to live independently*

**WEST ALLIS, Wis.** (June 27, 2018) – [Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan](#) (LSS) announces the expansion of [Connections](#), an IRIS Consultant Agency, into five additional Wisconsin counties beginning this month. As of June 1, Connections is now available in Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha counties, with a presence in 30 counties across the state.

The IRIS program is a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver for self-directed long-term supports. The program is an option for adults with long-term care needs. Connections has supported individuals as an IRIS Consultant Agency since 2015. Connections IRIS consultants help identify needs and desired outcomes for clients and work with participants to direct their own care.

“LSS is committed to strengthening the health and well-being of our communities and the expansion of the Connections program is part of that commitment,” said Héctor Colón, LSS President and CEO. “We believe each individual’s situation is unique and personal. This expansion means more options are available for individuals looking to self-direct their care and services in order to live independently.”

Individuals in these counties who would like to learn more about the IRIS program should contact their local [Aging and Disability Resource Center](#).

Founded in 1882, Lutheran Social Services is one of the largest and most experienced providers of health and human services in the Midwest. LSS offers a broad range of services for adults, families, and children, including adoption, foster care, mental health and counseling, addiction treatment, senior living, birth-to-three program, youth residential facilities, housing and homelessness, community supported living, disability services and more.

### **ABOUT LSS**

For more than 100 years, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan has empowered communities to improve their health and well-being. LSS helps people all along the lifespan with services as essential as shelter and clothing, and as life-changing as trauma-informed counseling and adoption. Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, LSS welcomes and serves people of all faiths and backgrounds. For more information, visit [lsswis.org](http://lsswis.org).

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