

## What are Sound Response's Plans for the Future?

As technology advances, Sound Response will move with those advances to other populations, expand with more areas of support, continue to look at progressive and creative ways to apply technology to supporting people with developmental disabilities. As the Sound Response program expands, there will be a larger cost savings to all people receiving services with fewer people on the waiting list and increased quality of day-time services

## How can I get more information?

One can obtain more information about the Sound Response Program by contacting:

Waisman Center  
University Center for Excellence in  
Developmental Disabilities  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
122 E. Olin Ave., Suite 100  
Madison, WI 53713  
Phone: (608) 265-3470  
Fax: (609) 263-4681

Or visiting the Sound Response website at:

[www.waisman.wisc.edu/soundresponse/](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/soundresponse/)

# Sound Response



“Innovative use of technology and support by professional staff to provide overnight support to people with disabilities...”



Sound Response - Waisman Center

## Why was Sound Response Created?

The Waisman Center and its partner agencies in Dane County have a long history of developing models in promoting self-determination for individuals with disabilities. The Waisman Center-Community TIES program, partnering with Dane County Human Services, has initiated another such effort. The program is titled "Sound Response."

High turn over in overnight, residential direct care staff, continues to plague the support services that individuals with disabilities receive. Residential service providers spend countless hours recruiting, hiring, training and formulating new ideas to maintain current levels of support. Likewise, budget concerns have forced support providers to present creative ways of assuring independence through such difficult times. Sound Response offers supports from 9:00pm to 7:00am, which are typically the hours that people sleep.



**Main Street Messenger**



**Motion Sensor**



**Personal Pager**



**Security Sensor**



**Smoke Detector**



## What does Sound Response do?

Sound Response strives to supplement direct staff support through the creative use of technical/mechanical supports. These technical/mechanical supports are in the form of a variety of electronic devices, which are discreet and are already being used in private homes and security systems. These include and are not limited to speaker phones, pagers, motion detectors, smoke detectors, various burglar alarm systems, sound detectors, floor pressure pads, personal assistance systems, door and window sensors. The equipment is reliable and can operate in the event of a power failure. Sound Response involves a centrally located monitoring site, connected to several response sites that interact with each of the residences in a response area. A response area is defined as an area that typically involves a five-minute or less physical response by a professional responder.

## What are People Saying about Sound Response?

Sound Response has teamed with the University of Wisconsin – Madison's Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education to investigate the efficacy of the Sound Response program. Researchers, using a Multi-Attribute Utility, will explore quality of life, consumer satisfaction and self



determination. However, participants are already reporting feelings of independence and security as "I can get more rest during the night because people are not in my living room making noise [watching TV etc.]" and, "all I have to do is push this



[button] and Sound Response comes to my apartment."

