

Aging & Disability Resource Centers

One-stop shops for unbiased information

Core Member Organizations

- Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW)
- Alzheimer's Association SE Wisconsin Chapter
- Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA)
- Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A)
- Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS)
- Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND)
- Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC)
- Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA)

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network is a collaborative group of individuals and associations working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy to improve their quality of life.

WAAN State Issue Brief
July 2016

WAAN's Position: Increase ADRC funding annually to keep pace with an aging population and increasing service demands.

Older adults and people with disabilities face numerous challenges. Obtaining information on available resources and programs should not be one of them.

ADRC budgets must be increased to keep pace with the aging population in Wisconsin. ADRCs provide older adults and people with disabilities the necessary information on a broad range of programs and services and help people understand the various long-term care (LTC) options available to them. ADRCs strive to help customers maximize their own resources and delay their need for publically-funded LTC.

Since the first Wisconsin ADRC opened in 1998, the funding has been allocated to individual ADRCs based on a formula that reflects the size of the population they serve and the cost to operate a hypothetical ADRC serving 1% of the state's adult population. Each ADRC can also receive additional revenue from federal Medicaid match dollars claimed for eligible ADRC functions. While the federal Medicaid match money can change from year to year, the base state contract amount calculated the first year each ADRC opened remains the same. This base amount is projected to never increase.

Population

In 2010 Wisconsin had 777,314 residents aged 65 and over. In 2040 this population is expected to grow to 1,535,365—or almost double in size. http://fyi.uwex.edu/agingfriendlycommunities/files/2014/08/2013-Egan-Robertson_Wisconsin-Future-Population.pdf

In 2010 it was estimated that 11% of the state's population reported to have at least one disability. Thirty-three percent of those residents were also age 65 and older. The number of people living with a disability is also expected to rise substantially by 2040.

Someone contacts an ADRC for help every 15 seconds during an average business day in Wisconsin.

In the coming decades, older adults are projected to make up a much larger proportion of Wisconsin's population. The rapidly aging population is likely to result in a growing demand for ADRC services.

Why Are the ADRCs Important for Older Adults and Persons With Disabilities?

The ADRCs provide their communities with a single entry point to aging and disability information and services—helping Wisconsin citizens find the best way to meet their individual needs. ADRC staff work with local residents, family members, caregivers, friends, and other professionals. They provide information on a broad range of programs and services, help people understand the various LTC options available to them, assist people in applying for benefits, and serve as the access point for publically-funded LTC. ADRCs strive to help customers maximize their own resources and delay their need for publically-funded LTC.

- While some ADRC consumers may enter publically-funded LTC—80% do not.
- For many people, working with the ADRC helps prevent them from reaching a crisis stage where publicly-funded LTC is needed.
- ADRCs do more than screen and enroll people in publicly-funded LTC programs. They are able to work with people with any level of need for support or care.
- ADRCs determine functional eligibility for publically-funded programs.
- People who are functionally-eligible but not financially-eligible need assistance identifying private-pay local services that meet their needs.



Contact WAAN

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ADRCs are distinct entities from managed care organizations, as they work with all people in their target groups, not just those enrolled in publicly-funded LTC.

Staffing at ADRCs is based on the initial budget approved by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Statewide, the average ADRC budget is spent on the following activities:

Information & Assistance	33%
LTC Options Counseling	20%
LTC Eligibility and Enrollment	19%
Benefits Counseling	10%
Outreach/Prevention Education/ Other Non-Customer Specific Services	10%
Short-Term Service Coordination	8%

*<https://share.health.wisconsin.gov/ltc/teams/ADRC/ADRC%20Document%20Library/ADRC%202012%202013%20Status%20Report%20.pdf#search=Information%20and%20Assistance%2033%25>

As the ADRC budget remains stagnant and while the population of older adults and people with disabilities doubles in size and the cost of doing business rises, ADRCs will not be able to effectively meet the increased demand. State funding for ADRCs should be indexed to growth in the target populations they serve.