



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.

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)

Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA)

Contact WAAN

1414 MacArthur Rd., Suite A
Madison, WI 53714
(608) 243-5670
gwaar.org/waan
janet.zander@gwaar.org

Direct Care Workforce Support

To address workforce shortages in home and residential service settings and help agencies/providers to stay in business so older adults and people with disabilities have quality options to receive care where they want and need it

WAAN's Position: Increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for Personal Care Services, Family Care providers and residential services and fix the Family Care MCO funding formula so additional resources are available to be directed to support increased wages for direct care workers. To further improve workforce recruitment and retention efforts create an affordable health insurance option to increase access to coverage for direct care workers, develop a community-based counterpart to the WisCaregiver Careers program and provide similar funding to support community-based workers, and provide workers access to paid family and medical leave.

Elder Benefit Specialist Support

To avoid further reductions in services and meet the increased demands for access to these highly trained experts helping older persons with the extensive and complicated paperwork that is often required in benefit programs

WAAN's Position: Provide an increase in state program funding to account for significant increases in population growth, the increasing complexity of access to benefit programs, and growth in demand for services.

Family Caregiver Support - [2018 Family Caregiver Support Issue Brief](#)

To support and recognize people caring for friends and family members as valued members of the care team and essential components of our health and long-term care systems

WAAN's Position: Strengthen support for family caregivers by 1) passing the CARE Act; 2) creating a tax credit for family members spending personal resources to care for a loved one; 3) expanding dementia care specialist services statewide - [DCS Fact Sheet](#); and 4) providing working caregivers access to paid family and medical leave.

Healthy Aging Grants - [2018 Healthy Aging Issue Brief](#)

To support researched and proven programs that improve health, reduce costs, and prevent or delay the need for long-term care

WAAN's Position: Provide an \$870,000 budget appropriation each year for healthy aging grants to counties/tribes, YMCAs and other community-based organizations for proven programs and to support a statewide clearinghouse and support center.

Long Term Care Investment Savings Plan – [2018 LTC Investment Fund Issue Brief](#)

To help adults of all ages better plan and prepare for future long-term care expenses

WAAN's Position: Develop a state tax-advantaged long-term care investment savings plan.

Social Isolation & Loneliness Study - [2018 Social Isolation Issue Brief](#)

To investigate the full impact of social isolation in older adults and to seek out solutions to address this widespread and emerging concern

WAAN's Position: Form a Governor's Blue-Ribbon Task Force or Joint Assembly/Senate Task Force to study the issue of social isolation and loneliness and create policy solutions to improve the well-being of isolated older adults and reduce the cost of associated health care.

Transportation Support - [2018 Transportation Issue Brief](#)

To provide reliable, accessible, affordable transportation to help people stay independent

WAAN's Position: Improve transportation services by 1) including a 10% increase in transit and specialized transportation funding to counties and tribes and ongoing increases of at least 3.5% annually to account for accelerating population growth; 2) incentivizing coordination among local and state transportation systems; and 3) introducing legislation to clarify the insurance requirements of volunteer drivers and ensure protections under the Good Samaritan Law.