1. Direct Care Workforce Support - Direct Care Workforce Support - 2019
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: Strengthen the direct care workforce by increasing Medicaid provider reimbursements to raise wages, expanding affordable health care coverage and paid family and medical leave, and developing and funding a community-based counterpart to the WisCaregiver Careers program for community-based workers.

2. Elder Benefit Specialist Support – Elder Benefit Specialist Program Funding Support - 2019
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: Revise Wis. Stat. 46.81 to increase state funding for the Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) program from $2,298,400 to $4,596,800 to account for the significant increase in the population served by the program, increasing demand for EBS services, and increasing complexities associated with access to essential benefit programs.

3. Family Caregiver Support - Family Caregiver Support - 2019
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 (Credit for Caring Act) for family members spending personal resources to care for a loved one; 3) and expanding dementia care specialist (DCS) services statewide as proposed in the 2019-2021 Executive Budget. DCS Fact Sheet - 2019

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 amendment to increase the budget appropriation from $250,000 (currently included in the 2019-21 Executive Budget and less than one-third of what is needed to fully support the expansion) to $870,000 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 to broaden the reach and impact of proven programs.

5. Transportation Support - Transportation-2019
To provide reliable, accessible, affordable transportation to help people stay independent
WAAN’s Position: Improve transportation services by 1) including the 20% increase in specialized transportation funding to counties and 10% increase in tribal transportation and transit programs as proposed in the 2019-2021 Executive Budget; 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. Legislative Solutions-Volunteer Drivers Fact Sheet - 2018; Shared Mobility Coordination Solutions Council Fact Sheet - 2018

*Note: Bold items are currently in the 2019-21 Executive Budget; green items are included in the budget, but we are requesting an amendment to reflect our position; and red items need an amendment to be added to the budget.

*Find all WAAN issue briefs at: https://gwaar.org/waan-issues-and-initiatives April 2, 2019