



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)

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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](#)**

4. Healthy Aging Grants - [Healthy Aging Grants - 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