

Balance Funding Across the State and Meet the Needs of Wisconsin’s Growing Population of Older Adults and People with Disabilities.

Wisconsin’s statewide network of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) provide information about critical, cost-saving services and programs related to aging or living with a disability. They serve individuals, family members, friends and professionals working with related issues. The state’s 51 ADRCs and seven tribal Aging and Disability Resource Specialists (ADRS) serve the fastest growing demographic of our state’s population.¹

The current funding formula does not fully address the funding disparities between ADRCs. In addition, it has never addressed the changing demographics and rising expenses impacting operations. As a result, Wisconsin’s network of ADRCs includes underfunded operations unable to provide equitable levels of services.²

Over the past 12 years, the baseline request for funding ADRC services was increased on only one occasion, by \$5.1 million in the Wisconsin 2023-2025 biennial budget. While the \$5.1 million increase in the last budget provided some relief to maintain ADRC operations, the current cost to continue operations and meet the growing demand for services far exceeds the 2024 appropriation.

Funding inequities among ADRCs contribute to an inconsistent approach to delivering required state-contracted services and the need to determine the amount of funding necessary to ensure every ADRC can provide all contractually required services.

WAAN’s position: Increase funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) by \$19.9 million in the 2025-2027 biennial state budget to continue to address the funding inequities between ADRCs and begin to address the population growth in Wisconsin.

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	% Change 2020 to 2030
60-64	313,825	371,940	414,895	413,495	362,275	-13%
65-69	227,029	295,185	352,625	394,550	394,370	+12%
70-74	173,467	207,400	272,405	326,790	366,910	+34%
75-79	141,252	150,335	182,195	240,540	290,250	+59%
80-84	117,061	113,175	122,575	149,890	199,680	+63%
85+	118,505	128,825	134,130	145,745	173,110	+29%
<i>The Wisconsin population age 60 and older is projected to grow at unprecedented rates - 21% increase from 2020 to 2030.³</i>						

Projected with Disability- 2018-22 Rates by Population					
Age Group	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
0-17	56,465	57,552	58,631	59,000	58,289
18-59	286,337	284,585	287,349	290,263	289,613
60-74	201,933	220,362	218,172	204,087	193,331
75-84	109,163	139,845	175,485	204,360	217,127
85+	89,584	97,342	115,619	149,771	189,414
Total	743,482	799,687	855,255	907,481	947,773
All Ages Dis rate	12.4%	12.9%	13.4%	14.0%	14.6%
<i>The Wisconsin population with a disability is projected to grow by 15% from 2020 to 2030.³</i>					

To provide reliable, equitable and accurate funding to the state's ADRCs, factoring in the costs of addressing population growth and rising expenses, an increased investment of \$19.9 million is needed.

Funding ADRCs will deliver cost savings for individuals, families, and taxpayers.

In 2023, ADRCs had a total of 536,627 contacts with customers throughout the state.⁴ There is a significant return of investment as result of the array of services ADRCs offer the Wisconsin taxpayer. In 2023, the total return on investment was measured at 388%, meaning for every dollar invested in ADRCs taxpayers save \$3.88.^{5,6,7}

A \$19.9 million increase in base funding will promote quality of life for all Wisconsin citizens to age in place/at home, delay entry into the long-term care system and position ADRCs to maintain high quality services.



Sources:

- 1. U.S. Census Bureau (2020, June 25). 65 and Older population Grows Rapidly as Baby Boomers Age.** Retrieved March 16, 2021, from <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/65-older-population-grows.html>.
- 2. Aging Populations Projections,** www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/demographics.htm.
- 3. ADRC Reinvestment Workgroup**
- 4. ADRC statewide encounter data for CY2023**
- 5. Return on Investment calculation is based on number of prevented hospital readmissions and emergency department visits per 1,000 ADRC customers served.**
- 6. The Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research report:** https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb248-Hospital-Readmissions-2010-2016.jsp?utm_source=ahrq&utm_medium=en13&utm_term=Safety_Program&utm_content=13&utm_campaign=ahrq_en6_18_2019
- 7. Costs of Emergency Department Visits in the United States, 2017:** <https://www.hcupus.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb268-ED-Costs-2017.jsp#:~:text=In%202017%2C%20aggregate%20ED%20visit,cost%20per%20visit%20of%20%24530>

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Core member organizations

Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW) • Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) • 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 Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) • Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) • Wisconsin Senior Advocates • Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA) • Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association

Mission

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) works with and for all older adults by educating community members and policy makers on priority issues while advocating for meaningful change. Learn more at <https://gwaar.org/waan>.