

Aging Network Value Focus Area Definition

Advocacy

Advocacy is a set of organized actions aimed at influencing public policies, social attitudes, or political processes. Advocacy can include any or all of the following:

- Enabling and empowering people to speak for themselves,
- Standing with or supporting another person who wants to do take actions to improve their situation,
- Giving support to a policy and persuading policymakers to act in support of the policy at local, state, or national level,
- Gaining and exercising power to influence a political action; and
- Organizing efforts by citizens to influence the formulation and implementation of public policies and programs by educating and persuading the policymakers with the power to make the needed changes.

Equity

All having the opportunity to fully participate. Equity encompasses the policies and practices used to ensure the fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people, while at the same time trying to identify and eliminate barriers that have historically prevented the full participation of some individuals or groups. These barriers may include poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.

Person centered

Person-centered approaches provide older adults with both choice and influence over programs, services and supports. Many programs, such as the Elder Benefit Specialist Program and the Dementia Care Specialist Program, are grounded in one-on-one meetings with consumers and families to determine exactly what services or supports are needed and to strategize the best way to implement them. In the nutrition program, the statewide program support team and local nutrition directors continue to expand consumer choice in meal offerings, locations and times. In the caregiver support programs, customized services using family interviews and a needs assessment tool are the norm. The evidence-based health promotion programs greatly expanded participants' options for timing, pacing and location of program participation during the pandemic.

In addition, many of the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources' programmatic approaches to health equity are rooted in person-centered service principles. Wisconsin's older population is becoming more diverse, and program data demonstrate that traditional models of service delivery offered by some Older Americans Act programs may not meet the needs of this changing group. Increasingly, older adults require programs, services, and opportunities that offer participants ownership and influence and provide flexibility in both time and commitment. Wisconsin's aging programs will address these realities by continuing to enhance choice and control in obtaining supports and services.