



## Statewide Caregiver Support Advocacy Update 9-24-24

### State

#### Upcoming Election

#### **VOTE – General Election – Nov. 5, 2024**

Wisconsin has a **General Election on Tues., Nov. 5, 2024.**

For more information about the General Election and to see what is on your ballot go to [MyVote Wisconsin](#) . Check out [VOTE411](#) for information about the candidates on your ballot. For information regarding rides to the polls, see <https://disabilityvote.org/2024/rides-to-the-polls-2024/>. For additional voter resources, including information regarding the Nov. 5 Constitutional Amendment question ( see [Fact Sheet-Sept-2024](#)), check out the Disability Vote Coalition materials at: <https://disabilityvote.org/resources/>.

#### **Registration Deadlines for the Nov. election:**

- By Mail: Wednesday, October 16, 2024
- In Person: Tuesday, November 5, 2024
- Online: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 ([Register to vote!](#))

#### **State Budget 2025-2027**

The 2025-2027 state budget process is underway. The budgets for state agencies were due on Mon., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> and are now available publicly on the Department of Administration's website.

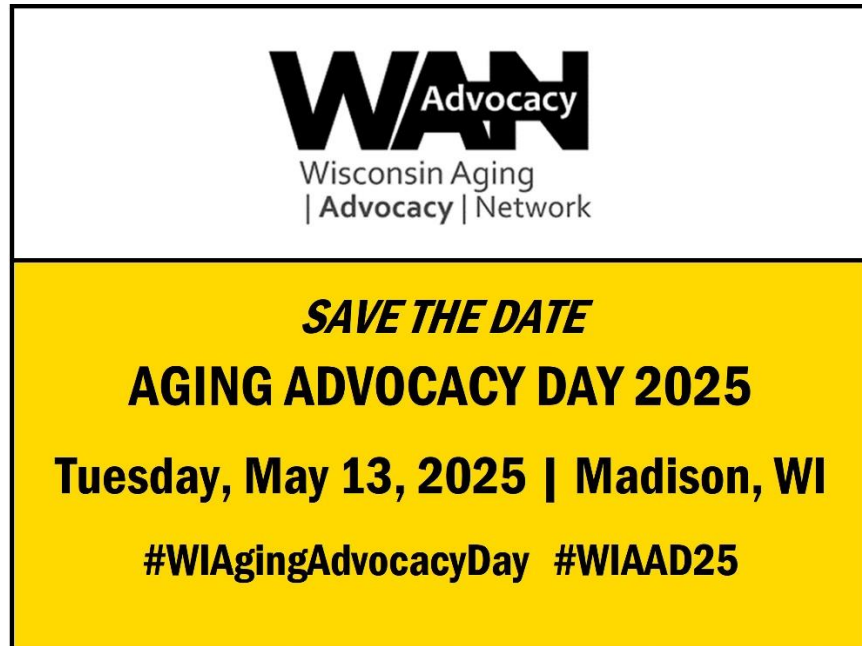
All agencies were again asked to assume zero growth in overall general purpose revenue (GPR) appropriations (includes money from various sources such as income and sales tax) and segregated (SEQ) funded administrative operations appropriations (such as gas taxes that are set aside for specific purposes such as road building) in each fiscal year during the 2025-27 biennium. To view specific agency budgets, go to: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/2025-27-Biennial-Budget-Agency-Requests.aspx>. Of specific importance to the aging network are the following state agencies' budgets:

- Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) - <https://doa.wi.gov/budget/SBO/2025-27%20432%20BOALTC%20Budget%20RequestCS.pdf> (See pages 37-40 outlining their specific staffing needs.)

- Department of Health Services (DHS) - <https://doa.wi.gov/budget/SBO/2025-27%20435%20DHS%20Budget%20RequestJL.pdf> (See pages 303-308 for information related to Medicaid Expansion and pages 338-341 related to the department’s request for increased Aging and Disability Resource [ADRC] base funding to reflect the growth in the population ADRCs serve.)
- Department of Transportation (DOT) - <https://doa.wi.gov/budget/SBO/2025-27%20395%20DOT%20Budget%20RequestMA.pdf> (first portion only; federal funding accounts for over 30% of the department’s funding, and to-date the federal FY 2025 budget has not been approved and exact federal funding amounts – including funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other grants – are not yet known. The second portion of the budget will be submitted at a later date. To-date, no increase is noted for specialized transportation funding.)

Last month, members of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) met with leadership from DHS and DOT to discuss the aging network’s budget priorities. A budget meeting will now be scheduled with the Governor’s office.

### Aging Advocacy Day 2025



**WAN** Advocacy  
Wisconsin Aging  
| Advocacy | Network

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**AGING ADVOCACY DAY 2025**  
**Tuesday, May 13, 2025 | Madison, WI**  
**#WIAgingAdvocacyDay #WIAAD25**

## Federal

### Older Americans Act (OAA) – Appropriations & Reauthorization

#### Urge Your Lawmakers to Stop Funding Cuts to Critical OAA Programs

This summer, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees approved their respective FY 2025 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bills. The House bill proposed major cuts to important Older Americans Act (OAA) programs and modest increases to others, but the Senate bill rejected the major cuts and proposed level funding for virtually all OAA programs. For specific details on the House and Senate bill, see [USAgings's Appropriations Chart](#).

Over the next few weeks (and likely months), Congress will continue negotiating for a final FY 2025 appropriations bill. While a complete package covering all 12 spending bills would be ideal, it is unlikely to happen by the September 30 deadline. The House is expected to move early next week on a continuing resolution (CR) that would keep the government funded through Dec. 20. The CR would buy more time to negotiate a final funding agreement for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025. Even with an expected Continuing Resolution (CR); however, **advocacy is needed now.**

Our national partner (USAgings) is asking us to continue advocating for a final bill that reflects increases, or at the very least, level funding for OAA programs and dismisses the proposed cuts from the House bill.

#### Take Action Now!

**Call or email U.S. Senators Baldwin and Johnson and your U.S. Representative as soon as possible to advocate for the highest possible level of funding for OAA programs and services.** Read

USAgings's [Letter to Congress](#) and use their newly updated templates

to customize your asks to reflect your agency/program: [Area Agency on Aging \(AAA\) Template](#) and [Title VI Native American Programs Template](#). Give your Members of Congress a sense of how their communities are affected—take the time to localize what this funding means for the older adults and caregivers in your community, tribe or state.

Please do all you can to amplify the message and engage others who understand the value of OAA programs and services in your communities!

Stay tuned for more updates and thank you for your advocacy!

#### **ACTION NEEDED:**

**Call or email your federal legislators as soon as possible to advocate for the highest level of funding for OAA programs and services!**

Find your Members' contact information on their websites:

[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and

[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) (or see Wisconsin Members of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress -

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007697>).

## **Reauthorization**

In July, the Senate HELP Committee passed the OAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (S. 4776). Our national partner (USAging) endorsed the bill which incorporated many of their priorities in full or in part. **If this OAA Reauthorization legislation** is funded, it would include:

- **Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Independence:** Freedom from state approval around business or health care contracts if *no* OAA funding is used (limited disclosure only) and updated, clarifying language about when OAA funding *is* leveraged.
- **Title III D Flexibility:** Funding could be used for evidence-informed programs, as well as evidence-based programs.
- **Nutrition Flexibility:** Grab-and-go meals option is codified in the law, with up to 25 percent of C1 available if the state approves, and the ability to distribute these meals in any community setting.
- **Social Isolation:** Prioritize national training and technical assistance to the Aging Network on social engagement programming and innovations.
- **Funding Recommendations:** Increase authorization levels by nearly 20 percent over the five-year period.

### **ACTION NEEDED:**

**Contact your U.S. Representative to emphasize the critical importance of reauthorizing the OAA to support older adults and family caregivers in your community.**

To find out who your Congressional Representative is, put your zip code in the white box on this webpage: <https://www.house.gov/>