

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor's Budget Recommendations Reflect Critical Needs of Older Wisconsinites

(MADISON, WI) The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) supports essential investments included in Governor Evers' 2025-27 budget that will improve the lives of older adults and family caregivers in Wisconsin, including:

- Affordable housing incentives and broadband expansion grants;
- Lowering the cost of prescription drugs, capping insulin co-pays, and eliminating the sales tax on over-the-counter medications;
- Crisis urgent care and observation centers and regional crisis stabilization facilities;
- Adult protective services and the Board on Aging and Long Term Care;
- Falls prevention grant;
- Home-delivered meals for older adults;
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers;
- Respite Care Grant and Alzheimer's and family caregiver support;
- WisCaregiver Careers program to improve recruitment, training, and retention of certified nursing assistants (we support expanded this to include direct care workers in home and community-based services);
- Transit capital and transportation supports; and more

The proposed investments in programs and services supporting older adults, individuals living with disabilities, and family caregivers reflect the growing aging population, increased need for services, impact of inflation, and the need for continued work to strengthen our state's long-term care system, including direct support for paid and unpaid caregivers.

Federal fund cuts; however, pose threats to the state budget and put state programs and services at risk. "Medicaid is the primary funder of long-term care," said John Schnabl, Executive Director of the Greater Wisconsin Agency of Aging Resources and member of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's Leadership Team. "We are concerned that proposed Federal Medicaid funding cuts will pose a deep threat to Wisconsin, its budget, its workers, and its people." WAAN will continue to advocate for these and other needed state investments supporting the health and well-being of older adults and caregivers and to protect Medicaid from federal funding cuts.

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>.