

Status of State Budget Priorities in the Gov. Exec. Budget 2025-2027

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The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) is committed to “**making Wisconsin a good place to grow old.**” To support our ability to continue living in our own homes and communities safely, independently, and comfortably, we must ensure access to resources and opportunities as we age. WAAN’s budget priorities for the 2025-2027 budget focus on strengthening our resources and expanding opportunities to build vital connections within our communities. When aging in place is prioritized, the entire community benefits.

- **Aging and Disability Resource Center ([ADRC Issue Brief](#))** – increase of \$19.9M/yr. **Gov. budget – adds \$3.8M (GPR) over the biennium (re-estimate of cost-to-continue)**
- **Board on Aging and Long Term Care ([BOALTC Issue Brief](#))** – 9 positions - \$349,400 yr. 1 (GPR) and \$442,500 (GPR) in yr. 2. **Gov. budget – 5 positions & \$411,600 (GPR) over the biennium**
- **Direct Care Workforce Support** (Issue Brief pending) – training, wages, benefits, wrap around services, and incentives. **Gov. budget – personal care services rate - \$15M (GPR) & WisCaregiver Careers (\$4.2M) over the biennium**
- **Elder Benefit Specialist Program** (Issue Brief Pending) – Local EBS & Legal Supervision – \$2.7m/yr. **Gov. budget – Not included**
- **Elder Justice Grant Program ([Elder Abuse Issue Brief](#))** training for professionals to detect, prevent, hold offenders accountable, and support victims - \$350,000/yr. **Gov. budget – Not included**
- **Guardianship Support Center ([GSC Issue Brief](#))** – increase of \$100,000/yr. **Gov. budget - \$200K (GPR) over the biennium**
- **Healthy Aging Grants ([Healthy Aging Grant Issue Brief](#))** - \$450,000/yr. to support the Falls Free Wis. Center & Evidence Based Health Promotion Activities. ***Gov. budget - \$900K (GPR) over the biennium**
- **Meals on Wheels/Home-Delivered Meals ([Meals on Wheels Issue Brief](#))** – increase funding for home-delivered meals (HDMs) by \$12.6 million in each year of the budget (from the current funding level of \$868,7942 to \$13.5 million annually). ***Gov. budget – 21.6M (GPR) over the biennium**
- **Housing ([Housing Issue Brief](#))** – Preserve older adults financial security by expanding low-income housing tax credits, funding for State Trust Fund Loan Program and the Revolving Loan Program eligibility, and increase the income limit and maximum annual loan limit within the Property Tax Deferral Loan Program. ***Gov. budget - \$20M (GPR) affordable housing**
- **Transportation Support ([Specialized Transportation Issue Brief](#))** – Increase funding for specialized transportation a) s.85.21 & s.85.215 by 10%/yr. and incorporate annual inflationary increases for both programs and b) s.85.22 by 20%/yr. ***Gov. budget - \$5.28M (all funds) over the biennium**

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- Voting Supports ([Voting Issue Brief](#) needs updating) – Expanded hours at DMVs, transportation funding for voting related activities, training for poll workers, accessibility program. *Gov. budget – Automatic voter registration at the Dept. of Motor Vehicles

Other Proposals in the Gov. Budget of Interest to Aging Advocates

- Adult Protective Services - *Gov. Budget \$7.5M (GPR) over the biennium
- Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) - *Gov. Budget \$1M (GPR) over the biennium
- Broadband Expansion Grants - *Gov. Budget \$400M (GPR) over the biennium
- Bureau of Assisted Living – *Gov. Budget 11 positions funded by program revenue
- Crisis Urgent Care and Observation Centers - *Gov. Budget \$20M GPR in year one and Regional Crisis Stabilization Facilities - *Gov. Budget \$7.6M (GPR) over the biennium
- Homestead Tax Credit – *Gov. Budget Renaming the Homestead Credit to Property Tax and Rent Rebate, increasing the maximum income threshold for the property tax and rent rebate program to \$37,500 and the beginning of the phase-out threshold to \$19,000 beginning in tax year 2025, and indexing the parameters of the property tax and rent rebate for inflation beginning in tax year 2026 to preserve the credit's value against inflationary pressures.
- Independent Living Centers - *Gov. Budget \$204K (GPR) over the biennium
- Lowering the cost of prescription drugs, capping insulin co-pays at \$35/month, and eliminating the sales tax on over-the-counter medications - *Gov. Budget Establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board, limiting out-of-pocket costs for a one-month supply of insulin to \$35 under all health insurance plans offered in Wisconsin, and creating a sales and use tax exemption for over-the-counter medications.
- Parkinson's Disease Registry – *Gov. Budget Provide \$3.9 million GPR in FY26 and \$2.4 million GPR in FY27 to establish a statewide Parkinson's Disease registry through the University of Wisconsin-Madison Population Health Institute.
- Respite Care Grant - *Gov. Budget \$400K (GPR) over the biennium
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program - *Gov. Budget \$500,000 (GPR) over the biennium
- Mass Transit Aids - *Gov. Budget \$5M (GPR) over the biennium & Transit Capital - \$20M
- Wisconsin Assistive Technology Program - \$500K over the biennium

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>.

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