

Caregiver Support – Statewide Call Advocacy Update 3-18-25

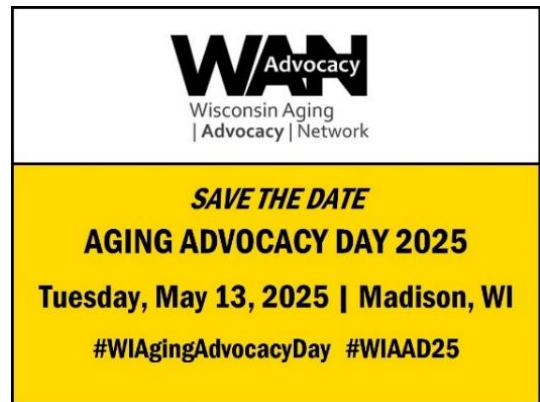
State

Aging Advocacy Day 2025 – Save the Date

Registration is open - <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2025!>

Advocacy priorities include Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Investment, Direct Care Workforce Supports, Home-Delivered Meal Funding, and Healthy Aging – Falls Prevention Grants.

Find Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) issue briefs here <https://gwaar.org/waan-issues-and-initiatives>.



State Legislation – Alzheimer’s Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP)

See the attached DRAFT action alert for AFCSP. A final action alert will be issued as soon as the AFCSP proposal is assigned a bill number in the Assembly and/or Senate. The proposal is currently referred to as LRB 1910. The language in the bill, simply states: Under current law, the Department of Health Services allocates funds to local agencies to assist eligible families with obtaining goods and services related to the care of a person with Alzheimer’s disease or another irreversible dementia. Currently, a person is financially eligible for the program if the joint income of the person with irreversible dementia and that person’s spouse, if any, is \$48,000 per year or less. **This bill repeals the financial eligibility requirement.**



State Budget 2025-2027

Governor Evers delivered his budget address on Tues., Feb. 18, 2025. See “WAAN’s 2025-2027 Status of State Budget Priorities” document attached. **The state legislature’s State Budget Hearings have just been announced** - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1909520>. Plan to attend and make your voice heard!

- April 2 – Kaukauna High School
- April 4 – Wisconsin State Fair Park, West Allis
- April 28 - Hayward High School
- April 29 – Northcentral Technical College

Federal

Congress Passes Continuing Resolution to Avert Government Shutdown

Last week, Congress approved a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal government for fiscal year 2025, successfully averting a government shutdown. The CR extends government funding through Sept. 30. The bill was signed into law by the President on Saturday, March 15, 2025. **The CR level funds Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, the State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs), and most federal agencies at fiscal year 2024 (FY24) levels.** The final CR is not a “clean” Cr, where every spending item remains frozen at the prior year’s level. Instead, the bill



boosts defense funding by \$6 billion and imposes \$13 billion in cuts to nondefense funding. The bill also leaves out directive language that further spells out congressional intent for a portion of the spending.

The following program extensions were also included in the bill:

- **Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers (MIPPA) programs** – funding to continue outreach to enroll low-income Medicare beneficiaries in cost-saving Medicare programs through Sept. 30, 2025,
- Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Relief. The bill eliminates the Medicaid DSH cuts through Sept. 30, 2025,
- Medicare Rural Extenders. The bill would extend the enhanced low-volume adjustment program through Sept. 30, 2025, and the Medicare-dependent hospital program through Oct. 1, 2025,
- **Medicare Telehealth** and Hospital-at-home Extensions. The bill would **extend key telehealth waivers** and the hospital-at-home program through Sept. 30, 2025,
- Medicare Rural Ambulance. The bill will extend add-on payments for ambulance services through Oct. 1, 2025. These add-on payments support rural, “super-rural,” and urban ambulance services,
- Funding for the Community Health Center Fund, a primary source of federal support for community health centers, and
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program** to provide income support to families with children with low-income.

Advocacy efforts regarding FY 2026 funding for OAA, elder justice, and the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will begin very soon! Advocacy efforts will also continue to prevent huge cuts to Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) and SNAP (FoodShare in Wisconsin) in FY 2026, and to advance OAA Reauthorization. Stay tuned.



Protect Medicaid

Action Alert – Protect Medicaid

Members of Congress are back home in their own districts this week, making this is a great time to connect with your Congressional representatives and urge them to reject cuts to Medicaid.

About one out of every five Wisconsinites receives health care coverage and/or long-term care services through one of the state's 19 Medicaid funded programs, which include BadgerCare, Family Care, SeniorCare, IRIS, and SSI-related health coverage.

Take Action

If you or someone you care about relies on a Medicaid-funded program, **please take action by doing one or more of the following:**

- Contact the district offices of U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and your U.S. Representative in Congress and share your story,
- Put your Medicaid story in writing (and include a photo) to leave behind with their staff,
- Sharing a photo of yourself and/or your loved one who would be harmed by cuts to Medicaid on social media or with local media.

If we want to protect Medicaid, and the people served by its programs, from harmful federal funding cuts, we must act take action now. Cuts to federal Medicaid funding will negatively impact individuals served by Medicaid programs, family caregivers, Medicaid providers, workers paid by Medicaid funding, our communities, and our state budget. Please take action today to protect our state and nation's fragile health care safety net!

To find out who represents you in Congress go to: <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> and typing in your home address. From there, you can navigate to their individual website and find contact information for their district office. If you know who represents you, you can find local office addresses and phone numbers at: Wisconsin Members of 119th Congress - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>