

ACTION ALERT: Ask Your State Legislators to Protect Wisconsin's Caregiver Support Programs

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SB 152 removes income requirements for the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) to align with the federal National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). Removing income-based eligibility requirements from AFCSP will protect \$3.5 million in annual federal NFCSP funding and ensure support remains accessible to all families.

This legislation (SB 152):

- **Protects Federal Funding:** Secures federal NFCSP dollars vital for caregivers.
- **Supports Care at Home:** Makes resources like adult day care and home modifications available.
- **Reduces Healthcare Costs:** Allows individuals to remain at home longer.
- **Strengthens Family Support:** Ensures no family is left behind.

The federal Older Americans Act family caregiver support program requires a 25% match. Over half of Wisconsin counties use the state's AFCSP program to meet the federal match requirement. Federal rules now prohibit the use of income-based eligibility programs, such as Wisconsin's current AFCSP, from being used as match. AFCSP

currently has income requirements (\$48,000/annually), putting Wisconsin counties out of compliance with federal rules. Without this change to remove the AFCSP income-based eligibility requirements, federal funds essential to caregiver programs across the state are at risk.

Alzheimer's and Caregiving in Wisconsin (source: Alzheimer's Association) <u>Wisconsin Alzheimer's Facts and Figures 2024</u> <i>Please note: These numbers only account for those caregivers who are caring for a person with Alzheimer's.</i>	
# of Caregivers	205,000
Total Hours of Unpaid Care	297,000,000
Total Value of Unpaid Care	\$5,528,000,000

Your Voice Matters!

Take Action:

Go to **SB 152** to see if your state Senator and Assembly Representative are signed on as sponsors/cosponsors on the bill. If yes, please send them a message thanking them for their support of family caregivers. If no, contact them and **ask them to protect family caregiver programs by signing on in support of SB 152**. Let them know how critical family caregiver supports are to you, your family, and/or those you serve. Find your representatives at <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>. For more information regarding this request see: [WAAN's AFCSP Issue Brief](#).

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 gwaar.org/waan.