

Federal ACTION ALERT

Contact Congress to Protect

FY 2026 OAA Funding

(608) 228-7253

www.gwaar.org/waan

janet.zander@gwaar.org

@WAAN.ACTION

April 15, 2025

FY 2025 appropriations are finally done, but appropriations season is heating up again on Capitol Hill for FY 2026 funding. Our national partner, USAging, is asking us to act now! ***Congress needs to hear directly from their constituents.***

Our collective goal is to ensure that members of Congress recognize that funding for the Aging Network's programs and services needs to be ***protected and increased on a long-term basis*** for three reasons:

1. To serve the rapidly growing numbers of older adults who need them,
2. To meet the greater complexity of needs among the older adults you serve, and
3. To address the workforce challenges that are affecting older adults' access to services.

Take Action Now!

Contact your U.S. Representative (find out who represents you here: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>) and **U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson** (find contact information here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>) **NOW to advocate for funding for OAA programs and services.** Read USAging's [appropriations request letter](#) and download their grassroots templates to customize your asks to reflect your agency/program: [AAA template](#), [Title VI 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.**

STEP 1: Put Your Requests in Writing! Send a letter requesting their support. Putting the letter on your agency's letterhead is ideal, but if that is not feasible, send it from your Advisory Board or even yourself as a private citizen. Or do all three! Use our templates ([AAA/Title VI](#)) but customize to your agency/community. Send the letter via email to their DC and district offices. You can find the contact information on your U.S. Representative and our two U.S. Senators at [Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation](#).

STEP 2: Make Your Support for OAA Funding Public.

Attend any virtual events/town halls your Senators and Representatives are hosting during the **upcoming congressional recesses (House and Senate: April 14-25, May 26-30)** and raise OAA funding during the Q&A! Find out whether any of your agency's stakeholders know the Members of Congress serving your community or if they will see them at any virtual events. If so, ask them to put in a good word for OAA funding and its impact in your community.

STEP 3: Schedule Meetings and Visits with Your Lawmakers. Request virtual meetings or invite your federal lawmakers to an onsite visit when they are in the state and districts this month and in May (see dates above). Get on their local calendars NOW and engage them in your May Older Americans Month activities or other events! Individual site visits, even if virtual, are also a great opportunity to educate your elected officials about the critical services you provide to their constituents. All you have to do is ask! (Tip: Put the request in writing. Call or email the DC office to ensure your request gets to the scheduler.)

STEP 4: Engage Your Provider Network. Urge your vendors/providers, advisory board members and other important stakeholders to send their own letters to Congress. **Please do all you can to amplify the message and engage others who understand the value of OAA in their community!** Forward this *Alert* to your networks or edit it to be best received by your agency's advocates.

Thank you for your advocacy!

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>.