

### Support Family Caregivers with 24/7 Online Expertise and Resources

Wisconsin is home to approximately **1.1 million family caregivers** who provide unpaid care to older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals with chronic or complex health conditions. These caregivers form the backbone of our long-term care system, yet only **8% receive formal training** for the care they provide. More than half (55%) balance employment alongside caregiving responsibilities, and **95% have internet access at home**, making online education a highly accessible and scalable solution.

WAAN supports permanent state funding of **\$100,000/year** (indexed annually for inflation) to **create a permanent Caregiver Education and Support Fund** to provide FREE 24/7 online caregiver education, reduce healthcare costs, and strengthen support for Wisconsin's **1.1 million family caregivers**.

Currently, more than **2,450 Wisconsin caregivers are actively using Trualta**, a 24/7 online caregiver education and learning platform. Even modest increases in awareness and participation among the state's 1.1 million caregivers could yield substantial improvements in caregiver well-being and healthcare cost avoidance.

Lack of training combined with the complex responsibilities family caregivers routinely perform contribute to burnout, increased emergency room visits, higher rates of unexpected hospitalizations, and earlier nursing home placement. As Wisconsin's population continues to age, these challenges place growing strain on caregivers, healthcare systems, and public resources.

*"I feel like I've finally found the right resource to get some background knowledge on what we've been dealing with the last year or two. I feel like I'm finally learning. GREAT information and presentation!"*

— Wisconsin Caregiver 674

Trualta offers a proven, cost-effective solution by providing evidence-based training and practical tools accessible anytime, anywhere. Content includes concise modules on dementia care, fall prevention, caregiver wellness, condition-specific education, and virtual peer support groups that reduce isolation and loneliness. Caregivers can access the platform at home, after work hours, or in the middle of the night, removing barriers related to transportation, scheduling, and cost.

Caregiver education works. Participation in Trualta is associated with an estimated **20% reduction in unplanned hospital stays** and an average **15-month delay in nursing home placement in 2025**. These outcomes translate to **\$5+ million in estimated cost savings**, demonstrating a strong return on investment for Wisconsin taxpayers while improving quality of life for caregivers and those they support.

Currently, Trualta is funded through a two-year grant. Without a new funding source, this vital resource will end on 12/31/26. For this reason, WAAN supports passage of **standalone state legislation to create and fund a permanent Caregiver Education and Support Fund** to provide support and training for Wisconsin caregivers and decrease emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and premature nursing home placements. **We request an appropriation of \$100,000** (indexed annually for inflation) **to be made available each year for the fund.**



This modest investment would ensure free statewide access for family caregivers, strengthen caregiver capacity, and help reduce long-term healthcare and institutional care costs.

By establishing permanent funding for 24/7 online support, Wisconsin can lead the nation in recognizing family caregivers as essential partners in care and provide them with the tools they need to succeed.

*“This whole series on Heart Failure Symptoms and What to Do is now posted on my refrigerator as a reference. I review it often and feel more confident as a caregiver that I have a ‘heads-up’ action plan.*

— Wisconsin Caregiver 1145

*“I need this info as I know nothing about this disease and need to know the best way to care for my mother and to help my father navigate how to deal with her and her new way of life instead of getting mad about it.”*

— Wisconsin Caregiver 2835

Sources :

- **Caregiving in the U.S. 2025: Spotlight on Wisconsin:** <https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/topics/ltss/family-caregiving/cgus-2025-caring-across-states/caregiving-in-the-us-2025-spotlight-on-wisconsin.doi.10.26419-2fpfi.00383.084.pdf>
- **Caregiving in the U.S. 2025: Wisconsin:** <https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/topics/ltss/family-caregiving/cgus-2025-caring-across-states/caregiving-in-the-us-2025-wisconsin.doi.10.26419-2fpfi.00383.033.pdf>
- **Trualta End-of-Year Impact Report:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008978>

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Find this and other WAAN issue briefs at: <https://gwaar.org/issues-and-initiatives>

(4-3-2026)

### Core member organizations

Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW) • Alzheimer’s Association Wisconsin Chapter  
Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) • InControl Wisconsin  
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](http://gwaar.org/waan).