Wisconsin Aging | Advocacy | Network

GET READY TO ADVOCATE

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)

AGENDA

- About WAAN and ADPAW
- ADRC Issue Brief
- Advocate Story
- Advocacy Tools
- Call to Action
- Next Steps
- Questions?

About
WAAN

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) is a is a collaboration of organizations and individuals working to shape public policy and improve the quality of life for older people.

We advocate for all older adults by educating the community and policy makers on particular issues impacting older adults; mobilizing people on priority issues; and advocating for change.



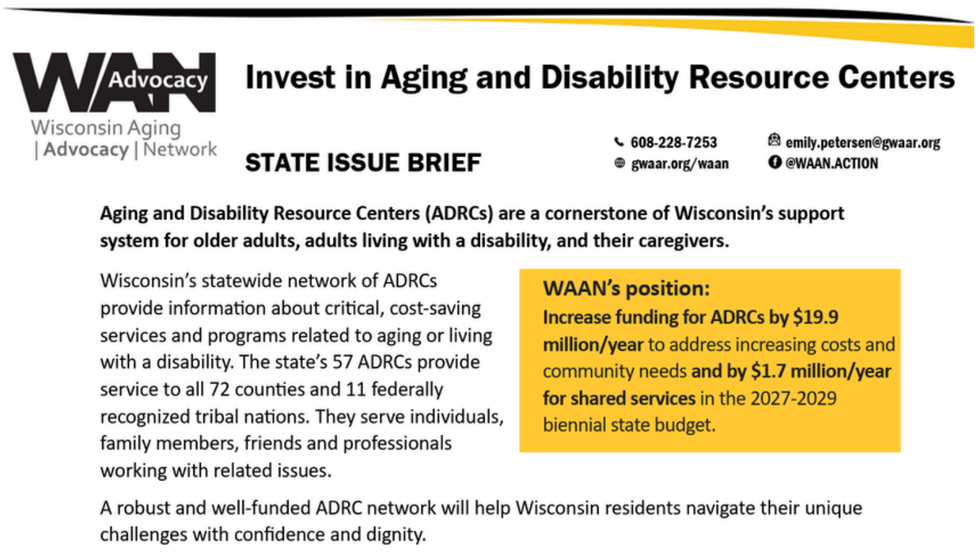
About
ADPAW

The Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW) is a statewide professional association representing professionals who work with and support older adults and people with disabilities.

ADPAW provides a forum for networking, information-sharing, professional development, and advocacy. ADPAW connects local experience and county persepectives to broader aging and disability policy discussions.



The Issue Brief



WAAN Advocacy
Wisconsin Aging | Advocacy | Network

Invest in Aging and Disability Resource Centers

STATE ISSUE BRIEF

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Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) are a cornerstone of Wisconsin's support system for older adults, adults living with a disability, and their caregivers.

Wisconsin's statewide network of ADRCs provide information about critical, cost-saving services and programs related to aging or living with a disability. The state's 57 ADRCs provide service to all 72 counties and 11 federally recognized tribal nations. They serve individuals, family members, friends and professionals working with related issues.

WAAN's position:
Increase funding for ADRCs by $19.9 million/year to address increasing costs and community needs **and by $1.7 million/year for shared services** in the 2027-2029 biennial state budget.

A robust and well-funded ADRC network will help Wisconsin residents navigate their unique challenges with confidence and dignity.

1. **Our position**: An increase of $19.9 million/year in state GPR to support ADRC services and $1.7 million/year for shared services.

2. Increased funding for ADRCs will help meet growing demand to provide essential, contractually required services.

3. Additional funding to support shared services will support attorneys for the Disability and Elder Benefit Specialist programs, PeerPlace, training, and more.

4. In 2025, ADRCs served nearly 156,000 unique customers, compared to 130,000 in 2016. Current funding levels do not sustain operations or meet rising demand for services.

https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009016

MEET OUR ADVOCATE

Welcome Elizabeth, an advocate from Dane County! Elizabeth will share her story about receiving support and services from the ADRC of Dane County throughout her life. She is a passionate advocate for the ADRC and now serves on the ADRC of Dane County Governing Board.

ADVOCACY TOOLS

Together, our issue brief and your story create a powerful story to share with legislators. Here is how you can deliver the most impact when advocating:

- Before your meeting, spend time refining and clarifying your story and why this issue is important to you.
- Highlight the ask/position from the issue brief, but otherwise keep it short and sweet! Bring a paper copy to hand off.
- Spend the majority of your time sharing your personal story.
- Clearly make the connection between your story and the ask: “The ADRC connected me with an EBS who helped me access benefits I was missing out on. Additional funds to support this program ensures others can access this crucial program.”
- Always send a follow-up! That’s where you can highlight facts and data that you didn’t get to in your meeting.

DO'S AND DON'TS

Do:

- Introduce yourself and where you live.
- Explain your background with the issue and if you've met to discuss it before.
- Ask for what you want! What is your desired outcome or policy solution?
- Share your personal story. Why does this matter to you?
- Pick 2-3 facts from the issue brief to highlight that are most compelling.

Don't:

- Read directly from the issue brief or read the whole issue brief. Leave a copy behind for the office to read later.
- Focus on explaining all details or history of a topic. If they want more information, they will ask.
- Leave without providing your contact information.

Call to ACTION

Our position: $19.9 million/year in state funds to support ADRCs and $1.7 million/year for shared services.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers provide:

- Access to Medicaid long-term care programs
- Disability and Elder Benefit Specialists
- Information & Assistance services
- Advocacy so older adults and individuals with disabilities can live in the community and age with dignity

ADRC
Aging and Disability Resource Center
Your Bridge to Support

Next Steps

- Vote on or by November 3!
- Advocacy 101 trainings scheduled for November and December 2026
- Join us for Aging Advocacy Day- Tuesday, May 11, 2027
- Schedule an introductory meeting with your new legislators after the election



QUESTIONS?

Contact us

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WAAN

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Online Resources

Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN)

ADPAW