Wisconsin Aging
| **Advocacy** | Network

GET READY

TO ADVOCATE

Specialized Transportation

AGENDA

- About WAAN
- Specialized Transportation issue brief
- Advocate Story
- Advocacy Tools
- Call to Action
- Next Steps
- Questions?

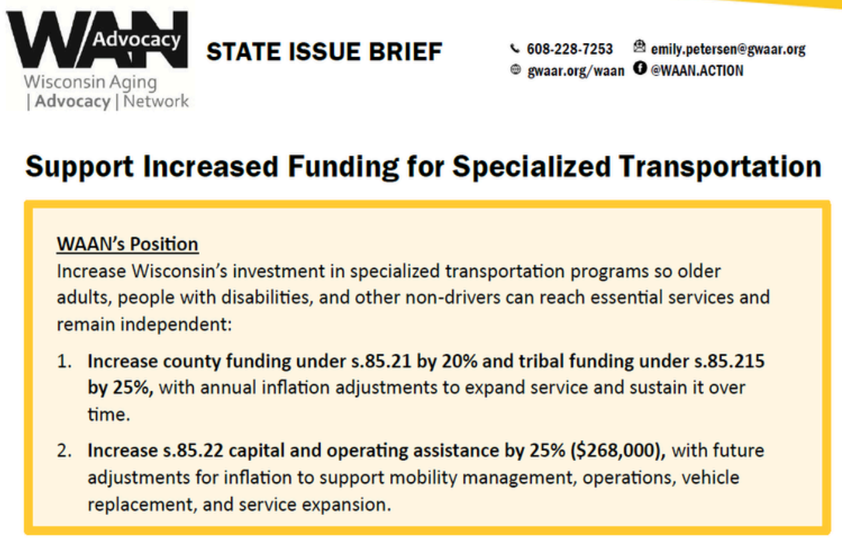
About
WAAN

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.



The Issue Brief



WAAN Advocacy
Wisconsin Aging | Advocacy | Network

STATE ISSUE BRIEF

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gwaar.org/waan @WAAN.ACTION

Support Increased Funding for Specialized Transportation

WAAN's Position
Increase Wisconsin's investment in specialized transportation programs so older adults, people with disabilities, and other non-drivers can reach essential services and remain independent:

1. **Increase county funding under s.85.21 by 20% and tribal funding under s.85.215 by 25%,** with annual inflation adjustments to expand service and sustain it over time.
2. **Increase s.85.22 capital and operating assistance by 25% ($268,000),** with future adjustments for inflation to support mobility management, operations, vehicle replacement, and service expansion.

1. **Our position**: An increase of 20% to the 85.21 specialized transportation program for counties and 25% to the 85.215 program for tribes. An increase of 25% to the 85.22 program for capital and operating assistance.

2. The specialized transportation program ensures older adults can access medical appointments, nutrition, socialization opportunities, and more.

3. Funding for these programs has remained flat for the past five years while the older adult population continues to grow, leading to service reductions, trip limitations, waitlists, and denials.

4. The capital and operation assistance program allows recipients to replace or acquire new vehicles, expand mobility management programs, and continue operations. Available funds have not met the requested need, leaving a gap of $3.9 million unfunded projects.

https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009202

MEET OUR ADVOCATES



https://youtu.be/2-c9_PSRYa0

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 ride I received to and from my doctor’s appointment allowed me to get care I needed to stay healthy. Increased funding ensures I can continue to get to and from my appointments.”
- 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: increased funding for the 85.21 and 85.215 specialized transportation programs to support rides for older adults and increased funding to the 85.22 program to support capital and operating expenditures.

Specialized transportation provides access to:

- healthcare
- nutrition
- employment
- independence and community life.

“I would sit down with a legislator and tell them that without these programs, I don’t know where I’d be. I think it would probably be assisted living.”
-Pat, Specialized Transportation advocate



Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash

Next Steps

- Vote on or by November 3!
- Advocacy 101 trainings coming November & 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

Transportation

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Advocacy

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Online Resources

Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN)

GWAAR Transportation