

Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network: Aging advocates thank state and federal officials for 10-year extension of SeniorCare

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(MADISON, WI) The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) extends their deep appreciation to state and federal officials who sent notification late last Friday that the wait for approval of Wisconsin's SeniorCare prescription drug program was over AND Wisconsin's request for a 10-year waiver extension had been approved. After several short-term extensions since the beginning of the year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it had granted the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) an extension of the SeniorCare federal waiver allowing the program to continue to operate through December 2028.

SeniorCare is a prescription drug assistance program for people aged 65 and over in Wisconsin. The program began in 2002 as a federally-approved waiver program under Wisconsin's Medicaid program for low-income persons. There are currently nearly 94,000 older Wisconsinites enrolled in the program. The SeniorCare program has several appealing features including:

- A simple application and enrollment process,
- An open formulary and broad network of providers, and

- Affordable cost-sharing for participants.

“This cost-effective program has had strong bipartisan support from the beginning,” says Robert Kellerman, Executive Director at the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources and Chair of WAAN. “It is a great relief to both current and future SeniorCare enrollees to know the program has been approved for another 10 years.”

SeniorCare keeps Wisconsin seniors healthy and helps to control the overall costs of the state’s older adult Medicaid population by preventing seniors from becoming fully eligible for Medicaid benefits due to deteriorating health and spending down to Medicaid eligibility levels.