

Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network: Governor Evers Proposed Budget Investments Reflect Current Needs

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MADISON – With the release of his 2021-23 Caregiver and Long-Term Care budget recommendations proposal, Governor Evers has demonstrated a commitment to the needs of Wisconsin’s most vulnerable populations. Both inflation and Wisconsin’s growing number of older adults and persons with disabilities have seriously stressed Wisconsin’s valuable, cost-effective programs and services for our vulnerable populations, their families, and caregivers.

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) supports the Governor’s 2021-23 budget recommendations, which build on successful initiatives like Wisconsin’s Dementia Care Specialist program. The proposed investment in programs and services supporting older adults, individuals with disabilities and family caregivers reflects the need for a modernization in funding. “A number of valuable, cost-saving programs and services have not seen funding increases for many years. The Aging and Disability Resource Centers, for example, have been flat-funded for 15 years,” said Robert Kellerman, Executive Director of the Greater Wisconsin Agency of Aging Resources and Chair of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network. “We’re very glad the proposed budget addresses the need to modernize funding to align with current expenses and Wisconsin’s aging population.”

Wisconsinites across the state will benefit from investments in the Aging and

Disability Resource Centers, tribal Aging and Disability Resource Specialists, Alzheimer's Family Care Support Program, Caregiver Tax Credit, CARE Act (Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable), Dementia Care Specialists, tribal Disability Benefit Specialists, Family Medical Leave Act, guardian training, tailored caregiver assessment and referral, and numerous proposals to strengthen the paid caregiving workforce and invest in the caregiving infrastructure.