



Dane County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging of Dane County

Interim Director – Astra Iheukumere
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March 3, 2025

Dear Dane County Legislative Delegation:

On behalf of the Dane County Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors, I am writing to affirm our support of the Dane County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2024-332 passed on Thursday, February 20, 2025 and attached to this correspondence.

Cuts to federal Medicaid will eliminate needed care, reduce the care and services people get, and/or pay providers less to provide care. The proposed cuts are so significant they will impact everyone on Medicaid in Dane County. Federal Medicaid funding is used to pay for the health and long-term care of people in 19 state Medicaid programs and to pay the workers who provide care for people enrolled in those programs. Federal funding pays for most (60%) of the state's Medicaid costs.

Many local jobs depend on Medicaid. Medicaid funds pay workers' salaries and support small businesses, hospitals, mental health professionals, therapists, school-based medical services, and many other jobs in every corner of Dane County.

Medicaid funds almost all long-term care, including care provided in the County owned skilled nursing facility - and our home and community-based programs—Family Care, IRIS, and the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) program.

Veterans, older adults, people living with disabilities or dementia, foster kids, people with mental illness, unpaid caregivers who have had to leave the workforce to provide care, low-wage paid caregivers, low-income children and families depend on Medicaid.

In 2023, Dane County received \$43,421,897 in Medicaid to support our Human Services programs. Dane County received Medicaid dollars for the Community Support Program, Crisis, Comprehensive Community Services, Treatment Courts, the Behavioral Health Clinic, and Children's Long-term Supports. An addition \$30 million in Medicaid funding supports frail older adults in our County Nursing Facility.

In 2023, the Aging and Disability Resource Center, that provides information and assistance to all our citizens received \$3,429,134 in Medicaid funding. This assisted in paying for Long Term Care Options Counseling, Benefit Specialist assistance, and Dementia Care Services.

Simply stated, Medicaid, as created in 1965, remains the insurer of those most vulnerable in our society. To propose cuts to Medicaid funded programs benefiting our most vulnerable citizens are unconscionable and should be condemned in the strongest of terms possible.

In addition to the Medicaid cuts proposed, any cuts to Older Americans Act funding would make it extremely challenging for older adults to get essential services they count on – including housing, health care, legal services, caregiver support and transportation.

Further, proposed cuts to the Department of Agriculture would result in reduced funding for senior meal programs and other vital food programs low-income older adults rely on to survive.

We hope as our representatives at the State and Federal level you will reject cuts to Medicaid, the Department of Agriculture, and Older American Act funded programs that will have a profoundly negative impact on your local, most critically in need citizens.

Sincerely,

Diane Farsetta, Chair, AAA Board

cc: The Honorable Tony Evers, Governor, State of Wisconsin
State Elected Officials for Dane County
Federal Elected Officials
Members, Dane County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Melissa Agard, Dane County Executive
Ms. Astra Iheukumere, Interim Director Dane County Department of Human Services

URGING CONGRESS NOT TO CUT FUNDING FOR MEDICAID, THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT, AND OTHER CRITICAL HEALTHCARE SUPPORTS

The Dane County Board of Supervisors requests and strongly urges the U.S. Congress not to make cuts to Medicaid and the Older Americans Act funding in the proposed 2025 budget reconciliation bills.

Members of the United States Congress are meeting now to consider which of the proposed more than \$2 trillion in federal Medicaid cuts will be included in 2025 budget reconciliation bills.

Members of Congress have indicated this reconciliation bill process will be “ambitious and aggressive.” It likely will move quickly through Congress before details are fully understood and before the public and local governments have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the consequences of the impact.

Cuts to the Medicaid program could significantly reduce Medicaid reimbursements to the county for mandated programs such as Children’s Long-Term Care for disabled children, Adult Family Care, and long-term elder care. Medicaid funds support Wisconsin’s institution diversion programs that keep kids, people with disabilities, and older adults out of more expensive nursing homes and institutions.

Federal cuts to Medicaid funding will leave states and counties with budget shortfalls, which would then either become the responsibility of the state or the county. The alternative would be to deny services for the disabled, elderly, or mentally ill, causing harm to the well-being of residents in our community. Reductions to other programs within the county that are not mandated might also be necessary to make up for the federal funding cuts.

In 2024, 8.54 percent of Dane County’s residents used a Medicaid program to get their health care and other supportive services, which is a rate that has stayed consistent or even declined slightly since 2013.

Medicaid funds pay community workers' salaries and support small businesses, hospitals, mental health professionals, therapists, school-based medical services, and many other jobs in every corner of Wisconsin, including Dane County.

Access to Medicaid funding improves the health and well-being of thousands of residents through preventive services, prenatal care, opioid and other drug treatment, behavioral health, crisis intervention, lead poisoning prevention and treatment, treatment of chronic disease, dental health, and support for seniors and people with disabilities, all of which provide for a healthier population and a more productive workforce.

Veterans, older adults, people living with disabilities or dementia, foster kids, people with mental illness, unpaid caregivers who have needed to leave the workforce to provide care for family members, low-wage paid caregivers, low-income children, and families all depend on Medicaid.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) in Wisconsin offer a strong return on investment while significantly enhancing the well-being of individuals across the state. In 2023, every \$1 invested into ADRCs in Wisconsin led to a savings of \$3.88.

47 Older Americans Act funding is necessary to continue the ADRC's essential dementia care
48 services and the senior nutrition program, for instance, which includes Meals on Wheels and
49 congregate dining, programs which have been shown to reduce senior health issues,
50 hospitalizations, and the isolation that harms our aging residents, along with associated
51 personal and economic costs.

52
53 Wisconsin's population is aging, and Dane County's projected aging population demographic is
54 even higher than the state's as a whole, which means more Dane County seniors will require
55 these services and care in the future.

56 Cuts to Medicaid and the Older Americans Act programs will hurt vulnerable individuals and
57 families, the workers who support them, and the communities that must provide expensive crisis
58 and hospital services when residents have nowhere else to turn for assistance.

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests
60 and strongly urges its elected representatives to not include reductions in Medicaid and Older
61 American Act funds in the 2025 budget reconciliation bills.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors invites residents to
63 contact their elected representatives in the U.S. Congress to ask them to consider the harm that
64 drastic cuts would cause to members of our community and to reject proposals that reduce
65 federal funding for Medicaid and the Older Americans Act.

66 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Dane County's state
67 and federal legislative delegations.



Dane County

Signature Copy

Resolution: 2024 RES-332

File Number: 2024 RES-332

URGING CONGRESS NOT TO CUT FUNDING FOR MEDICAID, THE OLDER AMERICANS
ACT, AND OTHER CRITICAL HEALTHCARE SUPPORTS

Adopted by the County Board on February 20, 2025.

Approve Veto

County Executive Melissa D'Amico

Date 2-21-25