

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. They serve individuals, family members, friends and professionals working with related issues. The state's 54 ADRCs and 10 tribal Aging and Disability Resource Specialists (ADRSs) serve the fastest growing demographic of our state's population.¹

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

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, nearly one-quarter of the population of Wisconsin is aged 60 or older. As these numbers increase, the contributions of ADRCs to their communities will positively affect the quality of life for even more community members.



A person interacts with an ADRC in Wisconsin every **60** seconds.

Increasing funding to ADRCs will deliver substantial benefits to constituents and taxpayers

The current funding inequities lead to inconsistent service delivery and *limit* the ability of some ADRCs to provide *essential, contractually required* services.

An investment of \$19.9 million will enable every ADRC to offer reliable and comprehensive support, allowing individuals to age in place, delay entry to long-term care and improve their overall quality of life.

Investing in ADRCs yields a remarkable return on investment. In 2023, for every dollar invested in ADRC services, taxpayers saved \$3.88, demonstrating a total return on investment of 388%.^{2,3,4}

To ensure that ADRCs can continue to provide high-quality, unbiased services, **we need support** for increased funding. Together, we can strengthen our commitment to the well-being of all Wisconsin citizens.

The role of ADRCs in health care outcomes

According to 2023 statistics, ADRCs prevented:

- 61 hospital readmissions per 1,000 people served
- 101 emergency department visits per 1,000 people served

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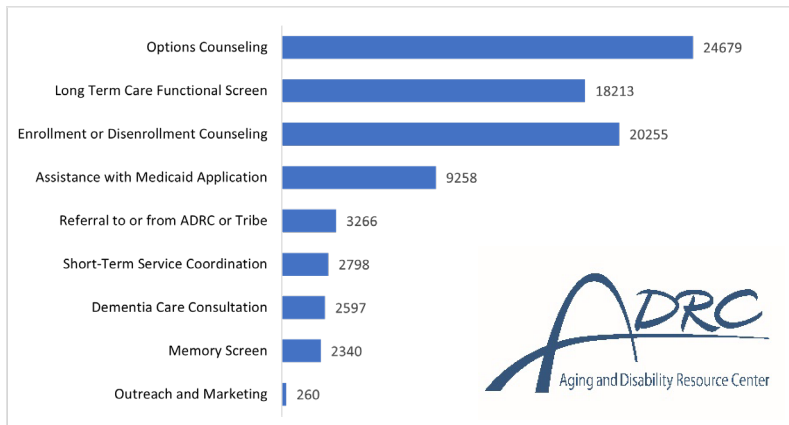
Impact of ADRCs

In 2023, ADRCs facilitated over 536,627 contacts with individuals, families, and professionals seeking guidance and support.⁵ Despite this significant reach, current funding levels are inadequate to sustain operations and meet the rising demand for services.

The existing funding formula does not adequately account for the changing demographics and increasing operational costs faced by ADRCs.⁶

Over the past 12 years, the baseline funding for ADRC services has been increased only once—by \$5.1 million in the 2023-2025 biennial budget. While this increase provided some relief, it falls short of addressing the ongoing challenges posed by an underfunded system.

Providing the funding needed to support ADRCs is an investment that benefits all of Wisconsin, one community member at a time.



The mission of ADRCs and Tribal ADRSs is to provide older adults and people with physical and intellectual disabilities the resources needed to live with dignity and security and achieve maximum independence and quality of life.

Recommended reading:

The Impact of ADRC and Tribal Programs in Wisconsin Status Report, 2023

This report summarizes ADRC and Tribal program services and uses a variety of data and customer stories to outline the impact that ADRCs and Tribal ADRSs made in Wisconsin in 2023.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p00251.pdf>

Additional sources, next page:

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Additional sources:

1. U.S. Census Bureau (2020, June 25). 65 and Older population Grows Rapidly as Baby Boomers Age. Retrieved March 16, 2021, from <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/65-older-population-grows.html>.
2. Return on Investment calculation is based on number of prevented hospital readmissions and emergency department visits per 1,000 ADRC customers served.
3. The Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research report:
https://hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb248-Hospital-Readmissions-2010-2016.jsp?utm_source=ahrq&utm_medium=en13&utm_term=Safety_Program&utm_content=13&utm_campaign=ahrq_en6_18_2019
4. Costs of Emergency Department Visits in the United States, 2017:
<https://hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb268-ED-Costs-2017.jsp#:~:text=In%202017%2C%20aggregate%20ED%20visit,cost%20per%20visit%20of%20%24530>
5. ADRC statewide encounter data for CY2023
6. Aging Populations Projections, www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/demographics.htm.

Find this and other WAAN issue briefs at: <https://gwaar.org/issues-and-initiatives>

(1-2025)

Core member organizations

Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW) • Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) • Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA) • Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) • Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS) • Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND) • Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC) • Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) • Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) • Wisconsin Senior Advocates • Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA) • Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association

Mission

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) works with and for all older adults by educating community members and policy makers on priority issues while advocating for meaningful change. Learn more at <https://gwaar.org/waan>.