



**GWAAR Board Meeting
Advocacy Update
June 12, 2026**

WAAN 2026 Aging Advocacy Day of Action

On **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**, the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (**WAAN**) held a “**Day of Action**” including a virtual training followed by an online campaign. More than 85 advocates attended the virtual training to celebrate Older Americans Month and lift priority aging network issues for the next budget and legislative session. WAAN members voted to highlight three aging funding priorities:

- Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) (issue brief: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009016>)
- Home-delivered meals (issue brief: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009014>)
- Falls prevention (issue brief: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009015>)

After the training, advocates shared these funding requests with legislators using our customizable email and phone action alerts.

Email alert: <https://bit.ly/4w7OMNn>

Phone alert: <https://bit.ly/4dp31pw>

These action alerts are a quick and easy way to communicate with your representatives, while still allowing the opportunity to add your personal story or data. There is no deadline to complete these alerts, so please complete them if you haven’t already! A recording of the training can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/9FpEOdUHVtI>

Our day of action will be complemented by local, in-district meetings held by WAAN core members throughout the state. Local sponsors are encouraged to schedule the in-district meetings between late March and the end of October 2026.

Updated 2026 WAAN Issue Briefs

Recently, WAAN has adopted several updated issue briefs highlighting our priorities around ADRCs, home-delivered meals, falls prevention, and an online caregiver support platform. All our current issue briefs can be found on the website here: <https://gwaar.org/waan-issues-and-initiatives>

Our most recent brief (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008983>) is a request for permanent state funding for a permanent Caregiver Education and Support Fund to provide free, 24/7 online caregiver education for Wisconsin’s 1.1 million family caregivers.

May Special Session

On Monday, May 11, the State Legislature met in a special session to take up [MY6AB1/MY6SB1](#), a bill negotiated by Governor Evers, Speaker Vos, and Senate Majority Leader LeMahieu to provide special education funding, property tax relief, and more. The bill is funded by nearly \$2 billion in state surplus funds and contains the following provisions:

- \$85M in 2026-26 and \$230M in 2026-27 to increase the proration rate for special education and school age parents programs.
- Provides \$302.5M to create a second per pupil aid for school districts.
- Provides \$50M to increase state funding for technical colleges and reduces by an equivalent amount the revenue that technical colleges receive from the property tax levy.
- Creates an income tax subtraction for qualified tips with no sunset.
- Creates an income tax subtraction for qualified overtime compensation with no sunset.
- Provides surplus refund payments to taxpayers who filed a Wisconsin individual income tax return for tax year 2024 and who owed Wisconsin individual income tax for that year.
 - o \$600 for married persons, \$300 for individuals distributed by November 2026 without any action required by recipients.
 - o If you did not pay state income tax, or are not a full-time Wisconsin resident, you will not qualify for the surplus payment or could qualify for a lesser amount.

If passed, there would still be approximately \$300 million left in the state surplus, and this bill does not use any funds from the state's "rainy day" fund.

On Tuesday, May 12, the Joint Committee on Finance considered and approved the legislation by a 12-4 vote. The full Assembly voted on and approved the bill late on the night of Wednesday, May 13 by a vote of 61-32. The Senate immediately took the bill up that same night, where it failed by a vote of 15-18.

This was a special legislative session created via Executive Order by the Governor. Since this legislation has been disposed of, the legislature is out of session unless they are called into another special session by the Governor.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2027 Proposed Budget

In early April, President Trump released his [proposed FFY27 budget](#). There are minimal changes to Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, which fund supportive services, nutrition programs, caregiver support services, and evidence-based wellness programs. The budget proposes the elimination of one OAA program: the Community Service Employment program, housed within the Department of Labor because "the program often fails to meet its goal...and is not cost-effective."

The proposed budget also includes the elimination of the Low-Income Home Energy assistance program, the Community Services Block Grant and Community Development Block Grant programs (which provide funding to counties), and all AmeriCorps programs.

On Friday, June 5, the House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee held a mark-up on the Fiscal Year 2027 Bill. The mark-up included analyzing and making recommendations on funding for the Administration for Community Living, which houses Older Americans Act programs and services. This was a crucial first step in creating the budget for FFY27 OAA programs and services.

In the week leading up to Friday's mark-up, we encouraged everyone to reach out to their federal legislators to ensure they heard loud and clear the importance of increasing funding for OAA programs and services. Representative Mark Pocan is on this subcommittee, so it was especially important that his constituents hear from him, but all representatives are ready to hear our priorities. On Tuesday, June 9, the House Appropriations Committee held a full Committee mark-up of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education FFY27 Bill.

Please use and customize the action alert to send an email to your representatives this week: <http://bit.ly/4u2koCq> Be sure you are reviewing the email text before sending as there are blanks to fill in and opportunities to share your story!

Although we are still early in the FFY2027 Budget process, these early days are some of the most crucial opportunities to elevate our needs—and to continue to do so throughout the next several months.