

2025 Commission on Aging Policy Priorities

Federal

Increase funding for Older Americans Act programs and services and other local government services that support older adults.

Provide increased funding for all affordable housing programs that are used by older adults.

Improve funding and access to community life for older adults through age friendly infrastructure, transportation, and long term supports and services.

Prevent cuts to Medicaid funding to support Wisconsin's 19 Medicaid-funded healthcare programs, including Publicly Funded Long-Term Care, and ensure additional funding is allocated to support increased reimbursement rates for healthcare workers.

Expand Medicare to include hearing, vision, and dental benefits and expand Medicare's authority to negotiate pricing for prescription drugs.

Ensure sufficient funding for the Social Security administration to address applications and resolve complaints on a timely basis for Social Security, Social Security Disability, and Supplemental Security Income.

Advance legislative and policy changes, including support for increased funding, that implement the provisions of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act and the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers.

Oppose changes to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that reorganize the Administration for Community Living (added 04/2025).

Support H.R.3522, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act (added 07/2025).

Support funding for Legal Services Corporations in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget (added 08/2025).

Support funding for AmeriCorps and its programs and services in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget (added 08/2025).

State

Adopt Medicaid Expansion under the ACA to provide Medicaid health coverage for all Wisconsinites at or below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

Increase funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers and affiliated programs to address current capacity and rebalance formula allocation to correct historical inequities.

Support initiatives that increase transportation access for older adults and fully fund Milwaukee County's transportation programs, including Specialized Transportation, public transit, and regional transit coordination.

Increase funding to support Home and Community Based paid caregivers as well as family caregiver to address the caregiver workforce shortage.

Advance racial and health equity by advocating for a change in the distribution formulaas for Older Americans Act funding and other state funding that do not account for differences in life expectancy and the incidence of chronic health conditions between racial and ethnic subgroups.

Protect voting rights and encourage measures designed to grant full access to the polls for all Wisconsin citizens, particularly older adults and people with disabilities.

Support for AB176/SB152 that removes financial eligibilty requirements from the Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program (added 02/2025).

Local

Preserve Milwaukee County levy funding maintenance of effort for older adult services and supports.

Support increased funding to make improvements or enhancements to facilities and programming in Senior Centers owned by and in Milwaukee County in accord with the recommendations of the Commission on Aging Senior Centers Committee.

Increase funding and coordination of mental health services for older adults.

Support increased funding for transit and paratransit to ensure access to services, supports, employment, and recreation for older adults.

Support age-friendly improvements in the community and funding for projects that implement the goals of the AARP Livable Communities Initiative.