

WASC 2018 Annual Legislative Report

Submitted by Jill McHone, Fitchburg Senior Center
WASC Legislative Chair



2018 Aging Advocacy Day

Thanks to the great advocacy by many individuals and organizations, there are several aging and caregiver-related issues included in the 2017-2019 state budget.

Ombudsman positions	Adds two new positions to the Board on Aging and Long-Term Care. Positions will provide advocacy for people aged 60 and older who are enrolled in the IRIS program (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct)
Dementia Care Specialists	Provides funds to support the 19 existing positions for all of 2018 and the expansion to 24 positions in FY 2019.
Medical Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP)	Eliminates the premium cliff and expansion of income and asset eligibility.
Elderly, Blind, and Disabled (EBD) Medically Needy MA	Increases the financial eligibility limit for EBD medically-needy MA.
Direct Care Workforce Providers	Provides a 2% increase in the MA personal care rate to help fund workers providing in-home care. A 2% increase is also provided to support the direct care workforce in nursing homes.
Alzheimer's Research	Funds \$50,000 each year for the UW Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.
Transportation	Provides a 2% increase in funding for specialized transportation for county programs (85.21). Tribal transportation aids increased by 60% (\$297,000) for 11 tribes.

Looking Ahead

- Advocacy currently being done in an effort to extend the Senior Care waiver for 10 years.
- WIHA (Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging) is kicking off a "Help Yourself to Better Health Campaign".
- Advocacy being done surrounding the Issues Briefs developed by WAAN (Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network) continues. Brief topics include; Affordable Transportation, Family Caregivers, Social Isolation, and Healthy Aging Grants.
- Strategy being developed to address needs for 2019-2021 budget