

OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND STATE FUNDING

The federal Older Americans Act (OAA) was signed into law in 1965. Its purpose is to improve the quality of life for all older Americans, helping them remain independent and productive. This is accomplished through the development of services and opportunities, respecting the dignity of individuals, removing social barriers, providing a continuum of care, and securing opportunities for older Americans.

Each Wisconsin county and tribe an Aging Unit that represents older persons in local decision-making for human services. The Wisconsin Elders Act became law in 1992 establishing Aging Units as the cornerstone for aging-related activities at the local level. Each Aging Unit is required to have a director and necessary personnel to ensure all OAA services are available to older citizens.

According to the Wisconsin Elders Act, the Aging Unit shall *“Work to ensure that all older individuals, regardless of income, have access to information, services and opportunities available through the county or tribal Aging Unit, have the opportunity to contribute to the cost of services, and that the services and resources of the county or tribal Aging Unit are designed to reach those in greatest social and economic need.”*

Older Americans Act funding is reauthorized every three years and funding detail is legislative specified. The largest Title in the federal Older Americans Act is Title III. Outagamie County receives the following federal Older Americans Act and other federal and state funding:

Title III-B Supportive Services and Senior Centers *100% Federal*

Includes services such as transportation, chore, counseling and training, health screening and education, homemaker, information and assistance, legal and benefit assistance, personal care, medication management, shopping , temporary respite, adult day care, assistive devices, case management, public information plus other defined Title III-B supportive services.

Title III-C Elderly Nutrition Program Congregate and Home Delivered Meal Services

Congregate 52% Federal and 48% State

Home Delivered 89% Federal and 11% State

Includes meals, socialization, nutrition education, nutrition counseling, transportation other related services. The Elderly Nutrition Program purpose is to reduce hunger and food insecurity for older persons.

Title III-D Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services *100% Federal*

Includes evidence-based disease and disability prevention and health promotion services in areas of physical activity, falls management, substance abuse, chronic disease management, depression, substance abuse, medication management and other evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion services.

Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) *100% Federal*

Provides information, assistance, education and support to family caregivers on services and resources including individual counseling, support groups, caregiver trainings, temporary respite care and other support services to meet the needs of family caregivers.

Elder Benefit Specialist Program *100% State*

The Elder Benefit Specialist provides information, education and assistance to older persons on eligibility for public benefits, health care financing, insurance and other public and private benefit concerns.

Elder and Adults at Risk *100% State*

This county-based system provides the framework for receiving reports and responding to allegations or concerns regarding elder and adult abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Senior Community Services Program (SCSP) *100% State*

Includes adult day care, personal care, homemaker, chore, Elderly Nutrition Program Home Delivered and Congregate meals, case management, assisted transportation, legal/benefit assistance, information and assistance, outreach, public information, counseling and training, temporary respite, medication management and other support services.

Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) *100% State*

Funding to address the stress and service needs of families caring for someone with irreversible dementia at home. Includes respite, adult day care and family home, advocacy and legal assistance, case management, community-based care or treatment facility care, supportive home care, Elderly Nutrition Program Congregate and Home Delivered meals, counseling and therapeutic resources, crisis intervention, daily living skills training, adaptive equipment, information and referral, intake and assessment, interpreter services, adaptive equipment, recreational activities, specialized transportation and other goods and services.

85.21 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance *100% State*

County specialized transportation assistance.

Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) *100% Federal*

Funds counties with a per meal subsidy to eligible Elderly Nutrition Program participants.