

Buffalo and Pepin Counties Aging Plan 2025–2027

Table of Contents

I.	Executive summary	3
II.	Context	3-5
III.	Development of the aging plan	6
	o Community engagement	6
	o Partners and resources	6
	o Public hearings	6
IV.	Goals and strategies	7-10
V.	Program advancement	11
	o Community engagement and public input	11
	o Title III and Title VI coordination	11
	o Aging unit integration and collaboration with ADRC	11
	o Emergency preparedness	11
VI.	Organizational structure and leadership of the aging unit ...	12
	o Primary contact	12
	o Organizational chart of the aging unit	12
	o Aging unit coordination with the ADRC	13
	o Statutory requirements for structure of the aging unit ...	13
	o Policy-making body	14
	o Advisory committee	14
VII.	Budget summary	14
VIII.	Verification of intent	15
IX.	Appendices	16-32

Aging Plan Content

I. Executive summary

On January 1, 2021, Buffalo and Pepin Counties ADRC and Aging Unit became a fully integrated unit, also known as the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Buffalo and Pepin Counties (ADRC). A regional and integrated ADRC/Aging model provides streamlined access to services, the ability to effectively utilize available resources, improve customer service, and increase the breadth of knowledge of all staff that serve older adults and adults disabilities in our communities.

The ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties is dedicated to empowering individuals aged 60 and older, adults with disabilities, along with their families and caregivers, to live independently and with dignity, with providing them with unbiased information, programs, and services.

The ADRC team worked hard to obtain community feedback for the development of this Aging Plan. The team distributed a survey, both in paper form and electronically, and the ADRC Manager was available for phone conversations for those that preferred that method of providing feedback. Some common themes noted in the responses were related to transportation, healthy aging, and access to affordable homecare in our small, rural counties.

II. Context

It is no surprise that Wisconsin's population is aging. According to the *U.S. Census Population Estimates Program, June 2023*, Buffalo County has a population of 13,391 with 31% of the population being aged 60+ and Pepin County's population is 7410 with 32% of the population being 60+. An interesting fact is that Pepin and Buffalo's aging population is higher when compared to our contiguous counties (Eau Claire, Dunn, Pierce, and Trempealeau). By 2035, Pepin County's population of 60+ is expected to increase to 41-51% of the population, while Buffalo's population of 60+ remains stable. **Note the maps on page 5 for more details.* Racial diversity is very minimal in Buffalo and Pepin Counties, with about 96% of the population being White/Caucasian.

According to the *Wisconsin Department of Health Services: Estimated and Projected Population Ages 65 and Older with Dementia Living in Households in Wisconsin Counties, 2010-2040*, in 2025, Buffalo and Pepin Counties will have 34% of their household population living with dementia. This does not take into account anyone residing in an institutional setting, such as a skilled nursing facility. The Alzheimer's Association reports that in 2024, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation \$360 billion for health and long-term care costs. By 2050, these costs could rise to nearly \$1 trillion. And 70% of caregivers for individuals with dementia, feel

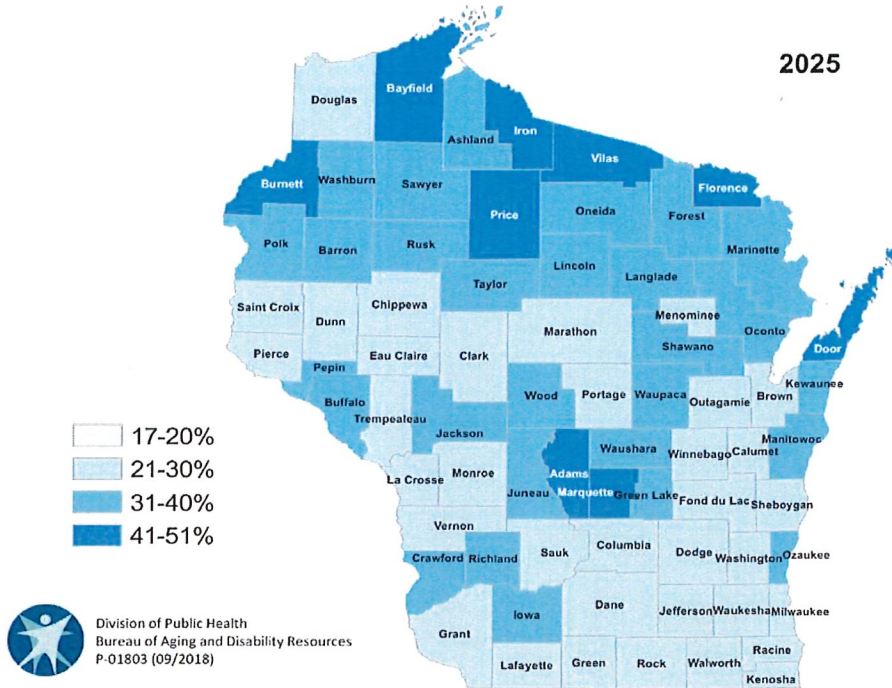
stressed when coordinating care and 2/3 have difficulty finding resources and support for their needs. As the population age 65 and older continues to grow, so will the number and proportion of Americans with Alzheimer's or other dementias. By 2050, the number of people aged 65 and older with Alzheimer's may grow to a projected 12.7 million (Alzheimer's Association).

With Buffalo and Pepin Counties being so small and rural, this can pose some challenges. Many communities don't have grocery stores, assisted living facilities, or hospitals. Buffalo County has one skilled nursing facility, while Pepin County has none. Pepin County has one hospital, while Buffalo County has none. We know that having access to transportation services is a requirement for people to age in place. Residents also struggle to find reasonably-priced homecare services that will serve our counties. It can be very difficult to find an affordable homecare agency that will travel to Pepin or Buffalo County to assist with laundry, housekeeping, or personal cares.

Relationships with community partners is important to the ADRC. These relationships help us to reach more county residents with information, programs, and resources. Providing individuals with this support can help them to be successful as they age in place. Some partners include local libraries, adult protective services, long-term care programs, law enforcement, public health, UW-Extension, and Veteran Service Officers. We hope to continue creating and expanding partnerships to better serve our communities in the years to come.

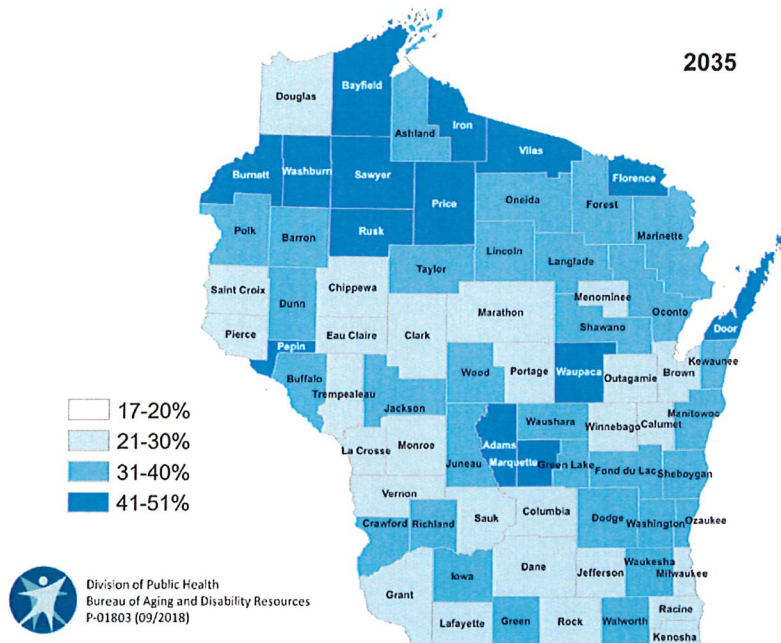
So, that leaves us wondering; How can the ADRC support the aging population with the challenges being small and rural? What changes need to happen for Buffalo and Pepin Counties so that older adults and their families/caregivers are supported? What community partners can we collaborate with to make this happen?

Percent of the Projected Population Ages 60 and Older, 2015-2040



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services, 2010-2040 Population Projections, Vintage 2013

Percent of the Projected Population Ages 60 and Older, 2015-2040



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services, 2010-2040 Population Projections, Vintage 2013

III. Development of the aging plan

○ Community engagement

Beginning in January, the ADRC focused on soliciting community feedback for this plan. Each team member played a role in reaching out to community members throughout Buffalo and Pepin Counties.

Our community engagement focused on the distribution of a survey and offering phone conversations. The survey was available in paper format or online. And the phone conversations were available to those individuals that preferred to have a conversation instead of filling out the survey. Our overall goal was to provide a way for individuals to share their ideas and thoughts on the current and future needs of older adults. We then used this feedback to create short and long-term goals for this aging plan.

The ADRC team spent a lot of time distributing surveys to individuals. Due to Buffalo and Pepin Counties being so small and rural, we utilized numerous avenues for distribution, which included: the ADRC newsletter, ADRC Facebook page, churches, word of mouth, email distribution groups, DHS/DHHS/ADRC Governing Board members, etc. Our goal was to put the survey into as many people's hands as we could. We learned there were common themes related to transportation, healthy aging, and access to affordable homecare in our small, rural counties. Our goal is to incorporate ideas and feedback into the upcoming plan.

○ Partners and resources

As said by John Heywood, "Many hands make light work," which means that people coming together can complete tasks more easily and quickly when they work together. This same saying can be said for the development of this aging plan. Community partners were engaged and asked to help the ADRC team spread the word about the request for feedback for the aging plan development. This piece of community outreach is important because each community partner has a unique relationship with residents of Buffalo and Pepin Counties. While each community partner's role is focused on a specific area, when brought together great things can happen. Each community partner helps to establish relationships and build connections with community members to learn about the supports and services they see as essential and most impactful.

○ Public hearings

Public Hearings were held in each county to gather feedback on the draft plan. Pepin County's was held at the Durand Library and Buffalo County's at Central Lutheran Church. See the Appendix section for details.

IV. Goals and strategies

Older Americans Act program area (Select a program area)

- ☐ Title III-B Supportive Services
- ☐ Title III-C1 and/or III-C2 Nutrition Program
- ☐ Title III-D Evidence-Based Health Promotion
- ☒ Title III-E Caregiver Supports

Aging Network value (Select a value if applicable.)

- ☐ Person centeredness
- ☐ Equity
- ☒ Advocacy

Goal statement: In an effort to increase the number of caregivers and care recipients who have completed the Power of Attorney (POA) documents, the ADRC team will create awareness about the value and importance of completing of these documents.

Plan or strategy:

- An annual event will be held that provides an opportunity for individuals to complete the POA documents. These annual events will occur in various locations through Buffalo and Pepin Counties.
- The ADRC team will collaborate with three community partners to expand awareness of the importance of completing POA documents.
- ADRC Specialists and the Dementia Care Specialist will provide copies of the POA documents when meeting with caregivers/care recipients, as appropriate.
- Other methods of community awareness will be completed (examples: local newspaper articles, social media, newsletter, etc.)

Metrics:

- An annual event will occur, which will provide an opportunity for individuals to learn more about and complete POA documents.
- (3) community partners will help create awareness of the importance of these documents.
- A spreadsheet will be created to track the outreach efforts.

Older Americans Act program area (Select a program area)

- ☐ Title III-B Supportive Services
- ☐ Title III-C1 and/or III-C2 Nutrition Program
- ☒ Title III-D Evidence-Based Health Promotion
- ☐ Title III-E Caregiver Supports

Aging Network value (Select a value if applicable.)

- ☒ Person centeredness
- ☐ Equity
- ☐ Advocacy

Goal statement: The ADRC will promote healthy aging in older adults by offering opportunities that focus on wellness.

Plan or strategy:

- Offer (2) evidenced-based workshops/year in different locations throughout the two counties, based on participant preference. A virtual platform may also be considered if there's interest.
- Create (2) new partnerships to help with recruitment of participants for the workshops.
- Create/update workshop flyers to reflect inclusion and diversity.
- To minimize barriers with attendance, explore the idea of offering transportation to/from workshops for those that may need it.
- Create and maintain a resource library of healthy aging opportunities in the two counties and make this available on the ADRC website.

Metrics:

- Two workshops will be held each year in various locations.
- The resource library of healthy aging opportunities will be created, maintain, and shared with individuals.
- Workshop flyers will be updated and distributed.
- Offer transportation to/from workshops, as needed:
- New partnerships will result in additional recruitment of participants.

Older Americans Act program area (Select a program area)

- ☐ Title III-B Supportive Services
- ☒ Title III-C1 and/or III-C2 Nutrition Program
- ☐ Title III-D Evidence-Based Health Promotion
- ☐ Title III-E Caregiver Supports

Aging Network value (Select a value if applicable.)

- ☐ Person centeredness
- ☐ Equity
- ☐ Advocacy

Goal statement: To ensure the long-term viability and effectiveness of the Senior Nutrition Program, we will recruit volunteer Home-Delivered Meal (HDM) drivers to create a robust pool that ensures meal delivery across both counties. Additionally, we aim to reduce nutrition risks by offering in-person culinary events throughout the counties, empowering residents with the skills to prepare easy and healthy meals.

Plan or strategy:

- To enhance community relationships and promote the Nutrition Program, the Nutrition Program Coordinator will collaborate with (3) agencies to create awareness about the importance of the program and the need for volunteers.
- Offer opportunities for interested individuals to ride along on the home-delivered route (before committing to becoming a volunteer).
- Offer in-person culinary experiences throughout the two counties, including featuring Native American Foods in November to honor Native American Heritage Month.
- Testimonials from current volunteers will be gathered and incorporated into marketing techniques.

Metrics:

- (3) new collaboration opportunities with outside agencies.
- Home-Delivered Meal ride-along opportunities will be offered regularly to community members interested in volunteering.
- Volunteer testimonials will be added to the ADRC website.
- (1-2) Culinary experiences will be offered each year with at least 3 people in attendance.
- As program needs change, new volunteers will be recruited throughout 2025-2027, which will sustain the Nutrition Program.
- Distribute a rating card/survey to participants of the culinary experiences to gauge their satisfaction of the class.

Older Americans Act program area (Select a program area)

- ☒ Title III-B Supportive Services
- ☐ Title III-C1 and/or III-C2 Nutrition Program
- ☐ Title III-D Evidence-Based Health Promotion
- ☐ Title III-E Caregiver Supports

Aging Network value (Select a value if applicable.)

- ☐ Person centeredness
- ☒ Equity
- ☐ Advocacy

Goal statement: The ADRC will provide equitable and accessible transportation for aging and disabled individuals residing in Buffalo and Pepin Counties.

Plan or strategy:

- Offer 4 social outings/year for residents of Buffalo and Pepin Counties with a minimum of 2 individuals in attendance per outing.
- Market the Buffalo and Pepin County Transportation Program, with a focus in southern Buffalo County as this the most rural part of our service area.
- Explore two partnerships in southern Buffalo County to help spread the word about the Transportation Program and these social outings.
- Update Transportation Program outreach materials to reflect inclusion and diversity.

Metrics:

- Four social outings will be offered each year and at least 2 people will be in attendance per outing.
- Two new partnerships will be created in southern Buffalo County to create awareness about the transportation opportunities.
- Outreach materials will be updated and distributed.
- Participants for the social outings will be provided with a survey see if the outings made a difference and to elicit feedback for future events.

V. Program advancement

o Community engagement and public input

The ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties informally uses the tag line, “Know Us Before You Need Us,” meaning we want people to know about the services, programs, and resources that we have to offer before they actually need them. Taking this proactive approach can help alleviate a crisis or urgent situation in the future. To help individuals learn about the ADRC, we focus our efforts on reaching as many individuals as we can throughout the year through active engagement. We host several outreach events and encourage the community to attend to meet the ADRC team and learn more about the ADRC. For example, every May in honor of ADRC month, the ADRC hosts a large gathering with live music, games, and light refreshments. We use this event to not only bring people together to have a good time but also to educate them on ADRC services and programs. We also offer several smaller events throughout the year, such as a Scams Presentation, Final Affairs Forum, Medicare Plan Finder Trainings, as well as others. In an effort to enhance our interaction with community members about ADRC programs and services, we seek participant feedback on program development at these events.

The other avenue that we utilize to reach community members is through passive engagement. For this, we rely on social media, ADRC website, local newspapers, radio ads, ADRC newsletter, flyers, and brochures, to create awareness.

o Title III and Title VI coordination

The ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties plans to offer in-person culinary experiences throughout the two counties and will feature Native American Foods in November to honor Native American Heritage Month.

o Emergency preparedness

The ADRC learned the importance of emergency preparedness and the value of relationships during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because things changed so significantly and so quickly, our relationship with community partners strengthened at a moment's notice. The ADRC relied on Emergency Management, Public Health, and Law Enforcement in both Buffalo and Pepin Counties during this time for guidance and support as we navigated the everchanging situation. Our goal was to maintain program operations as best we could and with the support of our partners, we were able to make this happen. Although things with the pandemic have quieted down, the ADRC has maintained relationships with these community partners and we participate in the development of the county's emergency preparedness plan. In the event of another crisis, we will again lean to our partners to ensure continuity of program operations.

VI. Organizational structure and leadership of the aging unit

- **Primary contact to respond to questions about the aging plan**

Name: Cammi Catt-DeWyre

Title: ADRC Manager

County: Buffalo and Pepin Counties

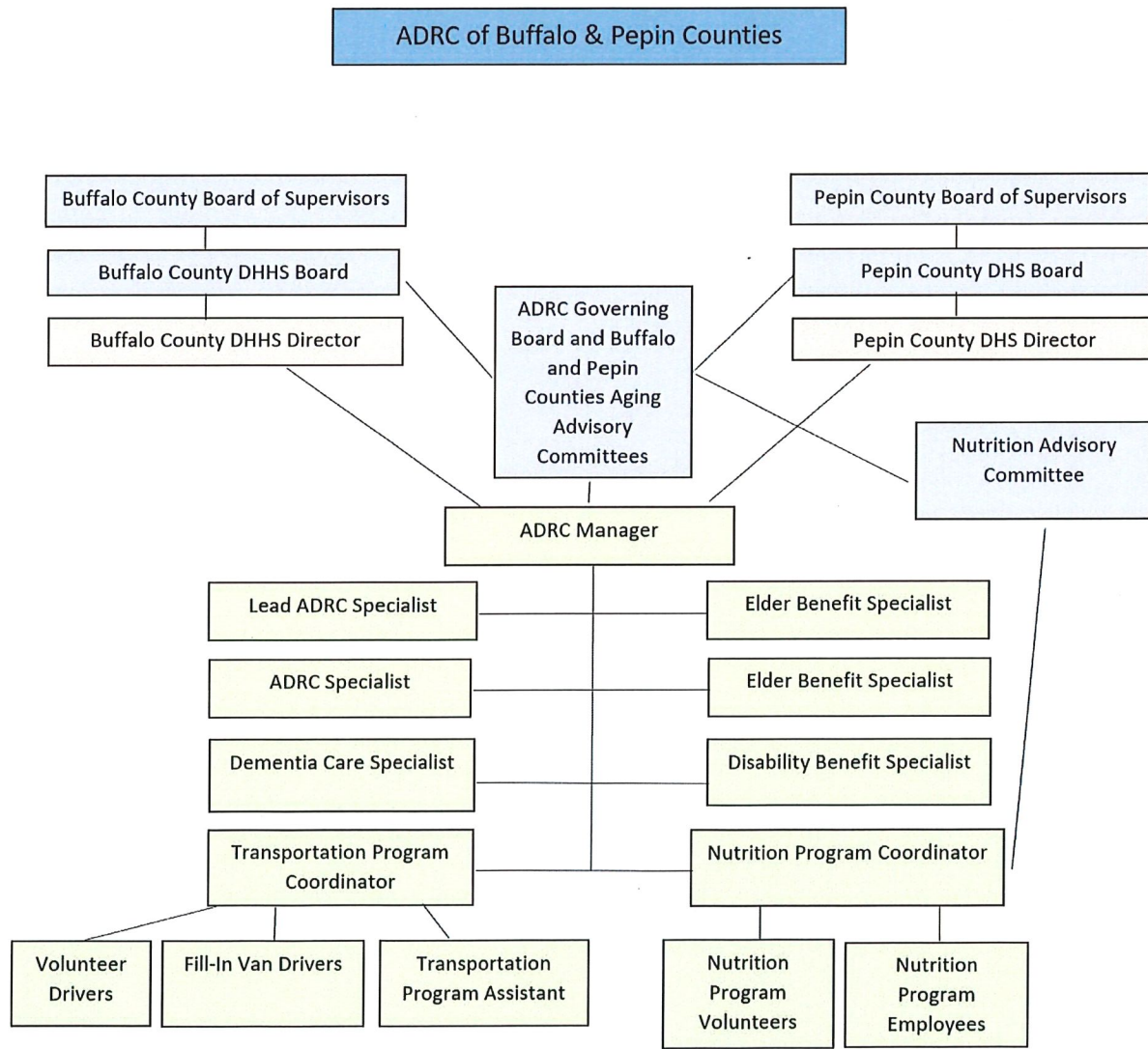
Organizational Name: ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties

Address: 740 7th Ave W

City: Durand State: WI Zip Code: 54755

Email Address: cdewyre@co.pepin.wi.us Phone: 715-672-8941 Ext. 115

- **Organizational chart of the aging unit**



- **Aging unit integration and collaboration with the local aging and disability resource center**

Buffalo and Pepin Counties ADRC and Aging Unit operate as a fully integrated and regional unit, also known as the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Buffalo and Pepin Counties (ADRC). We have office locations in Alma (Buffalo County) and Durand (Pepin County) but function as one unit serving the residents of Buffalo and Pepin Counties. And because we are fully integrated, the entire ADRC team works together to carry out the goals included in the aging unit plan.

- **Statutory requirements for the structure of the aging unit**

The ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties meets the requirements in [Chapter 46.82 of the Wisconsin Statutes](#).

Organizational structure: Choose the option that represents the organizational structure of the aging unit.	Check one
(1) An agency of county/tribal government with the primary purpose of administering programs for older individuals of the county/tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) A unit, within a county/tribal department with the primary purpose of administering programs for older individuals of the county/tribe.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3) A private, nonprofit corporation, as defined in s. 181.0103 (17).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Composition of the policy-making body: Choose the option that represents the composition of the policy-making body.	Check one
For an aging unit that is described in (1) or (2) above, organized as a committee of the county board of supervisors/tribal council, composed of supervisors and, advised by an advisory committee, appointed by the county board/tribal council. Older individuals shall constitute at least 50% of the membership of the advisory committee and individuals who are elected to any office may not constitute 50% or more of the membership of the advisory committee.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For an aging unit that is described in (1) or (2) above, composed of individuals of recognized ability and demonstrated interest in services for older individuals. Older individuals shall constitute at least 50% of the membership of this commission and individuals who are elected to any office may not constitute 50% or more of the membership of this commission.	<input type="checkbox"/>
For an aging unit that is described in (3) above, the board of directors of the private, nonprofit corporation. Older individuals shall constitute at least 50% of the membership of this commission and individuals who are elected to any office may not constitute 50% or more of the membership of this commission.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time aging director: The law requires that the aging unit have a full-time aging director.	Check one
The aging unit has a full-time aging director as required by law.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The aging unit does not have a full-time aging director as required by law.	<input type="checkbox"/>

- **Policy-making body**

Official name of the policy-making body: Pepin County Human Services Board and Buffalo County Health & Human Services Board

Chairperson of the policy-making body: Andy Winkler (Pepin County) and Mary Anne McMillan Urell (Buffalo County)

- **Advisory committee**

Official name of the advisory committee: ADRC Governing Board

Chairperson of the advisory committee: Colleen Flynn

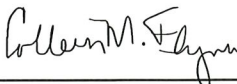
VII. Budget summary

	Federal Contract Funds	Cash Match Funds	Other Federal Funds	Other State Funds	Other local Funds	Program Income Funds	Total Cash Funds		In-Kind Match Allocations	Grand Total
Supportive Services	\$ 42,835.00					\$ 10,750.00	\$ 53,585.00		\$ 6,027.00	\$ 59,612.00
Congregate Nutrition Services	\$ 142,602.00		\$ 11,601.00			\$ 39,100.00	\$ 193,303.00		\$ 30,790.00	\$ 224,093.00
Home Delivered Nutrition Services	\$ 26,756.00	\$ 69,521.00	\$ 11,602.00	\$ 9,603.00		\$ 130,000.00	\$ 247,482.00		\$ 34,088.00	\$ 281,570.00
Health Promotion Services	\$ 4,617.00					\$ 500.00	\$ 5,117.00		\$ 393.00	\$ 5,510.00
Caregiver Services - 60+	\$ 21,257.00					\$ 1,052.00	\$ 22,309.00		\$ 7,246.00	\$ 29,555.00
Caregiver Services - Underage							\$ -			\$ -
Alzheimer's							\$ -			\$ -
Elder Abuse				\$ 20,000.00			\$ 20,000.00			\$ 20,000.00
										\$ -
Grand Total	\$ 238,067.00	\$ 69,521.00	\$ 23,203.00	\$ 29,603.00	\$ -	\$ 181,402.00	\$ 541,796.00		\$ 78,544.00	\$ 620,340.00

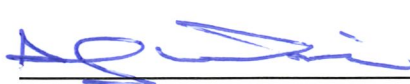
VIII. Verification of intent

Signed verification of intent

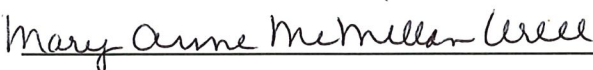
We verify that all information contained in this plan is correct.

	8/29/24
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Signature of the Chairperson of the Commission on Aging	Date
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	9/30/24
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Signature of the Authorized Pepin County Board Representative	Date
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	30 Sept 2024
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Signature of the Authorized Buffalo County Board Representative	Date
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IX. Appendices

- Community engagement reports

Community Engagement Report #1

Your County or Tribe: Buffalo and Pepin Counties	Date/s of Event or Effort: No set date or time
Target audience(s): Any community member was encouraged to participate	Number of Participants/ Respondents: 62 respondents
Describe the method used including partners and outreach done to solicit responses: A community survey was developed to provide an opportunity to share thoughts, ideas, and feedback on the issues facing older adults and how the ADRC can help to combat some of these issues. Paper copies of the surveys were available along with an online link. Marketing included the ADRC newsletter, local newspapers, ADRC Facebook page, website, word of mouth, churches, Pepin County DHS Board, Buffalo County Health & Human Services Board, ADRC Governing Board, Buffalo/Pepin Interdisciplinary Team/Caregiver Coalition, etc.	
Describe how the information collected was used to develop the plan: Individuals completed a survey, which was offered in paper form or electronically. The responses were compiled and analyzed. Common themes were noted and assessed to see if these were things that the ADRC could incorporate into the upcoming Aging Plan.	
What were the key takeaways/findings from the outreach? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People don't like to spend a lot of time on surveys so our goal was to keep it short and simple.• To keep the font at a size that most people could read, the survey was 2 pages. We found that the 2nd page was missed on several surveys despite a note at the bottom of page 1 to finish the survey on page 2.• There were common themes related to transportation, healthy aging, and access to affordable homecare in our small, rural counties. These ideas will be incorporated in some capacity into the upcoming plan.	

Community Engagement Report #2

Your County or Tribe: Buffalo and Pepin Counties	Date/s of Event or Effort: Not set date or time
Target audience(s): Any community member was encouraged to participate	Number of Participants/ Respondents: 3 respondents
Describe the method used including partners and outreach done to solicit responses: <p>Phone appointments were offered to community members to provide an opportunity to share thoughts, ideas, and feedback on the issues facing older adults and how the ADRC can help to combat some of these issues.</p> <p>Marketing included the ADRC newsletter, local newspapers, ADRC Facebook page, website, word of mouth, churches, Pepin County DHS Board, Buffalo County Health & Human Services Board, ADRC Governing Board, Buffalo/Pepin Interdisciplinary Team/Caregiver Coalition, etc.</p>	
Describe how the information collected was used to develop the plan: <p>Individuals had an opportunity to speak to the ADRC Manager. The Manager used the community survey as a template to the conversation but allowed the individual to move the conversation in whatever direction they preferred.</p>	
What were the key takeaways/findings from the outreach? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those that preferred this format to the community survey seemed to appreciate the conversation versus the paper survey, as it was easier to convey information. The ADRC Manager also found it advantageous to be able to ask clarifying questions or dig deeper into responses. There were common themes related to transportation, healthy aging, and access to affordable homecare in our small, rural counties. These ideas will be incorporated in some capacity into the upcoming plan. 	

- Public hearing reports:

Public Hearing Report #1

Date of Hearing: 9-10-24	County or Tribe: Buffalo
Location of Hearing: Central Lutheran Church	Accessibility of Hearing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Location was convenient, accessible & large enough ✓ Provisions were made for hearing/visual impairments ✓ Provisions were made for those who do not speak English ✓ Hearings were held in several locations (at least one in each county your agency serves) ✓ Hearing was not held with board/committee meetings
Address of Hearing: 221 W Main St. Mondovi, WI	
Number of Attendees: 3	

Public Notice:

- ✓ Official public notification began at least 2 weeks prior? Date: 8/29/24 & 9/5/24
- ✓ **Notice must be posted** in a local/online newspaper, nutrition sites and senior centers plus at least one more avenue
 - ✓ *Print/online newspaper: Courier Wedge & Buffalo County News
 - ✓ *Nutrition sites
 - ✓ *Senior centers
 - ✓ Newsletter, social media
 - ✓ Other: included on ADRC website and Facebook page
- ✓ Notifications include
 - ✓ Date
 - ✓ Time
 - ✓ Location
 - ✓ Subject of hearing
 - ✓ Location and hours that the plan is available for examination
- ✓ A copy of the notice is included with this report

Summary of Comments & Changes Made to Plan:

- No individuals attended the public hearing however there were some ladies from the church working in the kitchen so I took the opportunity to speak with them about ADRC services and programs.
- I received a phone call from a lady living in the community. Her feedback was to offer a ride-share program for individuals that need assistance getting to and from medical appointments. She explained that she has an upcoming appointment and has no way to get home. This was a perfect opportunity to connect her with the Buffalo and Pepin Counties Transportation Program.
- No changes made to the plan.

Public Hearing Report #2

Date of Hearing: 9-12-24	County or Tribe: Pepin
Location of Hearing: Durand Library	Accessibility of Hearing: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location was convenient, accessible & large enough <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provisions were made for hearing/visual impairments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provisions were made for those who do not speak English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hearings were held in several locations (at least one in each county your agency serves) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hearing was not held with board/committee meetings
Address of Hearing: 604 7th Ave E. Durand, WI	
Number of Attendees:	
Public Notice: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Official public notification began at least 2 weeks prior? Date: <u>8/29/24 & 9/5/24</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice must be posted in a local/online newspaper, nutrition sites and senior centers plus at least one more avenue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Print/online newspaper: <u>Courier Wedge & Buffalo County News</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Nutrition sites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Senior centers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newsletter, social media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>included on ADRC website and Facebook page</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notifications include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subject of hearing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location and hours that the plan is available for examination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the notice is included with this report	
Summary of Comments & Changes Made to Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments received • No changes made to the plan 	

County Board

make an appointment by go- see you on Sept 5th.

Your Input is Needed!

THE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER OF BUFFALO AND PEPIN COUNTIES (ADRC) NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We have developed a 2025-2027 Buffalo & Pepin Counties Aging Plan, which is our opportunity to set local goals based on the current and future needs of our older adults.

We invite you to look at the plan and give us your feedback. The Aging Plan can be viewed on our website <https://www.adrc-bcp.com/aging-plan> or you may contact us to request a copy of the plan by calling toll free 866-578-2372. Please consider attending one of the public hearing sessions to learn more and provide feedback.

FEEDBACK WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Tuesday September 10th 12:00 - 12:30pm
Central Lutheran Church
221 West Main Street
Mondovi, WI

Thursday September 12th 9:00 - 9:30am
Durand Library
604 7th Avenue E
Durand, WI

Any person wishing to attend the public hearing who requires special accommodation because of a disability should contact the Pepin County Clerk's Office at 715-672-8857 at least 48 hours before the public hearing begins so that appropriate accommodations can be made. Hearing impaired may call Wisconsin Relay at 7-1-1.

Sex Crime Charges

HELP US KEEP OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES THRIVING!



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER PATH OR TO FILL SOME SPARE TIME AND MAKE EXTRA CASH?

We're Hiring!

SALES PEOPLE WANTED

FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Please see below for our coverage areas and contact us if some of these areas interest you!

Coverage areas include (but are not limited to) the following:
MINNESOTA: St. Charles ~ Lewiston ~ Wabasha ~ Plainview
WISCONSIN: Osseo ~ Augusta ~ Mondovi ~ Alma ~ Cochrane
Durand and surrounding area

Willing to discuss compensation with qualified candidates.

PLEASE SEND RESUME OR LETTER OF INTEREST WITH QUALIFICATIONS TO:

Valley Publications
Media One Inc.

Durand Office
103 W. Main St.
Durand, WI 54736
(715) 672-4252

or Wabasha Office
200 Industrial Ct. Ste. 100
Wabasha, MN 55981
(651) 565-3368

Email: durandpublishing@nelson-tel.net

Thursday, September 5, 2024

Buffalo County News

7

Your Input is Needed!

THE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER OF BUFFALO AND PEPIN COUNTIES (ADRC) NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We have developed a 2025-2027 Buffalo & Pepin Counties Aging Plan, which is our opportunity to set local goals based on the current and future needs of our older adults.

We invite you to look at the plan and give us your feedback. The Aging Plan can be viewed on our website <https://www.adrc-bcp.com/aging-plan> or you may contact us to request a copy of the plan by calling toll free 866-578-2372. Please consider attending one of the public hearing sessions to learn more and provide feedback.

FEEDBACK WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Tuesday September 10th 12:00 - 12:30pm
Central Lutheran Church
221 West Main Street
Mondovi, WI

Thursday September 12th 9:00 - 9:30am
Durand Library
604 7th Avenue E
Durand, WI

Any person wishing to attend the public hearing who requires special accommodation because of a disability should contact the Pepin County Clerk's Office at 715-672-8857 at least 48 hours before the public hearing begins so that appropriate accommodations can be made. Hearing impaired may call Wisconsin Relay at 7-1-1.

and Kathy Sandberg, Mondovi, sent Saturday with Rose Bucher. The Raymond Beck family, Coon Valley, helped Joe Beck celebrate his birthday. The James Hartman family, Roseville, was weekend guests at the A. L. Baugh home and attended

Schlesser spent in New Mexico and California. Mrs. Alice Waters was a dinner guest at the Ira Haskins home in Osseo. The Elden Schmidt knecht family and the Allie Matcheys were dinner guests at the Ramie Matchey home, Arcadia, in honor of the bap-

SCHAFFNERS
PLUMBING & HEATING

Fountain City and Arcadia, WI

— OPEN POSITION —

Schaffner's Plumbing and Heating LLC in Fountain City, WI is looking to fill a vacant HVAC clean and check, maintenance position. This position involves routine maintenance and repairs on residential and some light commercial heating cooling systems. EPA refrigerant handling and additional training provided. Schaffner's offers Health and Dental insurance, Vacation and Holiday paid days off. Company paid SEP plan after three years employment. Company provided tools and vehicle. No heavy lifting required. Compensation based on abilities. Veterans and minorities encouraged to apply. Please call 608-687-3321 or email schaffnerplumb@centurytel.net for an application.

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- Assurance of compliance with federal and state laws and regulations

The assurances below often refer to requirements of area agencies on aging (AAAs) and is absent of references to aging units. Wisconsin's structure of AAAs and local county and tribal aging units differs from other states but is recognized in state statute 46.82 and by the federal Administration for Community Living. Therefore, AAAs and county and tribal aging units are required to provide assurances of compliance with federal and state laws in the delivery of Older Americans Act programs and supports.

The structure of AAAs in Wisconsin are as follows:

1. An agency designated as the AAA must subcontract with counties, tribal nations, or providers to carry out Older Americans Act programs. The AAA, in a binding contract with the state, and counties and tribal nations, in a binding contract with the AAA, must support and comply with requirements under the Older Americans Act (Public Law 89-73) [As Amended Through P.L. 116-131, Enacted March 25, 2020] Reference: 45 CFR Part 1321 – Grants to State and Community Programs on Aging as updated in March 2024.
2. A county designated as the AAA must designate a department of local government as the aging unit. The AAA and the county aging unit are bound by a binding contract with the state and must support and comply with requirements under the Older Americans Act (Public Law 89-73) [As Amended Through P.L. 116-131, Enacted March 25, 2020] Reference: 45 CFR Part 1321 – Grants to State and Community Programs on Aging as updated in March 2024.

AAAs and aging units are subject to the requirements in the Wisconsin Elders Act 235, often referenced in Chapter 46.82 of Wisconsin Statutes. Please note: Chapter 46.82 has been updated to reflect changes in programs originally referenced in the Act when passed in 1991.

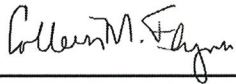
A signed copy of this statement must accompany the plan. The plan must be signed by the person with the designated authority to enter into a legally binding contract. Most often this is the county board chairperson or tribal governing board chairperson. The assurances agreed to by this signature page must accompany the plan when submitted to the AAA or Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources.

The assurances need not be included with copies of the plan distributed to the public.

Use the template provided below and include as an appendix to the aging plan.

Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations for 2025–2027

On behalf of the county or tribal nation, we certify ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties has reviewed the appendix to the county or tribal aging plan entitled Assurances of Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations for 2025–2027. We assure that the activities identified in this plan will be carried out to the best of the ability of the county or tribal nation in compliance with the federal and state laws and regulations listed in the Assurances of Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations for 2025–2027.



8/29/24

Signature of the Chairperson of the Commission on Aging


Date



9/30/24

Signature of Authorized Pepin County Board Representative

Date



30 Sept 2024

Signature of Authorized Pepin County Board Representative

Date

The applicant certifies compliance with the following regulations:

1. Legal Authority of the Applicant

- The applicant must possess legal authority to apply for Older Americans Act grant funds.
- A resolution, motion or similar action must be duly adopted or passed as an official act of the applicant's governing body, authorizing the filing of the application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein.
- This resolution, motion or similar action must direct and authorize the person identified as the official representative of the applicant to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required.

2. Outreach, Training, Coordination & Public Information

As required by the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, designated AAAs and aging units must assure:

- Outreach activities are conducted to ensure the participation of eligible older persons in all funded services.
- Each service provider trains and uses older persons and other volunteers and paid personnel.
- Each service provider coordinates with other service providers, including senior centers and the nutrition program, in the planning and service area.
- Public information activities are conducted to ensure the participation of eligible older persons in all funded services.

3. Preference for Older People with Greatest Social and Economic Need

All service providers follow priorities set by the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources for serving older people with greatest social and economic need.

4. Advisory Role to Service Providers of Older Persons

Each service provider utilizes procedures for obtaining the views of participants about the services they receive.

5. Contributions for Services

- Agencies providing services supported with Older Americans Act and state aging funds shall give older adults the opportunity to voluntarily contribute to the costs of services consistent with the Older Americans Act regulations.
- Each older recipient shall determine what he/she is able to contribute toward the cost of the service. No older adult shall be denied a service because he/she will not or cannot contribute to the cost of such service.

- The methods of receiving contributions from individuals by the agencies providing services under the county or tribal plan shall be handled in a manner that assures the confidentiality of the individual's contributions.
- Each service provider establishes appropriate procedures to safeguard and account for all contributions.
- Each service provider considers and reports the contributions made by older people as program income. All program income must be used to expand the size or scope of the funded program that generated the income. Nutrition service providers must use all contributions to expand the nutrition services. Program income must be spent within the contract period that it is generated.

6. Confidentiality

- No information about or obtained from an individual and in possession of an agency providing services to such individual under the county, tribal or area plan, shall be disclosed in a form identifiable with the individual, unless the individual provides his/her written informed consent to such disclosure.
- Lists of older adults compiled in establishing and maintaining information and referral sources shall be used solely for the purpose of providing social services and only with the informed consent of each person on the list.
- In order that the privacy of each participant in aging programs is in no way abridged, the confidentiality of all participant data gathered and maintained by the state agency, the AAA, the county or tribal aging unit, and any other agency, organization, or individual providing services under the state, area, county, or tribal plan, shall be safeguarded by specific policies.
- Each participant from whom personal information is obtained shall be made aware of his or her rights to:
 - (a) Have full access to any information about one's self which is being kept on file;
 - (b) Be informed about the uses made of the information about him or her, including the identity of all persons and agencies involved and any known consequences for providing such data; and,
 - (c) Be able to contest the accuracy, completeness, pertinence, and necessity of information being retained about one's self and be assured that such information, when incorrect, will be corrected or amended on request.
- All information gathered and maintained on participants under the area, county or tribal plan shall be accurate, complete, and timely and shall be legitimately necessary for determining an individual's need and/or eligibility for services and other benefits.
- No information about, or obtained from, an individual participant shall be disclosed in any form identifiable with the individual to any person outside the agency or program involved without the informed consent of the participant or his/her legal representative, except:

- (a) By court order; or,
- (b) When securing client-requested services, benefits, or rights.
- The lists of older persons receiving services under any programs funded through the state agency shall be used solely for the purpose of providing said services and can only be released with the informed consent of each individual on the list.
- All paid and volunteer staff members providing services or conducting other activities under the area plan and aging unit shall be informed of and agree to:
 - (a) Their responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of any client-related information learned through the execution of their duties. Such information shall not be discussed except in a professional setting as required for the delivery of service or the conduct of other essential activities under the area plan; and,
 - (b) All policies and procedures adopted by the state and AAA to safeguard confidentiality of participant information, including those delineated in these rules.
- Appropriate precautions shall be taken to protect the safety of all files and records in any format or location which contain sensitive information on individuals receiving services under the state, area plan, and aging unit. This includes but is not limited to assuring registration forms containing personal information are stored in a secure, locked drawer when not in use.

7. Records and Reports

- The applicant shall keep records and make reports in such form and requiring such information as may be required by the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources and in accordance with guidelines issued solely by the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources and the Administration on Aging.
- The applicant shall maintain accounts and documents which will enable an accurate review to be made at any time of the status of all funds which it has been granted by the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources through its designated AAA. This includes both the disposition of all monies received and the nature of all charges claimed against such funds.

8. Licensure and Standards Requirements

- The applicant shall assure that where state or local public jurisdiction requires licensure for the provision of services, agencies providing services under the county, tribal, or area plan shall be licensed or shall meet the requirements for licensure.
- The applicant is cognizant of and must agree to operate the program fully in conformance with all applicable state and local standards, including the fire, health, safety and sanitation standards, prescribed in law or regulation.

9. Civil Rights

- The applicant shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and in accordance with that act, no person shall on the basis of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity under this plan.
- All grants, sub-grants, contracts or other agents receiving funds under this plan are subject to compliance with the regulation stated in 9 above.
- The applicant shall develop and continue to maintain written procedures which specify how the agency will conduct the activities under its plan to assure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.
- The applicant shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act (42 USC 2000d) prohibiting employment discrimination where (1) the primary purpose of a grant is to provide employment or (2) discriminatory employment practices will result in unequal treatment of persons who are or should be benefiting from the service funded by the grant.
- All recipients of funds through the county, tribal, or area plan shall operate each program or activity so that, when viewed in its entirety, the program or activity is accessible to and usable by handicapped adults as required in the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968.

10. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970

The applicant shall comply with requirements of the provisions of the Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisitions Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provides for fair and equitable treatment of federal and federally assisted programs.

11. Political Activity of Employees

The applicant shall comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. Sections 7321-7326), which limit the political activity of employees who work in federally funded programs. [Information about the Hatch Act is available from the U.S. Office of Special Counsel at <http://www.osc.gov/>]

12. Fair Labor Standards Act

The applicant shall comply with the minimum wage and maximum hours provisions of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (Title 29, United States Code, Section 201-219), as they apply to hospital and educational institution employees of state and local governments.

13. Private Gain

The applicant shall establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that is or appears to be motivated by a desire for private gain

for themselves or others (particularly those with whom they have family, business or other ties).

14. Assessment and Examination of Records

- The applicant shall give the federal agencies, state agencies, and the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources' authorized AAAs access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers or documents related to the grant.
- The applicant must agree to cooperate and assist in any efforts undertaken by the grantor agency, or the Administration on Aging, to evaluate the effectiveness, feasibility, and costs of the project.
- The applicant must agree to conduct regular on-site assessments of each service provider receiving funds through a contract with the applicant under the county or tribal plan.

15. Maintenance of Non-Federal Funding

- The applicant assures that the aging unit, and each service provider, shall not use Older Americans Act or state aging funds to supplant other federal, state or local funds.
- The applicant must assure that each service provider must continue or initiate efforts to obtain funds from private sources and other public organizations for each service funded under the county or tribal plan.

16. Regulations of Grantor Agency

The applicant shall comply with all requirements imposed by the Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources concerning special requirements of federal and state law, program and fiscal requirements, and other administrative requirements.

17. Older Americans Act

Aging units, through binding agreement/contract with an AAA must support and comply with following requirements under the Older Americans Act (Public Law 89-73) [As Amended Through P.L. 116-131, Enacted March 25, 2020]

Reference: 45 CFR Part 1321 – Grants to State and Community Programs on Aging as updated in March 2024.

Sec. 306. (a)

(1) provide, through a comprehensive and coordinated system, for supportive services, nutrition services, and, where appropriate, for the establishment, maintenance, modernization, or construction of multipurpose senior centers (including a plan to use the skills and services of older individuals in paid and unpaid work, including multigenerational and older individual to older individual work), within the planning and service area covered by the plan, including determining the extent of need for supportive services, nutrition services, and multipurpose senior centers in such area (taking into consideration, among other things, the number of older individuals with low incomes residing in such area, the number of older individuals who have greatest economic need (with particular attention to low income older individuals, including low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas) residing in such area, the number of older individuals who have greatest social need (with particular attention to low-income older individuals, including low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas) residing in such area, the number of older individuals at risk for institutional placement residing in such area, and the number of older individuals who are Indians residing in such area, and the efforts of voluntary organizations in the community), evaluating the effectiveness of the use of resources in meeting such need, and entering into agreements with providers of supportive services, nutrition services, or multipurpose senior centers in such area, for the provision of such services or centers to meet such need;

(2) provide assurances that an adequate proportion, as required under section 307(a)(2), of the amount allotted for part B to the planning and service area will be expended for the delivery of each of the following categories of services-

(A) services associated with access to services (transportation, health services (including mental health services), outreach, information and assistance (which may include information and assistance to consumers on availability of services under part B and how to receive benefits under and participate in publicly supported programs for which the consumer may be eligible), and case management services);

(B) in-home services, including supportive services for families of older individuals who are victims of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction; and

(C) legal assistance;

and assurances that the Area Agency on Aging will report annually to the State agency in detail the amount of funds expended for each such category during the fiscal year most recently concluded.

(3)(A) designate, where feasible, a focal point for comprehensive service delivery in each community, giving special consideration to designating multipurpose senior centers (including multipurpose senior centers operated by organizations referred to in paragraph (6)(C)) as such focal point; and (B)

specify, in grants, contracts, and agreements implementing the plan, the identity of each focal point so designated;

(4)(A)(i)(I) provide assurances that the Area Agency on Aging will—

(aa) set specific objectives, consistent with State policy, for providing services to older individuals with greatest economic need, older individuals with greatest social need, and older individuals at risk for institutional placement;

(bb) include specific objectives for providing services to low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas; and

(II) include proposed methods to achieve the objectives described in items (aa) and (bb) of subclause (I);

(ii) provide assurances that the Area Agency on Aging will include in each agreement made with a provider of any service under this title, a requirement that such provider will—

(I) specify how the provider intends to satisfy the service needs of low-income minority individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas in the area served by the provider;

(II) to the maximum extent feasible, provide services to low-income minority individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas in accordance with their need for such services; and

(III) meet specific objectives established by the Area Agency on Aging, for providing services to low-income minority individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas within the planning and service area; and

(4)(A)(iii) With respect to the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which such plan is prepared, each Area Agency on Aging shall--

(I) identify the number of low-income minority older individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas in the planning and service area;

(II) describe the methods used to satisfy the service needs of such minority older individuals; and

(III) provide information on the extent to which the Area Agency on Aging met the objectives described in clause (a)(4)(A)(i).

(4)(B)(i) Each Area Agency on Aging shall provide assurances that the Area Agency on Aging will use outreach efforts that will identify individuals eligible for assistance under this Act, with special emphasis on--

(I) older individuals residing in rural areas;

(II) older individuals with greatest economic need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas);

(III) older individuals with greatest social need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas);

(IV) older individuals with severe disabilities;

(V) older individuals with limited English proficiency;

(VI) older individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction (and the caretakers of such individuals); and

(VII) older individuals at risk for institutional placement, specifically including survivors of the Holocaust; and

(4)(C) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurance that the Area Agency on Aging will ensure that each activity undertaken by the agency, including planning, advocacy, and systems development, will include a focus on the needs of low-income minority older individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas.

(5) Each Area Agency on Aging shall provide assurances that the Area Agency on Aging will coordinate planning, identification, assessment of needs, and provision of services for older individuals with disabilities, with particular attention to individuals with severe disabilities, and individuals at risk for institutional placement, with agencies that develop or provide services for individuals with disabilities.

(6)(F) Each area agency will:

in coordination with the State agency and with the State agency responsible for mental health services, increase public awareness of mental health disorders, remove barriers to diagnosis and treatment, and coordinate mental health services (including mental health screenings) provided with funds expended by the Area Agency on Aging with mental health services provided by community health centers and by other public agencies and nonprofit private organizations;

(6)(G) if there is a significant population of older individuals who are Indians in the planning and service area of the area agency on aging, the area agency on aging shall conduct outreach activities to identify such individuals in such area and shall inform such individuals of the availability of assistance under this Act;

(6)(H) in coordination with the State agency and with the State agency responsible for elder abuse prevention services, increase public awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and remove barriers to education, prevention, investigation, and treatment of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as appropriate; and

(9)(A) the area agency on aging, in carrying out the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program under section 307(a)(9), will expend not less than the total amount of funds appropriated under this Act and expended by the agency in fiscal year 2019 in carrying out such a program under this title; and (Ombudsman programs and services are provided by the Board on Aging and Long Term Care)

(10) provide a grievance procedure for older individuals who are dissatisfied with or denied services under this title;

(11) provide information and assurances concerning services to older individuals who are Native Americans (referred to in this paragraph as "older Native Americans"), including-

(A) information concerning whether there is a significant population of older Native Americans in the planning and service area and if so, an assurance that the Area Agency on Aging will pursue activities, including outreach, to increase access of those older Native Americans to programs and benefits provided under this title;

(B) an assurance that the Area Agency on Aging will, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate the services the agency provides under this title with services provided under title VI; and

(C) an assurance that the Area Agency on Aging will make services under the area plan available, to the same extent as such services are available to older individuals within the planning and service area, to older Native Americans.

(13) provide assurances that the Area Agency on Aging will

(A) maintain the integrity and public purpose of services provided, and service providers, under this title in all contractual and commercial relationships.

(B) disclose to the Assistant Secretary and the State agency-

(i) the identity of each nongovernmental entity with which such agency has a contract or commercial relationship relating to providing any service to older individuals; and

(ii) the nature of such contract or such relationship.

(C) demonstrate that a loss or diminution in the quantity or quality of the services provided, or to be provided, under this title by such agency has not resulted and will not result from such non-governmental contracts or such commercial relationships.

(D) demonstrate that the quantity or quality of the services to be provided under this title by such agency will be enhanced as a result of such non-governmental contracts or commercial relationships.

(E) on the request of the Assistant Secretary or the State, for the purpose of monitoring compliance with this Act (including conducting an audit), disclose all sources and expenditures of funds such agency receives or expends to provide services to older individuals.

(14) provide assurances that funds received under this title will not be used to pay any part of a cost (including an administrative cost) incurred by the Area Agency on Aging to carry out a contract or commercial relationship that is not carried out to implement this title.

(15) provide assurances that funds received under this title will be used-

(A) to provide benefits and services to older individuals, giving priority to older individuals identified in paragraph (4)(A)(i); and

(B) in compliance with the assurances specified in paragraph (13) and the limitations specified in section 212;

(16) provide, to the extent feasible, for the furnishing of services under this Act, consistent with self-directed care;

(17) include information detailing how the area agency on aging will coordinate activities, and develop long-range emergency preparedness plans, with local and State emergency response agencies, relief organizations, local and State governments, and any other institutions that have responsibility for disaster relief service delivery.

Wisconsin Elders Act

If the applicant is an aging unit, the aging unit must comply with the provisions of the Wisconsin Elders Act, the title given to [Chapter 46.82](#) of the Wisconsin Statutes.