



MINNESOTA, NEW YORK, VERMONT, AND WISCONSIN AWARDED PACESETTER PRIZE FOR IMPROVING LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

The [SCAN Foundation](#) created the **Pacesetter Prize** to recognize state efforts to improve long-term services and supports (LTSS) for older adults, people with disabilities, and their family caregivers. LTSS are a broad range of day-to-day supports needed by people with chronic health conditions and challenges with daily living activities. Using data from the AARP [LTSS State Scorecard](#), the Pacesetter Prize is awarded across four of the Scorecard dimensions:

- **Affordability and Access (Vermont)**
- **Choice of Setting and Provider (Wisconsin)**
- **Support for Family Caregivers (Minnesota)**
- **Effective Transitions (New York)**

Why These States?

Vermont – Affordability and Access

Vermont is a proven national leader in providing accessible, affordable, quality health, and LTSS coverage for its residents. Vermont moved up from No. 19 in the 2011 Scorecard to No. 3 in 2017, exhibiting more improvement in Affordability and Access than any other state. It has also risen through the ranks in overall LTSS performance, moving from No. 20 in 2011 to No. 3 in 2017.

Wisconsin – Choice of Setting and Provider

As a national leader in providing LTSS, Wisconsin exhibited more progress in Choice of Setting and Provider than any other state. It moved up from No. 8 to No. 6 in overall performance in the LTSS Scorecard. Wisconsin supports consumer choice through several innovative programs, including Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) that connect people to community services and help ensure the wise use of personal resources. Wisconsin rebalanced its Medicaid LTSS spending, expanded the Family Care and Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) programs, and used managed care principles to serve residents in the right place, at the right time, and at the right cost.

Minnesota – Support for Family Caregivers

Minnesota has an exemplary history of providing services and supports for people who are caregiving, including personalized assessments, dementia-capable coaching, respite care support, and consultations through the state's Senior LinkAge Line. Building on these initiatives, Minnesota continues to innovate and create a more robust LTSS system, improving in three of four measures and ranking No. 6 in the country in the caregiving dimension.

New York – Effective Transitions

Across all states, New York was the most improved in the dimension of Effective Transitions, rising in rank from No. 45 in 2014 to No. 32 in 2017. New York's overall rank in the Scorecard also rose from No. 41 in 2011 to No. 20 in 2017. New York has undertaken significant reforms to create a high-performing LTSS system, implementing strategies to improve care transitions, support community living, and reduce long nursing home stays and avoidable hospitalizations.

Success Highlights

<p>Vermont...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to Medicaid and increased the percentage of low-income adults with disabilities that are covered by the program. • Has no waiting list for home- and community-based services for people needing high levels of care. • Reinvested savings to expand access to homemaker and adult day services for the moderate-need population not eligible for nursing home care. • Adjusted provider rates to help attract a high-quality, LTSS workforce to provide home care. • Expanded flexible LTSS funding options, including Adult Family Care. 	<p>Wisconsin...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is in the final stages of expanding the Family Care and IRIS programs statewide, which will eliminate all remaining waiting lists for home- and community-based services. • Steadily increased the percentage of older adults and people with disabilities first receiving LTSS in home- and community-based settings. • Strengthened its efforts to provide nursing home residents opportunities to move back to community settings. Two key efforts included leveraging federal Medicaid funds to hire community living specialists and creating an automated referral system.
<p>Minnesota...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the <i>Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act</i>, requiring health care facilities to notify caregivers when an older adult is being discharged and instruct them on how to provide the best care. • Expanded sick leave benefits for absences associated with caring for a relative. • Implemented the Working Caregiver Initiative to educate employers, promote flexibility, and provide information to employees. • Now allows Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to work at the top of their education and training, increasing access to affordable care. 	<p>New York...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded initiatives to help people living in institutional settings transition to community-based supportive housing. • Created new supportive housing units and subsidies for use in existing units. • Created the New York Connects program to inform older adults about available private and public community-based services to meet their needs. • Established Advanced Home Health Aides, to provide additional training for aides to carry out more nursing tasks, such as administering routine medications in home settings.

What's Next?

Each of the four Pacesetter Prize states is continuing to take the steps needed to improve LTSS systems for the future. All of these states have developed a strategic plan that identifies current gaps and opportunities for improvement. A number of common themes emerge. All four states are taking steps to build a high-quality LTSS workforce. All are prioritizing community living, consumer choice and control, and caregiver supports. These states lead the way with a strategic vision and long-term plan that others can adapt to fit their own circumstances, picking up the pace of change that is so urgently needed to create and sustain a high-performing system of care for older people and adults with disabilities, and their family caregivers who assist them.

Visit each state's LTSS Scorecard webpage to learn about their progress to date.

[Vermont](#) • [Wisconsin](#) • [Minnesota](#) • [New York](#)