

## FOUR STATES AWARDED FIRST-EVER PACESETTER PRIZE FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

*Leaders in the field of aging and disability recognized by The SCAN Foundation*

Long Beach, Calif (November 15, 2017)—The SCAN Foundation, a nationally respected independent charity devoted to transforming care for older adults, has awarded its first-ever [Pacesetter Prize](#) to state government leaders in Minnesota, New York, Vermont, and Wisconsin for progress made in improving the lives of older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers.

As national pacesetters in developing innovative systems of care, the four winning states are recognized as places where older adults and caregivers can thrive. The Pacesetter Prize is awarded based on performance on AARP's [2017 Long-Term Services and Supports State Scorecard](#). Awards are bestowed for demonstrating progress in the following dimensions:

- **Affordability and Access.** Vermont has improved access to affordable long-term services and supports through investments in information technology, a high-quality workforce, and partnerships to develop affordable housing options for people with complex health and social needs.
- **Choice of Setting and Provider.** Wisconsin supports consumer choice so that individuals have options and control over where they receive services and who provides them through programs that connect people to community services—helping to ensure optimal use of personal and public resources.
- **Support for Family Caregivers.** Minnesota has a long history of providing excellent services and support for caregivers, including personalized assessments, dementia services, respite care, and expert consultations.
- **Effective Transitions.** New York has undertaken significant reforms to improve care transitions, support community living, and reduce avoidable hospitalization and nursing home stays.

Support for older adults and caregivers nationwide is improving, but The SCAN Foundation says faster progress is needed to keep pace with the aging population. The 65-and-older population is projected to almost double within the next 25 years, and 70 percent will eventually need help with basic daily tasks. By highlighting improvement in states, the Pacesetter Prize sheds light on how all states can do better.

“Pacesetter Prize states are standard bearers for progress because they demonstrate significant movement toward high-quality, accessible systems of care,” said Bruce Chernof, MD, president and CEO of The SCAN Foundation. “We want older adults to live with dignity, choice, and independence no matter where they live, and actions in the award-winning states raise the bar for all.”

“Policymakers across the country can use the Long-Term Services and Supports State Scorecard to improve the delivery of long-term care in their states,” said Susan Reinhard, RN, PhD, senior vice president and director, AARP Public Policy Institute. “The Pacesetter Prize highlights how

state policies make a real difference in the lives of older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers.”

Winning states will come together to discuss their best practices and reflect on the strides made during a [webinar](#) on December 14 at 12 PM ET.

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To learn more about The SCAN Foundation and the Pacesetter Prize, visit <http://www.thescanfoundation.org/pacesetter-prize>.

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**About The SCAN Foundation**

*The SCAN Foundation is an independent public charity dedicated to creating a society where older adults can access health and supportive services of their choosing to meet their needs. Our mission is to advance a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence. For more information, visit [www.TheSCANFoundation.org](http://www.TheSCANFoundation.org).*