

**ELDER BENEFIT SPECIALIST (EBS) PROGRAM SERVICES  
CY 2012 SUMMARY REPORT**

Elder Benefit Specialists serve individuals 60 or older in obtaining or preserving public or private benefits. There is at least one EBS serving each of Wisconsin's 72 counties and 11 Native American Tribes. In total, there are currently 101 Elder Benefit Specialist positions, including 5 advocates in Milwaukee County.

This yearly report provides a synopsis of statewide statistical information for the EBS Program, such as number of client cases, monetary impact of services, type of services, clients' demographics, and outcome of closed cases.

**NUMBERS SERVED IN 2012**

Number of Cases (Each client may have more than one case)	Number of Information-Only Contacts (No case opened. Brief Contact)
56,884 new cases were opened	121,720
56,557 cases were closed	
9,703 cases remain open as of 12/31/2012	

**MONETARY IMPACT OF EBS SERVICES IN 2012**

Monetary Impact is an estimate of the value of benefits obtained or retained with help from a benefit specialist.

- Estimated statewide impact of EBS service \$101,212,463.00
- Federal funds accounted for 77.3% of benefits gained with help from an EBS
- State funds and other funding sources accounted for 13.6% and 9.1% respectively
- Average monetary impact of each EBS was \$ 1,002,103.59

**CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS - Includes all clients with new cases opened in 2012**

Client Age Range		Client Gender		Client Race	
60-69	40.9%	Female	63.9%	American Indian	1.1%
70-79	29.9%	Male	36.0%	Asian	.2%
80-89	22.7%			African American/Black	2.3%
90-99	5.8%			Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	.3%
100+	.2%			Hispanic	1.3%
				Other	.4%
				Missing / Unknown	1.5%

**PERCENTAGE OF CLIENTS WITH INCOME AT or UNDER THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FPL)**

100% of FPL for a family of 1 = \$10,890; family of 2 = \$ 14,710; family of 3 = 18,530)

27.9% of clients served were at or below 100% of the FPL, and 69.8% were above this threshold.

**ISSUES ADDRESSED IN EBS CASES (A single case may involve multiple issues)**

ISSUE	% of Cases
Health Insurance Benefits	74.26%
Income Benefits	8.72%
Long Term Care Programs	2.48%
Housing	8.44%
Consumer Issues	1.07%
Surrogate Decision Making	.65%
Elder Rights	.18%

**OUTCOMES OF CASES\***

Level	Total Number of Cases
Medical Paperwork/Claims Assistance Provided	238
Forms/Documents Completed - Successful Outcome	13,406
Forms/Documents Completed - unsuccessful outcome	490
Investigated, Action Taken - Successful Outcome	3,730
Investigated, Action Taken - Unsuccessful Outcome	566
Approved at Application	5,438
Denied at Application - Not Appealed	91
Approved at Reconsideration	69
Denied at Reconsideration - Not Appealed	15
Approved at ALJ / Fair Hearing Stage	20
Denied at ALJ / Fair Hearing Stage	2
Settlement at Negotiation without Litigation	37
Referred to Legal Services Corporation	27
Referred to Private Pro-Bono Attorney	39
Referred to Private Not Pro-Bone Attorney	57
Other Referral	879
Client Withdrew - Lack of Contact	615

\*An additional 1,481 cases were closed in Milwaukee County - but could not be assigned to a corresponding outcome category because Milwaukee uses a different outcome system.

**TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR EBS**

Initial and ongoing training is provided by Attorneys from the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), SeniorLaw and Wisconsin Judicare. Attorneys also provide substantive case supervision.

In addition, as State Health Insurance Assistance Counselors, EBS avail themselves of training opportunities that are offered throughout the year through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

