



GWAAR Updates

[Calendar of Events](#)

Links to files may download or open, depending on your settings.

Advocacy

[Janet Zander](#), *Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator*

Nice to Know

Federal COVID-19 Response Legislation

On 5/15/20, the U.S House of Representatives passed the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act (H.R. 6800). The HEROES Act is a \$3 trillion coronavirus relief package (over 10 years) that, among other things, contains funding for programs supporting older adults. The HEROES Act:

provides:

- \$20 million for the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-C Nutrition Services and Native American Nutrition Services;
- \$20 million for the OAA Title III-B Supportive Services;
- \$20 million for the OAA Title III-E Family Caregiver Support;
- \$10 million for the OAA Title III-D Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Programs;

increases:

- The federal Medicaid matching rate for every state by an additional 7.8% (which when added to the 6.2% increase provided under the Families First legislation would increase the match rate by 14%);
- The federal share of Medicaid home- and community-based services (HCBS) by 10%;
- SNAP (Wisconsin FoodShare) benefits by 15% and raises the minimum benefit for seniors from \$16 to \$30 through Sept. 2021 (and blocks the implementation of regulatory changes that would limit access to benefits);

provides:

- \$1.5 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);
- \$1.2 billion for Section 202 Housing for the Elderly; and
- \$9.6 billion for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).

The HEROES Act also includes expanded unemployment assistance, assistance for state and local governments, an additional \$1,200 economic relief payment to individuals, hazard pay for front-line workers, housing assistance to help pay rent/mortgages, and health insurance premium payments for workers who are laid off.

The Senate is not expected to take up the House bill (which passed mostly along party lines) until into June and changes to the bill are anticipated. Stay tuned for upcoming alerts to contact U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and share with them why these programs and services are critical to the health and well-being of older adults in your community.

Family Caregiver Support

Jane Mahoney, Older Americans Act Consultant

Nice to Know

New! Virtual Event Listing for Caregivers

The wisconsincaregiver.org website has a new page for posting caregiver-related virtual events at: <http://wisconsincaregiver.org/virtual-events-for-caregivers>. You can direct caregivers to this one place to find support groups, memory cafes and other virtual presentations and events.

If you have virtual events to add, please submit them via this online form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ZHYIjp1ATEymtHqgECDW6j5D4Zt-k39MuZHRh4KS7CZUMkFES0o3UktIWEpFVjMwQUpmREI1UVY1Vy4u>

Events should be:

- Wisconsin-based
- Focused on caregiver support

Ongoing support groups/events: provide a link to the website where for find the information (keeping that information current on this site would be difficult.)

Fliers can't be uploaded to this website.

- If you have event-related fliers, share them via the WI Caregiver Support listserv (wi-caregiver-support@googlegroups.com)

Please get the word out about this new webpage! Thanks!



Caregiver Support Community Statewide Call

Notes from last Tuesday's call can be found on the GWAAR website at: <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>

In case you missed the call, there were a lot of good ideas for programming you might want to check out. Get the handouts from the call in the Adobe Connect "room:" https://gwaar.adobeconnect.com/cg_coord_call

Health Promotion

Angie Sullivan, OAA Consultant - Health Promotions Specialist

Need to Know

OAA Title III-D Technical Assistance Q & A

Question: Can Aging Units use Title III-D dollars to purchase technology needed to implement high-level evidence-based health promotion programming?

Answer: Yes, under the authority of the Major Disaster Declaration, the State Unit on Aging will allow the use of Title III-D dollars to purchase technology if it is a cost to implement high-level evidence-based health promotion programming. However, there is a line item for assistive technology under Title III-B. Agencies are allowed to move Title III-B funds to Title III-D as well.

We urge counties to develop policies and procedures governing the provision and usage of devices and to consider issues such as:

1. Will the devices be provided on loan or permanently?
2. What are the criteria for distribution?

(continued next page)

3. What type of assessment will be made to determine the conditions for provision and the frequency of reassessment?
4. Can individuals in the home younger than age 60 use the device?
5. Will IT support be provided and by whom?
6. How will software updates be provided?
7. Who is responsible if the device is broken, lost or stolen?
8. Will it be used only for the duration of the public health emergency and then retrieved?

We encourage OAA programs to coordinate with existing programs such as ACL's Assistive Technology Programs prior to use of OAA funds to purchase devices through the following link:

<https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Facl.gov%2Fprograms%2Fassistive-technology%2Fassistive-technology&data=02%7C01%7C%7Ca3c7276ab05642e4991e08d80283f064%7C8e087664409d4c4ca6b47aa01020d6ea%7C0%7C1%7C637262113002948385&sdata=I%2F7GxMnj8ZGe6UOrxglbKAa2MLVcUKGOFET8FStFOkQ%3D&reserved=0>

Nice to Know

Resources for WIHA Program Providers in Response to COVID-19

Health promotion, wellness, and disease prevention have taken on a whole new meaning and a different kind of urgency during this pandemic. The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) remains committed to supporting the Aging Networks efforts to protect community health. They have created COVID-19 ready-to-use resources such as tip sheets, newsletter articles, letters to the editor, public service announcements, Facebook posts, etc. Aging Units can download, open and insert their agency name and use. The resources are available at this link: <https://wihealthyaging.org/covid-response>.

In addition to the ready-to-use resources, WIHA sends out a weekly newsletter on Wednesdays. If you haven't received the newsletter, please check your spam or junk and move it into your inbox. If you are interested in any community partners receiving the newsletter, just send an email to Kris.Krasnowski@wihealthyaging.org



Medicare Outreach and Assistance

[Debbie Bisswurm](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

Conducting Effective Virtual Presentations

Thursday June 25, 10:00 a.m., via Adobe Connect Webinar

Accuconference line: 800-977-8002

Participant Code: 4645344#

Webinar link: https://gwaar.adobeconnect.com/virtual_presentations

Please mark your calendars for the next Medicare outreach training, Thursday June 25, at 10:00 am. on the topic of Conducting Effective Virtual Presentations. Some of you may have started doing online presentations and others may be considering it. This training will include information, tips and tools that you can use to help make your virtual presentations more effective.

Nutrition Program

[Jean Lynch](#), OAA Consultant - Nutrition Program Specialist

[Pam VanKampen](#), Older Americans Act Consultant — Nutrition Specialist — Senior Center Representative

Nice to Know

Community Conversations: Transitioning to a “New Normal”

Hosted by Learning @ Meals on Wheels America

For different program sizes:

Small Programs: Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2210925876136121872>

Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CDT

Designed for programs with senior nutrition operating budgets of less than \$500,000

Medium Programs: Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4363430993740181264>

Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CDT

Designed for programs with senior nutrition operating budgets between \$500,000 and \$2,000,000

Large Programs: Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2338446135213978128>

Thursday, June 18, 2020 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CDT

Designed for programs with senior nutrition operating budgets greater than \$2,000,000

Without a doubt, COVID-19 has changed our world. As we shift through the three phases of the emergency – the immediate crisis, the transitional period and the emergence of a “new normal,” Learning @ Meals on Wheels America is convening our Communities of Practice virtually as part of our Community Conversations series. We invite you to join similarly sized organizations to share lessons learned, discuss sustainable practices and tackle challenges together.

Transportation

[Nick Musson](#) Older Americans Act Consultant - Transportation Specialist

Nice to Know

GWAAR is working with a group developing a survey of the state’s aging community and Wisconsin Association of Mobility Managers (WAMM). The survey goal is to compile a resource guide of transportation service policy and procedure changes for aging and disabled populations in Wisconsin because of COVID-19.

We would like your feedback on questions you would like to ask your peers about transportation services in response to COVID-19. Please submit any questions to Nick Musson, GWAAR Transportation Specialist at Nick.Musson@gwaar.org.

The survey will be emailed out to the state’s aging community and WAMM in the next couple of weeks. Please consider taking this survey to help us develop a tool to help others navigate through these difficult times.

This project team is listed below. It is a requirement for Certified Public Manager (CPM) training, which will be completed over the summer of 2020. The deadline for project completion is August 14, 2020.

- Alene Bolin, Trust Funds Director (Deputy Director), State of Wisconsin Dept. of Employee Trust Funds
- John Cole, Director of Public Works, City of Tomahawk
- Audrey Jensen, Treasurer, Marathon County
- David Melby, Corrections Planning and Operations Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Corrections
- Howard Veregin, State Cartographer, UW-Madison
- Nick Musson, Transportation Specialist, GWAAR, Executive Sponsor