

Wisconsin Caregiver Support Community Statewide Webinar

September 28, 2021 --- 10:00-11:00 a.m.

NOTES

[Click for Recording](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/itwlu_SnxzBJoS8MrovrhQ_XLQAQvxiA8GlrJPqLT9THGTcUOo860XsyAZZ2cfBn.HSWEx6Gfw2rwjUnF?startTime=1632840999000)

**Advocacy Update –** *Janet Zander, GWAAR*

* **STATE:** **National Voter Registration Day** – important for caregivers in the event they are caring for someone who needs to register to vote, i.e. grandparents may have grandkids turning 18, or those who have moved to a residential facility might need to register again with new address.
* **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** – plan approved for 10% enhanced Federal funds for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) which include a caregiver assessment pilot, caregiver training, state funded program to provide home modifications, and creation of 2 year pilot having to do with independent living and caregiver support program
* **FEDERAL** – RAISE Family Caregiver Advisory Council report - 26 recommendations and 5 goals which will become part of a national strategy for caregivers. Will be moving into action steps. Will also work at the state level to advance that work
* **End of fiscal year** –Continuing Resolution needs to be passed by both house and senate before end of day Thursday to keep government running
* **Infrastructure bill -** funds transportation, broadband, energy systems
* **Care infrastructure bill** – much larger – expand family medical leave, Medicare benefits and funding for OAA programs
* ***See report for full details***

**Brainstorm with DCS on ways to utilize Caregiver funds** – *Lynn Gall and Andrea Garr*

* Do you have funds that you don’t plan to spend or do you need additional funds? Let Jane and Lynn know as soon as you can.
* There will be approximately a 10% increase to your AFCSP programs in 2022
* Rules/guidelines are more flexible now – Supplemental Services 20% cap has been removed and 10% cap on Grandparent/relative caregivers spending was removed ***permanently***, 112 hours respite max is temporarily removed due to COVID

**Barriers:**

* **Lack of providers**
* Can’t find people who need the services
* Worried about advertising and then not having providers/services to offer them
* Need to be creative in helping them find other types of support
* Caregivers are burning out
* Might need to ask family members to help (i.e. grandchild – could be hired by local agency in order to get paid (*Andrea will inquire about this* *process*.)
* Mindworks: Class for people with dementia in Outagamie Co – provides respite to caregivers during the class – need more class facilitators
* PTC online classes have been successful and led them to participate in the online support groups
* Hybrid support group was successful in Vilas County – held the in-person support group in a room with video capability so people at home could attend virtually. This will likely continue in the same manner.
* W know caregivers need respite workers. Until then we still need to provide as much support in other ways as we can to help our caregivers. Helping them think of natural support systems is very important - family, friends, friends of friends, neighbors, church members…think beyond the usual to help them come up with people who can help. Staff or volunteers calling them is also very helpful. Support groups, virtual events, book clubs, Trualta and other trainings can also provide some support. This is hard work with no easy answers. Keep trying your best to help your caregivers feel seen and supported.
* BOLD grant – Wendy Betley from the Alzheimer’s Association is looking for volunteers who struggle spending their caregiver program funds that would be willing to get help in identifying barriers, help promote the program, and help complete some of the tasks in getting the money spent. Email Lynn Gall or Wendy Betley if interested by Oct 11.
* See handout with spending ideas on website.

**State and GWAAR Updates –** *Lynn Gall and Jane Mahoney*

* Look for email from Lynn Gall with information about the 2022 AFCSP budgets
* RAISE Family Caregiver Advisory Council final report – the 26 recommendations will be worked into our statewide work as well as at the national level
* Family Caregiver month activities are being planned by the WI Family & Caregiver Support Alliance
	+ Facebook campaign – you will be able to share the daily posts if you want to get involved
	+ Interviews – looking for caregivers to be interviewed to create videos that will be used to raise awareness and for legislative purposes. Please let Jane know if you have a caregiver that would be interested in participating.

**Review the changes in reporting for NFCSP services** – *Jane Mahoney and Lynn Gall*

There have been a lot of changes in the way NFCSP services are reported.

* Supplemental Services will no longer have subcategories – all services will be their own category.
* Revised SAMS NFCSP Reference Sheet (*draft)* is complete and on the website. (look under Data Collection) New column added that gives a definition and/or example of the things that fit in each service/subservice. If you still have questions as to where things fit, please email Jane or Lynn. When the document is finalized, Jane will send it out to everyone.