



Wisconsin Caregiver Support Community Statewide Meeting Advocacy Update - March 29, 2022

Voting Advocacy Action Alert: Your Help is Needed

The Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. (GWAAR) and other members of the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition are concerned about new barriers to voting rights in place for the upcoming spring election on April 5th. A current court order prohibits voters from receiving assistance with returning their absentee ballots.

Your help is needed to advocate for voting rights! Letters to the editor and stories of voters impacted by the ban on absentee ballot return assistance are needed. Please see the attached Voting Rights Action Alert from the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition for more information.

Aging Advocacy Day 2022 – May 11th

Are you interested in issues affecting older adults and family caregivers? Join members of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) and others to help educate state legislators about priority issues impacting Wisconsin's aging population via this year's virtual training and one-to-one personal phone calls.



No experience is necessary. You'll get the training and support you need to hold effective meetings with state lawmakers in a 90-minute online training. Then put your training to use by placing a call to your State Senator and State Representative. You'll present WAAN's 2022 priorities and share related personal stories. Your experiences are important and help policymakers understand how specific policy issues and proposals impact older constituents and family caregivers.

Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Day 2022 (#WisAgingAdvocacy2022) Schedule

Wednesday, May 11th

1:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.: Advocacy training online (Zoom link will be sent prior to event)

2:30 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.: Make personal phone calls to state legislators

Your voice can make a difference!

Register by the April 29 deadline to ensure sufficient time for you to receive the training packets and information about your legislators in the mail.

For more information visit <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-online-2022>. Questions may be directed to: Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator, Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.; (715) 677-6723 or janet.zander@gwaar.org.

Older Americans Act (OAA) FY 2022 Funding Levels Set

Earlier this month, House and Senate leaders struck a long-awaited deal on the fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget (H.R. 2471), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022. This \$1.5 trillion omnibus appropriations package, now signed into law by President Biden, includes spending levels for all 12 appropriations bills and funding to support Ukraine. Disappointingly, Older Americans Act (OAA) funding levels were significantly lower than the President's budget request and the House and Senate proposed levels. FY 2022 OAA funding levels do not keep pace with inflation or the needs of older adults. For more information on specific OAA and other aging service program funding levels see USAging's [updated appropriations chart](#).

Rising gas and food prices and increase operation costs, combined with continued and growing high service needs, require us to begin advocating immediately for increased OAA funding for FY 2023. Stay tuned for updates from our national partners with opportunities to join their advocacy efforts.