



## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources

### Advocacy

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

#### **Nice to Know**

##### **Federal - Older Americans Act Funding Fiscal Year 2023**

The final fiscal year (FY) 2022 funding proved to be very disappointing to Older Americans Act (OAA) advocates. Faced with an ever-growing aging population, increasing demand for access to services and programs, and amidst continued pandemic stressors, funding levels for FY 2022 are inadequate to meet the needs of older adults and family caregivers.

Members of Congress have already started the process of determining FY 2023 funding levels. GWAAR's national association, USAging, sent their annual appropriations request letter to Congress outlining the critical importance of investing in OAA and other vital discretionary programs that help older adults live with independence at home. USAging staff have also been requesting meetings with key Hill offices. These are very important steps, but we must do our part as well. *Members of Congress need to hear directly from their constituents.*

Congress must recognize that funding for the Aging Network's programs and services needs to be significantly increased on a long-term basis to serve the rapidly growing numbers of older adults who need them, to meet the greater complexity of client needs, and to address the workforce challenges that are affecting older adults' access to services. For FY 2023, USAging has requested a doubling of the funding for four prioritized subtitles of the Act: Title III B (Supportive Services), Title III D (evidence-based health and wellness), Title III E (National Family Caregiver Support Program), and Title VI (Native American Aging Programs). This is the level of investment these programs needed before COVID-19 and reflects what these programs will absolutely need after it! We must grow the base funding for these essential programs permanently to meet the needs of older adults and family caregivers in their communities! Members of Congress need to know that increased demand for services resulting from the pandemic have continued and exist alongside changing demographics and the after-effects of a decade of stagnant funding—all of which risks the health, well-being, and independence of their older constituents! Whether it's attending a townhall meeting, issuing an invitation to attend an agency board meeting, or contacting their office directly—**now** is the time to connect with federal lawmakers.



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**Take Action:** Contact your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson (see Wisconsin Members of the 117th Congress below for contact information) now to advocate for funding for OAA programs and services and/or to let them know how important this funding is to meeting the needs of

older adults and family caregivers in the GWAAR service area and in your community. Make sure to include local statistics that demonstrate the need for an increase in OAA funding and to highlight the growing demand for services in your community. Read USAging's appropriations request letter at [https://www.usaging.org/Files/4.22.22\\_USAging\\_FY\\_2023\\_Request\\_Letter.pdf](https://www.usaging.org/Files/4.22.22_USAging_FY_2023_Request_Letter.pdf) and then write your own letter including what this funding means for the older adults and caregivers in your community, tribe, or state.

To find out who your U.S. Representative is, enter your zip code in the white box next to the "Look Up" section in the top righthand corner of this page: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Wisconsin Members of the 117th Congress - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2004017>

### **New Advocacy Resource Available for Family Caregivers**

Families, not institutions or other paid providers, provide the majority of care for people with chronic illness and/or disabilities. These families are the primary providers of long-term care, care that often goes beyond what they can do when they may also be raising their own families, have jobs, and/or live far away. Caring for someone with Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, stroke, traumatic brain injury, or other long-term conditions can be challenging, especially if it is difficult to locate needed information, services, and/or respite.

Families have first-hand experience with community agencies, providing round-the-clock care, and the financial hardships often associated with caring for a loved one. This personal experience puts these families in a unique position to act as advocates; helping elected officials charged with development of public policy and funding priorities to understand the needs of family caregivers. This new GWAAR resource document offers families tips and resources to help them get involved in local, state, or federal advocacy efforts - Advocacy Resources for Family Caregivers:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007389>

## **Family Caregiver Support**

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[Bryn Ceman](#), *Older Americans Act Consultant -Family Caregiver Support Specialist*

### **Need to Know**

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#### **Reimagine Respite - September 13-15, 2022**

Registration: <https://arch.wildapricot.org/2022-Conference-Registration>

National Lifespan Respite Conference is being held in Madison this September. This is a rare opportunity to learn what respite experts are doing across the country and meet professionals who provide caregiver support services in other states.

*Reminder:* AFCSP and NFCSP programs are allowed to use program funding for staff to attend conferences and trainings.

The ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center is proud to co-host the event with the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin.

Learn more at <http://www.icontact-archive.com/archive?c=1089448&f=4586&s=29131&m=773444&t=0acefe036d0dd72437ac7d5740f8b8b049cc0a890abb514ed7946a6cf3ab4b19>



### ***Nice to Know***

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#### **When a Workforce Shortage Crisis and a Caregiving Crisis Meet**

The workforce shortage crisis being felt by businesses across Wisconsin includes a characteristic that is often overlooked: The need to support family caregivers in the workplace. Employers experience a drain on productivity when employees struggle to balance their work lives with the responsibilities of caring for children, aging relatives, or disabled family members. In a recent survey, more than eight in ten employed caregivers in Wisconsin reported having their work life interrupted, resulting in workplace accommodations such as using flex time, reducing work hours, or quitting work entirely. Read the entire press release from the Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance here:

<https://wisconsin caregiver.org/data/media/39/final-survey-report-press-release.pdf>



### **Nutrition Program**

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[Lori Fernandez](#), *Older Americans Act Consultant — Nutrition Program Specialist*

[Jean Lynch](#), *Older Americans Act Consultant — Nutrition Program Specialist*

[Pam VanKampen](#), *Older Americans Act Consultant — Nutrition Program Specialist — Senior Center Rep.*

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#### **Find the Resources You Need in the SNAP-Ed Library.**

SNAP-Ed focuses on good nutrition, stretching food dollars, living physically active lifestyles, and engaging partners to build healthier communities. They have recipes with videos and by season! How fun to give out, especially with farmers market vouchers; they have a whole section dedicated to Farmers Market Nutrition Education and more....visit these links:

<https://snaped.fns.usda.gov>

<https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/nutrition-education/nutrition-education-materials/farmers-markets>

