



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources

GWAAR News

Need to Know

Seeking Proposals: Let's Build the Future Meal Program Together with Sustainable Kitchens

GWAAR is currently accepting proposals to work with Sustainable Kitchens — a full scale food service transformation consulting firm to evaluate and bring sustainability to your food service operation. This is an opportunity to be part of a one-year project to build something scalable, that has proven outcomes, and can be expanded throughout the state. Proposals are due by August 26, 2022. For more information, view the RFP (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007520>) and map (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2007521>).

Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Process for Requesting an Accommodation for Ballot Return Assistance

Disability Rights Wisconsin is receiving questions from voters with disabilities about their rights to have assistance with mailing or delivery of their absentee ballot. Federal law protects the right of people with disabilities to have assistance mailing their ballot, and also to have a person of their choice deliver their ballot to their clerk or polling place.

If it is too close to the election to mail your completed ballot, and you are not able to deliver your ballot because of disability, you may request a disability-related accommodation to have someone else deliver your completed ballot. For more information, view the document which explains the process for requesting an accommodation.

- View the Process for Requesting an Accommodation for Ballot Return Assistance (accessible PDF): <https://bit.ly/3JtdCPR>
- View the Sample Accommodation Request (Word document): <https://bit.ly/3zvN7o1>

If a voter with a disability needs someone else to mail their ballot, they should feel comfortable doing so. It is not necessary to request an accommodation.

(Shared with permission from Disability Rights Wisconsin)

FY 2023 Federal Budget - Senate Releases Funding Bills

This week, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair released all 12 appropriations bills for FY 2023. The funding recommendations were, in most cases, not as strong as the President's budget or the House-committee-passed funding levels, but move us closer to much-needed increases. Overall, the bills increase non-defense discretionary spending (which includes Older Americans Act [OAA] and other aging services funding) by 13.5%.

The Senate bills, like their House counterparts advanced earlier this month, do not yet have any Republican support. These bills are a proposed starting point for future negotiations with Republicans. As in previous years,

these numbers will likely come down before final passage—although hopefully, with your advocacy, not as low as last year's!

Funding amounts for OAA included in the Senate bill:

- \$430 million for OAA Title III B Home & Community-Based Supportive Services, an increase of \$31 million above the FY 2022–enacted level but short of the President's proposed request of \$500 million and drastically less than USAging's request to double the funding to \$797 million.
- \$1 billion for OAA Title III C Nutrition Services, \$64 million above the FY 2022–enacted level with \$550 million for congregate meals, \$320 million for home-delivered meals and \$160 million for the Nutrition Services Incentive Program.
- \$220 million for the OAA Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program, an increase of \$26 million above FY 2022.
- \$47.5 million for OAA Title VI Native American Nutrition, Supportive and Caregiver Services with \$36.2 million for Part A and \$11.3 million for Part C; this is the same level of funding provided in FY 2022 and is below funding levels proposed by President Biden and the House Appropriations Committee.
- \$26.3 million for OAA Title III D Evidence-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, a \$1.4 million increase, but still far below USAging's ask of \$50 million.
- \$40 million for OAA Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The Senate exceeded the President's already robust recommendation (and USAging's request) with a 61 percent increase to the LTCOP, a long overdue investment in the wake of pandemic-related interest in protecting the safety and rights of nursing home residents.

Refer to USAging's appropriations chart (<https://bit.ly/3Qk8pMu>) for details on the Senate Democrats' funding recommendations for OAA and other key programs.

Next steps:

While the House has passed some of its appropriations bills, the Senate shows no inclination to advance the latest legislative packages as is. The good news is that in many cases, the Senate did not come down very far from higher Administration or House levels—that was the goal of our collective July advocacy, so thanks to those who followed up on our numerous Advocacy Alerts!

But we are not done yet, as these levels do not yet have the bipartisan support needed to make them a reality. Your advocacy is needed, particularly with Republican lawmakers, to continue to ensure that they understand the size and scope of aging services that are needed to help enable older adults to age with dignity in their homes and communities. Stay tuned, in a few weeks USAging intends to put out specific actions we can take. In the meantime, members of Congress will be in their home districts by the end of this week and through Labor Day (Sept. 5th). This is a great time to connect with your U.S. Representative and our Wisconsin U.S. Senators to share the great things your OAA programs are doing to serve older constituents in their districts and the challenges you face that keep you from fully meeting the needs in your communities. See Wisconsin Members of the 117th Congress (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2004017>) for contact information. For questions or additional support, contact GWAAR's Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator, Janet Zander at janet.zander@gwaar.org.

(Excerpts from USAging Legislative Update – July 29, 2022)

Family Caregiver Support

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

Nice to Know

FUN FACT!

For those of you who were able to join our Trualta training on July 26th, you may remember the question being asked, "What does Trualta mean?" Most of us in the Caregiver Coordinator role know that Trualta is an eLearning platform geared toward alleviating caregivers strain and promoting caregiver education. But now we know the word "Trualta" comes from the core value the company which is founded on "Altruism". Caregivers are indeed the epitome of being altruistic towards the person they provide care for. A lot of times, it is a thankless, tiring job. And yet, it is family caregivers who hold the overstretched healthcare system together. So, there you have it, Trualta is rooted in Altruism.

Health Promotion

[Angie Sullivan](#), Older Americans Act Consultant - Health Promotions Specialist

Need to Know

Reminder: Webinar: Quarterly Health Promotion Updates

Tuesday, August 9, 2022 | 9:00 a.m.

You're invited to the Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar on Tuesday, August 9th from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. The webinar will feature the Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition introducing their newly created Falls Prevention Coalition Development Toolkit. In addition, Harvey Padek from the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center will be giving an overview of the roles and responsibilities of a Community Healthy Worker. Sky Van Rossum, Special Projects Manager at GWAAR, will give an update of GWAAR Community Health Workers and Care Transitions Interventions. Important updates from GWAAR and WIHA will be provided.

The webinar is geared towards Health Promotion Coordinators, Aging Unit Directors and Supervisors and any other staff or partners interested in the topics. No registration required, login to the Zoom link provided. Feel free to reach out with any questions or future webinar topic ideas to Angie Sullivan, OAA Consultant Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at angela.sullivan@gwaar.org.

Zoom meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88904398892?pwd=cGhzQ2k2aG5lWks0K2cxdGdwSDZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 0439 8892

Passcode: 525456

Nice to Know

OAA Title III-D Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Orientation

Thursday, August 11, 2022 | 9:00 a.m.

Are you new to the Wisconsin Aging Network or need a refresher on the provisions and priorities of Older Americans Act Title III-D Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Orientation? Directors, Supervisors, Health Promotion Coordinators and other staff; all are welcome.

The orientation provides a brief overview of the provisions and priorities of the Older Americans Act, brief description on the role of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, funding requirements for III-D, qualifying Health Promotion Programs and other resources to assist your county in implementing health promotion programs to older adults in your community. To register, please send Angie Sullivan, angela.sullivan@gwaar.org, an email to confirm you spot or if you have any questions.

Zoom meeting link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86067113549?pwd=QmgvWERZVW5Vb28yT1V2N09ROFRCZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 6711 3549

Passcode: 933266

Nutrition

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

Need to Know

2022 Eat Well, Age Well Materials

Find all the 2022 Eat Well, Age Well materials on SharePoint at <https://bit.ly/3SpKRYk>.

You can also share the materials directly from our website at <https://gwaar.org/eat-well-age-well>



Nice to Know

Beneficial Bites Nutrition Education Resource

Remember that Barron County has Free Nutrition Education materials that you can use. Their Beneficial Bites programs include easy recipes, cooking demonstrations and taste-testing. Please share with your local Registered Dietitians and site managers and use these at your sites. Have fun while you learn how to work new foods into your meals! All of the materials have been reviewed and approved by a dietitian. Creating an annual Nutrition Education Training plan is a great idea. Be sure to involve your Nutrition Advisory Council and your local RD. Here is a sample Nutrition education plan: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007512>

You can find the 2020-2022 materials on their website at https://www.adrconnections.org/programs-and-services/nutrition_1.

There are also several years of archived materials on the GWAAR website at https://gwaar.org/beneficial-bites_1.

Thank you Barron County for developing and sharing these outstanding nutrition education resources! If you have any questions please reach out to the GWAAR Nutrition Team.