



Volume 4, No. 46, December 29, 2022
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: Join Our New Education and Development Program, GWAAR ED

GWAAR has implemented a new online platform for training and professional development for the various Older Americans Act programs we support. GWAAR Education and Development, or GWAAR ED, will provide you the convenience of learning on a flexible schedule and at your own pace. In addition, GWAAR ED will give GWAAR better insight towards the training we provide, in both reporting and knowledge retention.

At this time, courses available in GWAAR ED include the following topics:

- Introduction to GWAAR ED
- GWAAR (general overview)
- AFCSP (Family Caregiver Support)
- NFCSP (Family Caregiver Support)
- Health Promotion
- Nutrition – Temperatures
- Transportation



Registration for GWAAR ED will be necessary as our training programs will be moving to this platform. You can register by filling out this form: <https://gwaar.wufoo.com/forms/z95v3sv0qqhoha/>

After you complete registration, you will receive an email with a link to create your password. If you do not see this email within two days please check your junk folder.

Save the Date! First Quarter Virtual ACE Meeting Coming Up!

Wednesday, January 11 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

(Calendar invitation, link and agenda sent by Rosanna Mazzara
(Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org))

For the first quarter, our A Commitment to Excellence (ACE)_meeting will include an informative presentation about GWAAR Education & Development, or GWAAR ED, our new Learning Management System.



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Congress Passes Final FY 2023 Appropriations Bill

On Thurs., Dec. 22, 2022 (one day before the Continuing Resolution was set to expire risking a freeze on federal funding levels well or a government shutdown), members of the Senate passed a long-awaited deal on FY 2023 funding and passed an omnibus appropriations package that will fund the federal government for the remainder of fiscal year 2023. The House followed suit, and passed the FY 2023 appropriations bill on Friday, Dec. 23, 2022. While the bill doesn't include all the aging network hoped to see, it does include \$2.5 billion for the Administration for Community Living, an increase of \$220 million above FY 2022. Most Older Americans Act (OAA) programs and services received increases, though the levels do not reflect all that was requested or needed.

The following is a brief summary of the bill's spending levels for key programs that serve older Americans and their caregivers:

Older Americans Act (OAA)

- \$410 million, an increase of more than \$11 million above the FY 2022 level for OAA Title III B Home & Community-Based Supportive Services.
- \$1.1 billion, an increase of \$100 million above the FY 2022 (more than a 10 percent increase) over current levels and the largest annual appropriations increase in the history of the OAA Title III C Nutrition Services program!
- \$205 million, an increase of \$11 million above the FY 2022 level for OAA Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program.
- \$50.2 million, a \$2.7 million increase above FY 2022 level, for OAA Title VI Native American Nutrition, Supportive and Caregiver Services.
- \$26.2 million for OAA Title III D Evidence-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, an increase of \$1.5 million above FY 2022.
- \$26.6 million, an increase of \$2 million (approximately an 8 percent increase) over FY 2022 levels for OAA Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

See USAgeing's updated appropriations chart for information on funding levels for other programs:

<https://www.usaging.org//Files/FY%202023%20Omnibus%2012.20.22.pdf>

The omnibus funding bill also contains other provisions impacting low-income older adults, including provisions that:

- Eliminate the Medicaid coverage protections from the public health emergency. States, all of which were previously barred from removing people off of Medicaid for the duration of the Covid public health emergency, can now start redetermining Medicaid eligibility and terminating recipients' coverage beginning April 1, 2023 if they no longer meet the program's eligibility criteria. The enhanced federal Medicaid matching rate states have been receiving will decrease on April 1 and phase out completely on December 31, 2023. During this time, states must abide by federal guidelines and procedures designed to minimize wrongful terminations and ensure enrollees receive adequate notice, if they wish to continue receiving the enhanced federal funding.
- Ends FoodShare emergency allotments after the February 2023 issuance month.

- Extend the Medicaid Money Follows the Person program and protections from spousal impoverishment for people receiving home- and community-based services (HCBS) through September 30, 2027.
- Increase funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs by more than \$6 billion – including the largest ever one-year increase (over 13 percent) for homeless assistance programs, doubling the funding (from \$15 million to \$30 million) of HUD’s Older Adults Home Modification Program and expanding eligibility to include older adult renters, expanding rental assistance vouchers to an additional 12,000 households, and increasing funding for the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly and Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities programs to serve an estimated 2,910 additional households with older adults and people with disabilities.
- Expand participation and boost savings in workplace plans by introducing new tools, expanding coverage, increasing portability, and enhancing incentives for workers to save and for employers and plan sponsors to automate healthy saving behavior, including requiring new 401(k) and 403(b) retirement plans to automatically enroll eligible employees (with the option for the employee to opt out) at between 3 percent and 10 percent of wages (beginning in 2025).

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Reminder: County and Tribal/Aging Unit Caregiver Coalition Poll

The purpose of this poll is to gather information about the status of Caregiver Coalitions throughout the state so we can provide education about Caregiver Coalitions for newer Aging Unit staff and county staff. We understand that coalitions may have evolved over time, and we desire to learn what is working well and not so well today. Complete the survey here:

<https://forms.microsoft.com/r/dS765nKnd3> The survey will take you less than five minutes to complete. The survey will close on January 13, 2023 so there will be time to review and compile the results before the Caregiver Support Community Statewide Webinar on January 24, 2023.

1. Does your County or Tribal/Aging Unit have an active Caregiver Coalition?

*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Submit

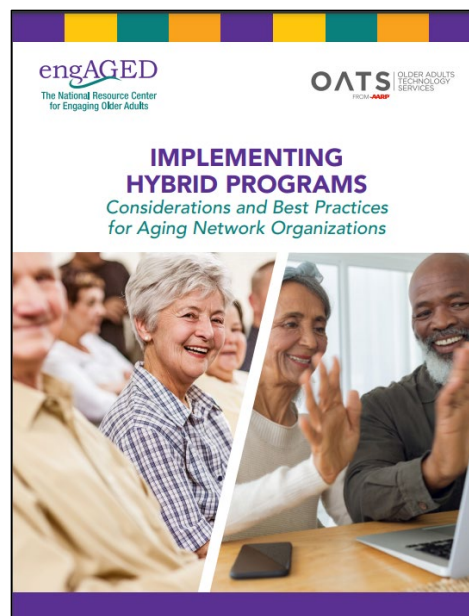
Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

New Manual on Hybrid Programming for Older Adults

As we continue to live with COVID-19, many Aging Units and Aging and Disability Resource Centers are exploring flexible options to engage older adults, including offering hybrid programming - programs that are offered to both in-person and virtual attendees. engAGED and Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) partnered to produce a hybrid manual (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2007651>) to support organizations considering implementing hybrid programs. The manual describes various methods of hybrid programming as well as key considerations, organizational tips and best practices for hybrid programs.



Nice to Know

Webinar: OAA Title III-D: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Orientation

January 5, 2023 | 9:00 a.m.

Are you a new Health Promotion Coordinator or would like to brush up on your skills with the provisions and priorities of the Older Americans Act Title III-D - Health Promotion and Disease Prevention? This interactive, 90-minute session will review the infrastructure of the Aging Network, III-D funding, evidence-based programming, partnerships, etc. The orientation will be in a small group format, where it is highly encouraged to have cameras on (if available) and share your questions and experiences. If you would prefer an individual session, please contact Angie Sullivan at angela.sullivan@gwaar.org to schedule.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtcumvgDltGNAjJBgG5UQ5hfrpAwBF8Nvp>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Social, Mental, Emotional Health Coloring Pages (Free Download)

The Nutrition and Aging Resource Center has created adult coloring pages that can be utilized by your program to enhance your meal program participants' overall wellbeing. They include a fun, relaxing coloring activity as well as simple tips to deepen the participants' knowledge and skills in improving their own social, emotional, and mental health. Simply print the coloring pages and distribute to your meal participants. Feel free to make copies and distribute to HDM, Senior Dining and Grab n Go participants. To view the coloring pages, click here:

<https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/nutrition/Social.Mental.Emotional.Health.Coloring.Page.pdf>



Transportation

[Nick Musson](#), *Older Americans Act Consultant – Transportation*

Nice to Know

\$5 million in Awards Announced for Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program

Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) announced the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program awards on December 27,

2022 for 2023. The award, totaling over \$5 million in state and federal funds, is going to 44 agencies that provide transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities in rural areas of Wisconsin. Under federal transportation law, the cities of Milwaukee, Madison, Appleton, and Green Bay administer the federal 5310 Program for their geographic areas. They coordinate with WisDOT to ensure the continuity of the application and project selection process.

The Section 5310 program utilizes federal and state funds for capital and operating projects that improve the mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities. Eligible applicants include private non-profits and local public bodies. Eligible projects include the purchase of Human Service Vehicles, operating budgets, Mobility Managers, coordination, and non-vehicle capital.

For more information on the Section 5310 program and a complete list of the grant awardees, which total \$5,097,376, can be found on the WisDOT Specialized Transportation website here.

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/transit/enhanced-mob.aspx>

