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Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

2023-2025 State Budget Highlights

On January 24, 2023, Governor Evers delivered his 5th State of the State address. In his address, he highlighted a number of initiatives he will be including in his 2023-25 biennial budget proposal. Included in the Governor's budget priorities are several proposals the aging network might find of interest, including:

Mental and Behavioral Health

- Declaring 2023 as the Year of Mental Health in Wisconsin
- \$500 million to expand access to mental and behavioral services across the state:
 - Crisis Urgent Care & Observation Center Grant Program - Provide \$64,700 general purpose revenue (GPR) in fiscal year 2024 (FY24) and \$10,038,500 GPR in fiscal year 2025 (FY25) for grants to establish up to two crisis urgent care and observation centers to offer a variety of behavioral health services, accept emergency detention cases, conduct medical clearances, and support up to 15 crisis stabilization beds.
 - Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind Behavioral Health Treatment Program - Provide \$1,936,000 GPR in FY25 for a grant to establish a state-wide behavioral health treatment program for individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind.
 - Peer-Run Respite for Veterans Support - Provide \$450,000 GPR in annual, ongoing state support for the Peer-Run Respite Center for Veterans.
 - Peer Recovery Centers Support - Provide \$260,000 GPR annually to supplement existing Peer Recovery Centers and provide funding to support two new Peer Recovery Centers in areas not yet served.
 - 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Support - Provide \$898,700 GPR in FY24 and \$2,105,700 GPR in FY25 to cover operating costs of the state's 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline call center.



Child Care and Caregiving

- Create a \$500 caregiver tax credit to help family caregivers pay for caregiving expenses
- Expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- \$340 million to permanently establish the Child Care Counts program to help providers
- \$22 million to support the "PartnerUp!" program which supports employer-child care provider partnerships and child care provider staff recruitment and retention

Economy and Workforce

- \$50 million to bolster Wisconsin's healthcare and long-term care workforce:
 - \$22.5 million to establish an ongoing Innovation Grant program for healthcare employers to engage in improved recruitment and retention of long-term care providers
 - \$8 million in support to the WisCaregiver Careers program to expand the long-term care workforce
 - \$5 million over the biennium through the Worker Advancement Initiative for health care workforce programs.

For more detail, see:

- Governor Evers' full budget address: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/343fc2b>
- Mental Health Plan: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/344b5b3>
- Child care/caregiving proposal: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/344b7f8>
- Workforce plan: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/344b79b>

The governor's full 2023-25 executive budget proposal will be announced following his 2023-25 Biennial Budget Message to the Legislature on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Elder Benefit Specialists Services

[Kate Schilling](#), Legal Services Manager, Elder Law & Advocacy Center

Nice to Know

CMS is Seeking Feedback on Proposed Policy Changes for Medicare Marketing Practices

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has an open comment period now through February 13, 2023, seeking input on policies designed to improve beneficiary protections against misleading marketing practices by insurance agents, brokers, and plans; improve access to timely health care; advance health equity; change the way Medicare determines the star ratings; improve access and affordability of Medicare Part D covered medications; and improve access to behavioral health services.

On December 14, 2022, CMS issued proposed revisions to the regulations governing Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare Part D plans. These proposed changes are summarized in a fact sheet by CMS at <http://bit.ly/3jnx7s>.

Some of the changes in the proposed policies include increasing Medicare beneficiary protections against the use of high-pressure tactics and preventing predatory marketing practices by Advantage plans, agents, and brokers. The proposal also includes increased regulation of television advertisements which describe Medicare Advantage plans and try to encourage enrollments in Advantage plans.

With these changes, the CMS hopes to ensure that beneficiaries have accurate and necessary information so that they can make informed choices about their health care coverage.

For more information about these changes, visit the Federal Register at <https://bit.ly/3jqxM4j>.

Comments are due by February 13, and must be submitted in one of the following three ways (please choose only one of the ways listed):

1. Electronically. You may submit electronic comments on this regulation at <https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/CMS-2022-0194-0001>.
2. By regular mail. You may mail written comments to the following address ONLY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS-4201-P, P.O. Box 8013, Baltimore, MD 21244.

3. By express or overnight mail. You may send written comments to the following address ONLY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS-4201-P, Mail Stop C4-26-05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

Please allow sufficient time for mailed comments to be received before the close of the comment period.

Family Caregiver Support

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Webinar: The Next Generation of Support for Working Caregivers

Wednesday, February 8 | 1:00 p.m.

As caregiving continues to be a top priority for many organizations in 2023, it's become clear that the traditional approach to supporting working caregivers is in need of innovation. While popular point solutions like backup care and 1-1 coaching were successful in bringing caregiving to the forefront, they aren't comprehensive enough to meet the needs of today's families or employers.



Today's support solutions must be truly inclusive of every employee- regardless of age, life stage, care condition, or culture. By investing in platforms that prioritize inclusivity, scalability, and cost-effectiveness, employers will be better equipped to meet the needs of the increasing number of employees who are facing caregiving situations.

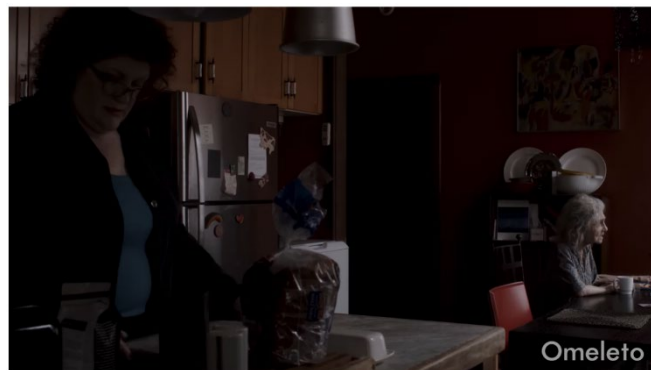
Join ianacare CEO & Co-founder Jessica Kim to learn:

- What caregiving solutions should look like in order to effectively support today's working family caregivers
- Why leveraging both technology and human navigation leads to higher engagement and utilization
- The impact of innovative solutions built to encourage and enable proactive support vs more reactive point solutions

This webinar is being offered by Employee Benefit News. To register, visit <https://www.benefitnews.com/web-seminars/the-next-generation-of-support-for-working-caregivers>.

New Short Film Focuses on Caregiving

Alex Berg's Short Film "Ruth" Focuses on Realities of Caregiving and is available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPIRD9COUcK>. "Ruth" is a nine minute short film starring the late Lynn Cohen as the mother, living with Alzheimer's, with Barbara Tirrell playing her daughter and caregiver. Actor David Hyde Pierce, a longtime Alzheimer's Association Champion and caregiver said of the film: "Beautiful in every detail, this is an emotional story told without sentimentality." Consider sharing within your communities and possibly as part of a caregiver support group discussion.



Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

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

Thursday, February 2 | 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

This orientation will outline the provisions and priorities of the Older Americans Act Title III-D Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Resources and frequently asked questions will be reviewed. Anyone can attend the orientation; however, it is most appropriate for new health promotion coordinators, supervisors of health promotion activities and any Aging Unit staff that is involved in health promotion. To register, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqd-ChrDkjHdYpAAAnZ0okKVA7dcYbDSS7>.

This is a small group interactive session. Please contact Angie Sullivan with any questions at angela.sullivan@gwaar.org.

Nice to Know

Reminder: Webinar: Quarterly Health Promotion

Tuesday, February 7 | 1-2:30 p.m.

Join us for our Quarterly Health Promotion webinar. The agenda is as follows:

- Welcome and Introductions
- GWAAR's new Learning Management System, GWAAR ED
- GWAAR OAA Title III-D Updates
 - 2022 Evidence-Based Program Summary SAMS/Wellsky
 - 2023 Planning - Break Out Room Discussions
- WIHA Updates

Click here to register: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtcuCtrjIIE93Q8zPYr6_dRWJ5cfQZ3U4h