



Wisconsin Caregiver Support Community Statewide Webinar

August 22nd, 10 am to 11 am

NOTES

10:00 – 10:10 am Advocacy Update – Janet Zander, GWAAR

- Review of state budget outcomes (*reviewed in July*) – Aging Programs, specifically caregiver supports: The budget provides \$250,000 annually and increases the amount of AFCSP funding DHS may provide to \$3 million annually. The max. income eligibility limit and caps on funding for goods and services for each person served remain unchanged. Neither the Family & Medical Leave Policy nor the WI Family Caregiver Tax Credit were included.
- In July launched the Caregiver Advise Record and Enable or CARE Act Campaign:
 - [CARE Act Press Release](#)
 - [Family Caregiver Video](#)
- Now is the time to contact your local legislatures and State Senators! To find out who your state representative or senator is go to: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>. Enter your home address in the “Who Are My Legislators?”

10:10 – 10:30 am State DHS and GWAAR Updates – Lynn Gall, DHS, and Bryn Ceman, GWAAR

- Anticipated topics addressed in 2024 policy.
 - 112 cap on respite waived – PERMENANTLY!
 - Ability to pay primary caregiver will remain, if no other respite care provider can be found.
 - Other information can be found at [Family Caregiver Support](#) DHS SharePoint.
 - [Lifespan Respite Care Grant](#) has received a one-time supplemental funding for '23-'24.
- No cost or low-cost supports
 - [Wisconsin Trualta](#) is free to caregivers and professionals.
 - [Virtual](#) caregiver support groups free throughout Wisconsin
 - [Telephonic](#) or virtual support is free through WellMed and others like [Alzheimer's Association Support Groups](#)
 - [United Way](#) Caregiver Outreach Program offers supportive listening, free.
 - Share [resources](#) like [Benefits Checkup](#), free.
 - Utilize and expand the [respite registry](#) in your community. Grants are available!

- If/when caregivers are not eligible for NF/AFCSPP, if/when meet cap spending, and/or if/when caregivers are put on waiting lists they are then eligible for [Family Caregiver Respite Grant](#) and the [Supplemental Respite Grant Program](#).
- Consider and offer additional programs – does their employer offer ERGs/EAPs? Explore DCS, MA/LTC, [ILS](#) Pilot, other OAA programs, [VA Caregiver Support Program](#), etc.

10:30 - a.m. – Entire group discussion.

- ARPA flexibilities (e.g., transfers) ends 12/2023; funding officially ends 9/2024.
- Example of waitlist policies (see “Attachment 1 – Brown County NF/AFCSPP Waitlist”)
 - Use a form of the “Nutrition Prioritization System” by assigning points to the Caregiver Needs Assessment. May not use the frailty scale (as in the Nutrition Program), but could use a caregiver burnout tool/assessment.
 - Caregiver Needs Assessment could also be used to evaluate risk and determine level of need or level of funding.
 - See “Attachment 2 – Brown County Risk Assessment – DRAFT”.
 - A best practice could be to reassess according to new Nutrition (Ch 8) OAA regs (within 12 weeks). Consider other opportunities to re-assess and/or to look at alternate funding for support (e.g., Parkinson’s Grant Programs, Respite Care Grant Programs,
 - Blending/braiding funding sources. For example, maybe they can avoid a caregiver grant waitlist if the care recipient is eligible for III B services.
- When to implement a waitlist – before reassessing for the year; ensure all policies are applied equitably for each person.
- Cap on funding per caregiver – potentially based on risk, anticipate needs beyond available funding – are they eligible for other funding/supports? Reference “Attachment 3 - Customer and Caregiver Grant Programs Desk Aide”
- Other Ideas / Considerations –
 - Can services necessary to the family caregiver and customer be purchased by family as gifts?
 - Can the caregiver grant dollars be used as match for family/privately funded expenses? (Ex: Family pays caregiver \$10, and grant pays \$10 = \$20 in total to caregiver for support provided.)
 - If your county/Aging Unit (AU) has a policy that limits the number of years a caregiver can access funds anticipate for this need and set up alternate supports (e.g., private pay, respite grant, supplemental grant, ILS, organizational grant as referenced in “Attachment 3 – Customer and Caregiver Grant Programs Desk Aide”)

- Collect stories that are in support of Caregiver Grant Programs and increase funding.
 - How grant support assisted and now how being put on a waitlist has harmed the caregiver or customer. See Attachment 4 – Sample Advocacy Letter to State Senator”.

Walk On Item(s):

- Respite for All event - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 Jacob's Well Church 989 122th Street, Chippewa Falls 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. See “Attachment 5 – RFA flyer” for more details and to share.

Next Meeting Date: UPDATE!! We will hold an in-person meeting on **September 26th from 10 am to 2 pm.** A light lunch will be provided. The location is the ADRC of Portage County: 1519 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Thank you to Cindy Piotrowski and Portage County ADRC for hosting us!

- Agendas will be forthcoming and posted on the GWAAR [website](#). I am hoping to record the presenters at 10 am, 11 am, and at 1 pm from 9/26/23, they will be uploaded to this page as well.
- Please feel free to email Bryn at: bryn.ceman@GWAAR.org and/or Lynn at: Lynn.Gall@dhs.wisconsin.gov with NFCSP/AFCSF meeting topics or guest speaker ideas.