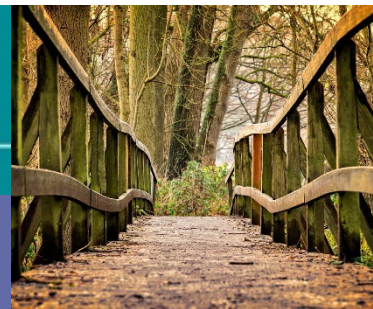




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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

ACE meeting dates for 2024

Mark your calendar for the 2024 ACE (A Commitment to Excellence) meetings:

Wednesday, January 10

1:30 to 3:00 p.m., virtual

Wednesday, May 8

10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in person

Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center

1001 Amber Ave

Stevens Point, WI 54482

715-254-9943

Wednesday, July 10

1:30 to 3:00 p.m., virtual

Wednesday, October 9

1:30 to 3:00 p.m., virtual



Nice to Know

Reminder: Accepting Applications: GWAAR Board of Directors

If you'd like to play a role in shaping the direction of programs and services for older people in the state, we invite you to volunteer for our Board of Directors. Our mission is to provide aging offices with training, technical assistance, and support to improve the well-being of older people in Wisconsin. To apply, please fill out our [online application](#) and submit to john.schnabl@gwaar.org.

View the application: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629>

If you have any questions about volunteering on the Board of Directors, please contact John Schnabl at john.schnabl@gwaar.org.

Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Advocacy Alert: Funding for Medicare Outreach at Risk

Advocates just learned that at the last minute, **the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Continuing Resolution (CR)** signed earlier this month to keep the federal government funded into early 2024, **did not include the authorization and funding needed to continue the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act's (MIPPA) low-income outreach and assistance program.**

This major oversight currently leaves MIPPA unauthorized and unfunded. Without authorization, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) may find it complicated to administer the program in the next few months. Without continued funding, local State Health *Insurance* Assistance Programs (SHIPs), Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Aging Units/Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) that rely on this funding to conduct targeted outreach to Medicare beneficiaries most in need of Medicare's cost-savings programs such as the Medicare Savings Programs and LIS/ExtraHelp, will also run into problems.

Wisconsin received \$713,193 in MIPPA funding for the current grant year which ends Aug. 31, 2024. This funding supports integral staff at ADRCs, aging units, the AAAs, the Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC), Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW), Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC), and the state Department of Health Services (DHS). **If Congress does not renew MIPPA, we will experience a staffing crisis as agencies lose funding that has been reliably renewed for over a decade. We will also lose funding and staff capacity to provide dedicated outreach to historically marginalized populations, leaving our most vulnerable residents struggling to access free and unbiased Medicare counseling and financial assistance.**

Your Advocacy is Needed: To prevent the discontinuation of MIPPA, our national partners are calling on us to reach out to U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, as well as our U.S. Representative, to draw attention to this critical situation and push for reauthorization and funding of MIPPA in one of the early-2024 funding bills. **Your stories and data are critical to the continued success of this program!**

Call or email your federal legislators this week! Let them know how the MIPPA low-income outreach program brings value to the Medicare beneficiaries you serve.

Find your Members' contact information on their websites: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov (or see Wisconsin Members of the 118th Congress - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007697>).

Feel free to use the customizable (insert your local data and stories) email template provided by USAging.

Download the template: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007969>

Family Caregiver Support

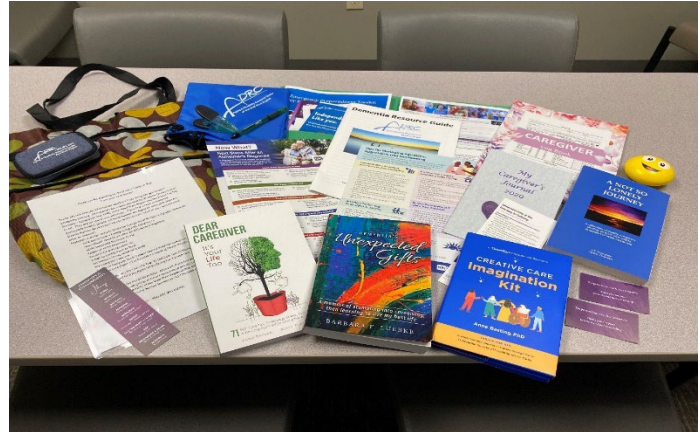
[Bryn Ceman](#), Older Americans Act Consultant - Family Caregiver Support Specialist

Nice to Know

Shawano County Aging Unit makes Caregiver Resource Bags available in libraries

Check this out from the Shawano County Aging Unit!

"A new option is coming to all 6 Shawano County Libraries – Care Giver Resource Bags made by a joint effort of the ADRC of the Wolf River Region, Shawano County Human Services – Aging Unit and the Forget Me Not Fund. The bags have a variety of resources which can help a person on their journey. What is best is if you find a resource which is extremely helpful, you can decide to keep it. There is no fine for not returning all of the items. Simply follow the instructions on the card so we can replace the items and then return the bag and remaining contents. Alongside is a photo of the bag and resources."



If your Tribe or County is interested in doing something similar, please feel free to contact Heidi Russell at Heidi.Russell@shawanocountywi.gov.

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Follow-Up: Social Isolation and Loneliness Awareness Week

A few weeks ago, the Wisconsin Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness (WCESIL) hosted Wisconsin's Social Isolation and Loneliness Awareness Week with three webinars, resources, and many campaigns to spread the word about this public health crisis and how we all can help get people more socially connected across Wisconsin.

For those of you who would like to watch the webinars, here are the links to the three different webinars:

Webinar #1: Community Voices: <https://bit.ly/3GfkgbA>

Webinar #2: Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: <https://vimeo.com/885230017>

Webinar #3: Improving Social Connections in Homebound Older Adults: <https://bit.ly/3N1nEud>

-continued -

Here are some additional links for you to use as we continue into the cold weather months and move closer to the holidays.

Press Release: <https://bit.ly/40Z8kE9>

Letter-to-the-Editor: <https://bit.ly/47VcNKB>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/WCESIL>

WCESIL Infographic

<https://gwaar.org/wcesil-infographic-2023>

We all know that social isolation and loneliness does not just impact people at certain times, so please continue to use the information provided throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining the Wisconsin Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness (WCESIL), please contact Tim Wellens, Regional Quality Specialist, Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, timothy.wellens@dhs.wisconsin.gov



Reminder: Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar replay available

The November 7, 2023 webinar can be viewed on gwaar.org | Technical Assistance | Health Promotion | Health Promotion Coordinator Webinars | [11-7-2023 Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCAcm4p2uxw).

Watch the replay: <https://youtu.be/zCAcm4p2uxw>

The next quarterly webinar will take place on Tuesday, February 20 from 9 -10:30 a.m. Watch for more updates as we get closer to the date.

Senior Centers

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

Nice to Know

Senior Center Summit: Reframing Aging webinar

Monday, December 11 | 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Hosted by the National Council on Aging (NCOA)

Americans are living longer and healthier lives but the way we think about aging has not changed; rather, ageism and implicit bias towards age continues to impact our society.

NCOA and the National Center to Reframe Aging are dedicated to ending ageism by advancing an equitable and complete story about aging in America. Join them for three, one-hour presentations to learn more about the National Center to Reframe Aging and the power of framed messages and research-based communication strategies.

Register or learn more: https://connect.ncoa.org/p/SummitReframingAging2023#tab-product_tab_content

