



Volume 6, No. 11 March 12, 2024
Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974
info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Reminder: ADILN conference Registration open through March 31

Wisconsin Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Network conference

April 23–25, 2024

Join leaders from the Wisconsin Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Network April 23–25, 2024, in La Crosse, WI. This conference is focused on improving the lives of older people and adults with disabilities. Attendees will enjoy two full days of learning and have numerous opportunities to learn, network, and collaborate with each other.

Register for the conference: <https://bit.ly/49fS3xz>

More information: <https://gwaar.org/adiln-2024>

Exhibitor Opportunity

Exhibitor booth, registration and payment information:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008054>

Agencies and vendors are invited to host an exhibition booth at the conference. The expo hall will be open throughout the conference, and attendees will have ample time to visit.

The conference will bring together more than 500 professionals in the ADILN field, including professional staff and board members from:

- Aging and disability resource centers.
- County and Tribal Nation aging units.
- Tribal Nation aging and disability agencies.
- Independent living centers.
- Human services departments.
- Senior centers.
- Advocacy organizations.
- Disability services organizations.

Space is limited! The first 40 organizations to register and send payment will be accepted.

If your organization serves the aging, disability, and independent living communities, [register now!](#)

Exhibitor registration: <https://bit.ly/3Td7TE1>



Reminder: From the Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter
38th Annual Wisconsin State Conference

May 5-6, 2024, Wisconsin Dells

Registration is now open for the 38th Annual Wisconsin State Conference, May 5 - 6, 2024 — "Pioneering Hope: Through Research, Treatment, Education and Support."

The conference is for professional and family caregivers, here is the link to see who is speaking and the various topics that are being offered.

Conference schedule: <https://www.alz.org/wi/events/wisconsin-state-conference>

Join us at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells so we can improve the lives of those living with dementia and their families. Learn more about the conference and register today.

More information and registration: <https://bit.ly/4c19q7w>



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Federal FY24 Funding: Fourth Short-Term Funding Bill Passed

Late last month, the House and Senate approved a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) to avert a government shutdown. This latest (and fourth) CR moved the two government funding deadlines (which were set at March 1 and March 8) to March 8 (for six funding bills including the Department of Agriculture and Department of Transportation) and March 22 (for the six remaining funding bills which includes the department of Labor and Health and Human Services [where the Older Americans Act is funded]). President Biden signed the short-term spending bill into law on Fri., March 1. This new CR gave the House and Senate Appropriations Committees (of which U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Mark Pocan are members) additional time to complete their funding work and to process bills in both houses.

Late last week, just hours before the deadline set by the most recent CR, the House and Senate passed a six-bill minibus to fund the departments of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Interior, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Commerce and Energy, and other offices through the rest of fiscal year 2024 (which ends 9/30/24). This past Saturday, President Biden signed that bill into law.

With this first package of spending bills now signed into law, Congress can focus on the remaining six full-year spending bills (including the Department of Health and Human Services which contains Older Americans Act funding) which have a funding deadline under the CR of March 22.

Nationally aging advocacy organizations continue to advocate against cuts to the Older Americans Act programs and to push for a minimum of current FY23 funding levels.

Older Americans Act: Final Rule to Update Older Americans Act Regulations

Last month, the federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) released a final rule to update the regulations for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs.

-continued-

The new regulations are set to take effect on March 15, 2024; however, entities regulated under the OAA will have until October 1, 2025 to comply. ACL is planning to provide technical assistance and other resources to support states, tribes and tribal organizations, area agencies on aging, and others in the aging network in meeting the new requirements. For more information, see ACL's [Final Rule](#) and [Overview](#) of the final rule.

ACL's Final Rule: <https://acl.gov/OAARule>

ACL's Overview of the final rule:

https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/oam/2024/OAA_FinalRuleOverview2024.pdf

Older Americans Act: Reauthorization

In 2025, the Older Americans Act (OAA) will celebrate its 60th anniversary! The OAA is currently reauthorized through Sept. 30, 2024. A strong OAA reauthorization is key to ensuring a network of national, state, tribal, and community-based organizations can plan for and implement programming that aims to ensure all older adults, especially the most vulnerable, can age well with health and economic security.

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), of which U.S. Senator Tammy Balwin is a member, is overseeing the 2024 reauthorization of the OAA. The HELP committee held a hearing on Thursday, March 7. You can view the hearing [here](#).

View the hearing: <https://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/the-older-americans-act-supporting-efforts-to-meet-the-needs-of-seniors>

Following the hearing, the HELP Committee Chairman Sanders (I-VT) and committee members released a bipartisan [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) to give stakeholders an opportunity to help shape the goals and priorities for OAA reauthorization.

Request for Information: <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/HELP-OAA-RFI-2024.pdf>

The Committee is specifically seeking feedback on the effectiveness of pandemic-era flexibilities and policies from the 2020 reauthorization. If you are interested in sharing your feedback, written responses can be sent to OAA@help.senate.gov. **The deadline for submitting feedback is March 21, 2024.**



Join us for Aging Advocacy Day May 14!

www.gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024 | #WIAgingAdvocacyDay #WIAAD24

Reminder: Aging Advocacy Day 2024

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Registration opens March 14, 2024

Are you interested in issues affecting older adults and caregivers? Would you like to tell your legislator what aging/caregiver services mean/have meant to you, your family, or those you serve?

If you answered yes, please join members of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN), aging network professionals, older adults, and family caregivers on **Tuesday, May 14** to “tell your story,” and help educate state legislators about issues impacting Wisconsin’s aging population.

Citizens from around the state will gather in Madison on Tuesday, May 14 for training, to meet with other constituents from your Senate and Assembly district, and for office visits with your legislators.

-continued-

No experience is necessary; you'll get the training and support you need before meeting with state lawmakers. Following the training, join others from your state Senate and Assembly district to provide information and share personal stories with your legislators to help them understand how specific policy issues and proposals impact you, your family, and older constituents.

Registration begins March 14, 2024. The registration link will be posted at: <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024>. Check back regularly for updates.

Family Caregiver Support

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

Nice to Know

2024 Healthy Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment Education Series

Helping people across Wisconsin live and cope with an MCI diagnosis.

Friday, March 15, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Join Nathaniel Chin, MD, and Jennifer McAlister from the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, and guest speakers, to learn more about Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI). Each program will end with a Q&A session.

Register to attend each program in person throughout the year at one of five locations across Wisconsin in Brown, Dane, Dodge/Jefferson, La Crosse, or Rock counties. Or register to participate from anywhere, live online via Zoom, through each date's registration link.

March 15 Topic: Precision Medicine: Alzheimer's Disease Biomarkers and New Therapies

Registration:

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rfu6opj8jGtwwPWNV-JX8X958NFzil1AI#/registration>

More information: <https://www.adrc.wisc.edu/mci>

Healthy Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) Education Series

Helping people across Wisconsin live and cope with an MCI diagnosis

**March 15, 2024
9:30-11:30 a.m.**

Register to attend the program in person at one of five locations across Wisconsin in Brown, Dane, Dodge/Jefferson, La Crosse, or Rock counties. Or register to participate from anywhere, live online via Zoom, through each date's registration link.

Programs are free and open to the public.

How to register: Call the location where you wish to attend in-person or register to attend programs for free online at [adrc.wisc.edu/mci](https://www.adrc.wisc.edu/mci) or by scanning the QR code below.

Locations:

- Brown County:** Wisconsin Aging and Disability Research Center of Brown County. Telephone: contact the Brown County ADRC at 800-448-4300.
- Dane County:** UW-Madison Health Services Center. Telephone: contact the Madison Senior Center at 608-263-9800.
- Dodge/Jefferson County:** Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Telephone: contact the Dodge County ADRC at 800-448-4300 or <https://www.adrc.wisc.edu/mci>.
- La Crosse County:** Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Telephone: contact the La Crosse County ADRC at 608-785-5000.
- Rock County:** Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Telephone: contact the Rock County ADRC at 608-785-5000.

About the Series: Healthy Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) is a series of programs designed to help people with MCI live and cope with their condition. Each program will end with a Q&A session.

Questions? Contact: nathaniel.chin@wisc.edu or jennifer.mcalister@wisc.edu

ADRC Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

MSC 55+ Wisconsin

Reminder: Survey opportunity for family caregivers

Caregiver Coordinators and other professionals within the Aging & Disability Community, the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) is looking for your HELP! Please share this survey opportunity with your family caregivers!

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) and Falls Free® Wisconsin are surveying family caregivers to learn more about their thoughts on falls risk and prevention. We would greatly appreciate your help in sharing our survey to your family caregivers!

Survey link: <https://bit.ly/3SF5Vfp>

Did you know? Home safety assessments, minor home improvements/equipment and wellness classes are available to family caregivers through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services caregiver support and falls prevention programs!

For more information: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/caregiver.htm>

-continued-

Use the flyer and QR code with the sample language provided below when sharing:

"Falls are the leading cause of injury and death of older adults in Wisconsin. Caregivers are in a unique position - you provide care for individuals that may be at risk of falling while you yourself may also be at risk. Prevention can make all the difference to help you and the person you care for stay safe and avoid injuries.

"The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) and Falls Free® Wisconsin are surveying family caregivers to learn more about your thoughts on falls risk and prevention. We would greatly appreciate your input! Please take 3-5 minutes to complete the survey below. Thank you for your time and consideration!"



SCAN ME



Health Promotion

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

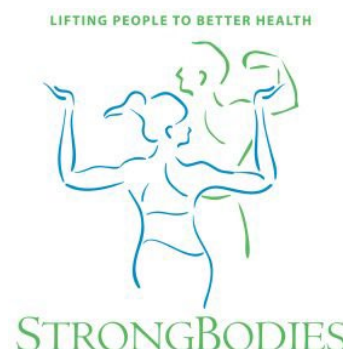
Nice to Know

Online Health Promotion Programming Opportunity for OAA Title III-D Funding

UW Madison Extension StrongBodies Series

- Class offered via Zoom
- Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. weekly for 11-12 weeks
- Aging Units can reserve spots for county residents with III-D funding (\$50 per/participant)

After Extension receives your request for spots, you will be mailed invoice for payment, flyer for upcoming virtual series for promotion (editable for you to add your local contact info) and link to online registration for the virtual class so you can register your local residents.



Reserve spots here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdR3AiuppiZvIaWzYTk3YmpmFpAMhM-9EAtqJX8JWAuvqqAKw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Participant demographic information will be sent to you for your WellSky (SAMS) reporting after the deadline for each series.

For more information about StrongBodies visit here:

<https://healthyliving.extension.wisc.edu/programs/strongbodies/>

Upcoming 2024 Virtual StrongBodies series:

- Spring Series: April 9 - June 27 (registration deadline Friday, May 3)
- Summer Series: July 9 - September 26 (registration deadline Friday, Aug. 2)
- Fall Series: October 1 - December 19 (registration deadline Friday, Oct. 25)

For more information on this virtual opportunity, contact Jen Whitty, Health Promotion Programs Coordinator - jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu

Medicare Outreach and Assistance

Nice to Know

[Alyssa Kulpa](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Reminder: Continuing Education Hours (CEH) Opportunity for SHIP counselors and supervisors

Thursday, April 4, 2024

An optional SHIP training on 4/4/24 "Partnerships and Professional SHIP Volunteers" will be presented by Michelle Grochocinski, WI SHIP Director, Samantha Margelofsky, DHS Volunteer Program Coordinator, and Alyssa Kulpa, GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator.

Intended audience: SHIP counselors and supervisors interested in expanding their partnerships and/or identifying when it is advantageous to invite partners to become SHIP volunteers. Training objectives:

- Identify how to maximize the impact of a partnership
- Learn when and how to refer prospective professional SHIP volunteers
- Review conflict of interest rules regarding professional partnerships

DHS has partnered with UW-Stevens Point to issue Continuing Education Hours/Units (CEH/CEU) to SHIP training participants. You must attend LIVE trainings to be eligible for CEHs/CEUs. Your attendance is verified using Zoom attendance reports and completion of the survey after the live event.

Outlook event: <https://bit.ly/3lzw35P>

Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3wExFbn>

For questions regarding the training, email Alyssa Kulpa, GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator, at alyssa.kulpa@gwaar.org.

For questions regarding the Continuing Education Hours (CEH) Opportunity, email Pam Watson, MIPPA Grant Coordinator, at pamela.watson@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day, March 13, 2024

Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered Day, March 14, 2024

Help the GWAAR Nutrition Team recognize and show appreciation to all the Registered Dietitians Nutritionist and Nutrition and Dietetic Technicians who work for, or partner with, the Wisconsin Elder Nutrition Program! We are tremendously grateful for their passion and expertise, which is a valuable asset as we all work together to best nourish older adults.

Local programs can find ideas to celebrate their dietitians here:

<https://www.eatright.org/health/wellness/awareness-campaigns/rdn-day>

<https://www.eatright.org/health/wellness/awareness-campaigns/ndtr-day>



Get great ideas for beans from MyPlate.gov

Beans are a weekly feature for nutrition programs, so there are plenty of opportunities to try new recipes. The March Recipe of the Month on MyPlate.org features White Bean Bruschetta and their newsletter includes additional bean recipes to try, including Beet & White Bean Salad and Black Bean Quesadillas.



White Bean Bruschetta

<https://www.myplate.gov/recipes/myplate-cnpp/white-bean-bruschetta>

Also available in Spanish!

<https://www.myplate.gov/es/recipes/myplate-cnpp/bruschetta-de-frijoles-blancos>

Interested in learning more?

The site also has an entire section devoted to Registered Dietitian Nutritionists.

<https://www.myplate.gov/professionals/toolkits/dietitians-and-nutritionists>

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

[Ingrid A. Kunder](#), Senior Medicare Patrol Program Director

Nice to Know

Translation services are now available for the Senior Medicare Patrol website

Visit the site: <https://www.smpwi.org>

The available languages represent the largest populations with limited English proficiency in Wisconsin. These languages are Spanish, Hmong, German, Russian, Chinese-Mandarin, Italian, Polish, and Laotian.

To read the information in another language, there is a drop-down box in the upper right-hand corner of the website homepage. The newsletters and fraud alerts are not translated yet, but all other content on the website is available in these languages. This represents the first of many efforts the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol will launch to reach culturally diverse and underserved populations across the state. Stay tuned for more updates on these efforts!

