**Medicare Outreach Idea of the Month**

April 2024

**Be *Powered by Connection* for Older Americans Month!**

May is Older Americans Month (OAM), a time when the nation celebrates the contributions and resilience of older adults. Led by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), this year's OAM theme is "***Powered by Connection***." The theme highlights the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on the health and well-being of older Americans. Research shows that strong social connections can improve mental health, cognitive function, and overall quality of life.

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As we observe OAM, it's a great opportunity to get involved in your community. Local Senior/Community Centers and libraries often host events to celebrate older Americans. Consider reaching out to these organizations to see how you can participate or contribute. You could offer a presentation on topics like Medicare, low-income assistance, or the services provided by a SHIP counselor.

Another way to get involved is to partner with other organizations that serve the older adult population. Collaborating with these groups can help you reach a wider audience and educate other professionals about your services. It's also a chance to connect with the community and build relationships that can benefit older adults in your area.

ACL offers a wealth of resources to promote OAM on their [Older Americans Month 2024](https://acl.gov/oam/2024/older-americans-month-2024) webpage. Be sure to check out these materials and follow #OlderAmericansMonth and #PoweredByConnection for the latest updates and ideas from ACL and others planning OAM events.

Let's make this Older Americans Month a time of connection, celebration, and support for our older adults. Together, we can create a more connected and inclusive community for people of all ages.

**Updates on the** [**Medicare Outreach and Assistance Resources webpage**](https://gwaar.org/medicare-outreach-and-assistance-resources)**:**

* SHIP Volunteer Resources/Basic SHIP Counselor Training
	+ [April 8-19, 2024: Registration Instructions for Basic SHIP Counselor Trainings](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008069) added.
* Tools for Professionals
	+ [2024 Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and Medicare](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007737) updated.
	+ [2024 Special Enrollment Period (SEP) Chart](https://gwaar.org/1011-special-enrollment-period-sep-chart) updated.
	+ [2024 Medicare Premiums & Costs Chart NCOA](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006365) updated.
	+ [2024 Part D Cost Sharing Chart NCOA](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008001) updated.
* Partnership Toolkit
	+ [Partnership Outreach - Tip Sheet](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007249) updated.
	+ [Food Pantry Outreach - Tip Sheet](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007269) updated.
* Other Printable Outreach Materials
	+ [2024 Table Tent MSP/LIS/SeniorCare](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006504) updated.

By the GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator

**Upcoming Optional SHIP training:**

**Partnerships and Professional SHIP Volunteers**

* **Date:**Thursday, April 4, 2024, from 1–2 p.m.
* [Zoom link](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus06web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F82854233636%3Fpwd%3Df2Da5qCXR5ATs0RrxlOSKhc8Rji7pq.1&data=05%7C01%7CAlyssa.Kulpa%40gwaar.org%7C63f8d5a521e346db908808dbf115f051%7C8e087664409d4c4ca6b47aa01020d6ea%7C0%7C0%7C638368849280849660%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4FKgIfwCz%2FvdNUXBA2QgTm5bTzEJJ%2F%2BNea9HkR%2Ff7Yc%3D&reserved=0); [Outlook event](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcontent.govdelivery.com%2Fattachments%2FWIDHS%2F2023%2F11%2F29%2Ffile_attachments%2F2699177%2FOptional%2520SHIP%2520Training%2520-%2520SHIP%2520Volunteer%2520Partnership%2520Training%25202024.04.04%2520-%2520Outlook%2520event.ics&data=05%7C01%7CAlyssa.Kulpa%40gwaar.org%7C63f8d5a521e346db908808dbf115f051%7C8e087664409d4c4ca6b47aa01020d6ea%7C0%7C0%7C638368849280856411%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2ua8T2H2sCS9sMv77eUSznA2wxjkPraOo2sIpdgxlzs%3D&reserved=0)
* **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.
* **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

**Continuing Education Hours (CEH) Opportunity**

DHS has partnered with the University of Wisconsin-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.

Please email Alyssa Kulpa, GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator, at alyssa.kulpa@gwaar.org with any questions regarding the trainings and please email Pam Watson, MIPPA Grant Coordinator, at pamela.watson@dhs.wisconsin.gov

with any questions regarding the Continuing Education Hours (CEH) Opportunity.