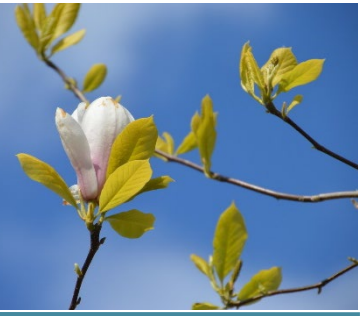




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Join us for Aging Advocacy Day May 14!

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

Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Apply for the Small Dollar, Big Impact AARP Grant by May 21, 2024

Applications are accepted from across Wisconsin for “Small Dollar, Big Impact” grants, which will be awarded to new projects that are designed to improve a community and make it a better place for everyone to live, work, and play as they age. Projects must use the AARP Livable Communities Resource library in their development. Here, you will find publications and tool kits that provide ideas on placemaking, public space improvements, or simple ways to address walkability, to name a few. AARP Wisconsin may award a grant of up to \$1,000 to at least one eligible applicant. The grant amount could be a portion of or the total cost for the project. Projects must be completed within 60 days from winner announcement. If your project includes public engagement, please ensure that the activities follow all local/state guidelines.



Small Dollar, Big Impact grants are simple, short-term, low-cost solutions that could have remarkable impacts on the shaping of neighborhoods and cities, making life better in communities across Wisconsin. We know how impactful \$1,000 can be. This is a way for the AARP to extend some seed money to get these projects off the ground.

For more information or to apply: <https://bit.ly/44dndob>

Bilingual Outreach & Education Coordinator Job Opening

GWAAR currently has a 30 hours/week Bilingual (Spanish/English) Outreach & Education Coordinator position available with the Senior Medicare Patrol program.

This position is responsible for increasing the awareness of the Senior Medicare Patrol program and mission among the Spanish-speaking communities in Wisconsin. The position is remote with a flexible location within the state of Wisconsin; however, we anticipate much of the partnership building and outreach will be in the greater Milwaukee area. The Bilingual Outreach & Education Coordinator will deliver educational presentations and conduct outreach, identify potential volunteers to be engaged with this work, provide bilingual support with the toll-free helpline to answer inquiries and provide beneficiary education regarding billing issues and suspected fraud, and work to develop and strengthen partnerships with other agencies and professional associations.

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A bachelor's degree and bilingual proficiency, written and oral, in Spanish/English is required. This position requires daily interaction with Medicare beneficiaries and professionals who work with Medicare beneficiaries; therefore, superior written and oral communication skills are necessary. Familiarity with Medicare, Social Security, and/or other benefit programs is highly desirable. Access to a reliable vehicle, a valid driver's license, and the ability to occasionally travel overnight throughout the state are required.

Read the complete job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008147>

Reminder: Employment opportunity: VSDP Care Consultant

The Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) helps Veterans needing assistance choose their own caregivers, services, and supports to be able to safely and successfully remain living in their home. In conjunction with the Veteran and their family, the VSDP Care Consultant is responsible for assessing the Veteran's abilities and level of functioning, identifying areas of need and preferences for meeting those needs, developing a care plan to meet the needs; assisting the Veteran and family caregiver with setting up and purchasing goods and services within their individual budget allocation; and assisting the Veteran with monitoring service provision. This position requires a significant amount of travel within the North Chicago, Tomah, Madison, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis VAMC catchment areas. Ideal candidate will be located in Central part of the state (Stevens Point, Wausau, nearby areas) and/or Dane County area.

Read the complete job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008093>

Additional GWAAR employment opportunity: EBS Training Coordinator

Read the complete job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008003>

Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Ageing Advocacy Day In-District Events: Virtual Training for Hosts (or those considering hosting)

Monday, April 29 | 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a training on how to host an In-District Ageing Advocacy Day event in your area! This training will provide information on what these events are, how to plan and execute a successful event, inviting legislators, and outreaching to potential attendees. We will also take time to answer any questions.

This training is open to anyone who is planning to host, or is interested in hosting, an In-District Ageing Advocacy Day event in the coming months. If you are unsure if you will host a training, you can still attend this meeting to see if this is the right opportunity for you and your organization. In-District Ageing Advocacy Day events bring together State legislators, aging advocates, and aging network partners in their home community to discuss crucial policy priorities.

Meeting in-district allows you to bring legislators into a location that is meaningful to your aging population, like a Senior Center, congregate dining site, ADRC/aging unit, or supportive service center. This is a great opportunity to develop your relationship with your legislators!

For questions, please contact: Emily Petersen, Advocacy and Policy Manager- Aging, Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services at Emily.Petersen@milwaukeecountywi.gov and/or 414-639-6532. More information and registration: <https://bit.ly/44bxBwA>

Reminder: Aging Advocacy Day 2024 – Registration open through April 29!

Are you interested in speaking out on issues affecting older adults and family caregivers?

On May 14, 2024, join members of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN), aging network professionals, older adults,

and family caregivers at an in-person Aging Advocacy Day (AAD) 2024 event in Madison to “tell your story” and help educate your state Senator and Assembly Representative and/or their staff about issues impacting Wisconsin’s aging population. Your voice matters!

Registration for Aging Advocacy Day closes April 29, 2024.

More information and registration: <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024>.

Pre-Advocacy Day Virtual Training

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 | 1:00-2:00 p.m.

The virtual training is not required to attend Aging Advocacy Day, but is recommended.

To help attendees prepare for legislative visits, the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network is hosting a virtual information session with a brief overview of this year’s issues and talking points. Those unable to attend Aging Advocacy Day in-person are also welcome to attend the virtual event and are encouraged to contact their state legislators independently or as part of a local, in-district meeting.

Additional information on in-district meetings will be posted online the week of April 22 at <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024>.

Additional resources and resources for National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD)

We hope everybody was able to share and celebrate National Healthcare Decisions Day on April 16 by attending an event or checking out the many available resources. The celebration continues all year long to help raise awareness about the importance of reviewing our health care wishes.

These ongoing events and conversations are intended to empower people to complete advance directives by providing education on the importance of advance care planning and sharing the tools (forms, resources, guides, training) to help them express their wishes regarding healthcare.

The following events will be held later in April or May:

- Fox Valley, Appleton: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008095>
- **May 8** - Virtual via the UW Health's Advance Care Planning Coordinators
Registration: <https://bit.ly/3QjZ09V>
- **May 30 at 1:00 p.m. (in-person only)** with Legal Action of Wisconsin's SeniorLAW Attorneys.
No advanced registration required. At the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Note: If you are holding an advance directives workshop or training in your area that isn't listed here, please send us your information.

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For more information and access to advance directive forms:

- Visit the Wisconsin Medical Society website at:
<https://www.wismed.org/wismed/wismed/about-us/advance-care-planning.aspx>
- For answers to your questions or for assistance with forms, see this contact list on the Wisconsin Medical Society's website - [Advance Care Planning Wisconsin Contacts - April 2023.pdf - Google Drive](#) (includes Wis. healthcare facilities and community organizations such as ADRCs/aging units):
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hQRKHcXCEZQ21pdEYITo5ExaOuQbr6-L/view?pli=1>
- For additional information and resources, go to: <https://theconversationproject.org/>
- Advance directive forms and guides can be found at:
 - [Advance Directives | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/advdirectives/index.htm>
 - Guardianship Support Center Resources <https://gwaar.org/guardianship-resources>
 - [Advance Care Planning & Advance Directive \(wismed.org\)](#)
 - [Let'sTalk, Fox Valley Fox Valley Advance Care Planning Partnership \(fvacpp.org\)](#)

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

On April 18, 2024, we celebrated the first anniversary of the Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers. The National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) <https://www.caregiving.org/> has highlighted the progress that has been made since then. Take a peek and reflect on what we've accomplished!

There continues to be more work ahead! #Caregivation

NAC link: <https://www.caregiving.org/>

NAC video: https://www.canva.com/design/DAF2Eeboqwl/kfNDiZbUI5v_sPaQlozitQ/watch



Nice to Know

Webinar: Empowering Care Partners: Tips, Tools and Take Aways supporting those caring for someone living with Parkinson disease

Wednesday, April 24 | 1:00 p.m.

From WellMed Charitable Foundation, Empowering Care Partners: Tips, Tools and Take Aways supporting those caring for someone living with Parkinson disease with Sheila Moore, LCSW, MSG.

Family members play a vital role in the lives of those living with Parkinson's disease. Care partners have their own journey through Parkinson's disease. Care partners face daily challenges that can include concerns for their partner, depression, fears, and a variety of stressors. Care partners often find themselves last on their daily, "To Do" list. This online seminar will focus on celebrating the Care Partners in our lives and our PD community. Together we will explore tips, tools, and takeaways to support care partners with the daily care of those living with PD. **Additional information and registration:**

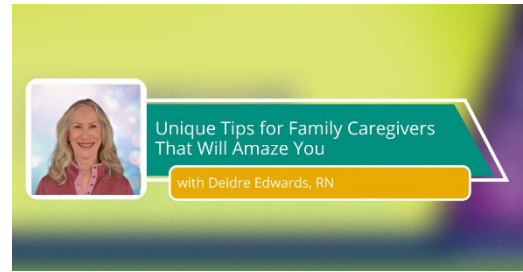
<https://www.wellmedcharitablefoundation.org/caregiver-support-caregiver-teleconnection-events/>



Webinar: Unique Tips for Family Caregivers That Will Amaze You

Tuesday, April 30 | 10:00 a.m.

From WellMed Charitable Foundations, Unique Tips for Family Caregivers That Will Amaze You. Using examples from her book, Toolkit for Caregivers, Deidre Edwards, RN, will be revealing some amazing caregiver hacks she used when taking care of her husband who was confined to bed and under hospice care for two years. She will be providing down-in-the-trenches, practical hands-on tips that will instantly empower listeners with confidence-boosting ideas to transform their caregiving experiences.



Additional information and registration:

<https://www.wellmedcharitablefoundation.org/caregiver-support-caregiver-teleconnection-events/>

Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium

Thursday, May 2, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration is open for the 7th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day (OAMHAD) Symposium, being held May 2, 2024. This virtual event is free and includes a full day of sessions on how to best meet the mental health needs of older adults. In partnership with Rush University's E4 Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Disparities in Aging, the National Council on Aging (NCOA) anticipates offering free CE credit for several professions.



The event will include a keynote address from "Black-ish" star Jenifer Lewis and actionable steps participants can take back to their own communities.

View the agenda and register: <https://connect.ncoa.org/oamhad2024-agenda>.

Save the date! May 2 Veteran Respite Resource Event

Thursday, May 2 | Community Living Alliance,
1414 Mac Arthur Rd, Madison, WI 53714

Connect with local Madison organizations and veteran caregivers. Learn about respite car in-home care services, health and wellness options and much more!

To reserve your spot, RSVP here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MQ55BR9>

If you are interested in being an exhibitor for the event, please complete this form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FRC9DH6>

A flyer for a 'VETERAN RESPITE RESOURCE EVENT'. At the top, it says 'VETERAN RESPITE RESOURCE EVENT' in green and white. To the right, it says 'SAVE THE DATE!' in white on a green background. Below the title, there are four bullet points: 'Connect with local Madison organizations and veteran caregivers', 'Community supports for veterans, veteran caregivers, and their families', 'Learn about respite care, in-home care services, health and wellness options and much more!', and 'May 2, 2024 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm'. At the bottom, it says 'Community Living Alliance 1414 Mac Arthur Rd, Madison, WI 53714'. There is a QR code and the text 'RSVP HERE' and 'https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MQ55BR9'. At the very bottom, it says 'Respite available on site. Reservation Required. Space Limited.' and 'Community Living Alliance' with the tagline 'Bringing Health, Independence & Dignity Home'. On the right side, there are three photographs: a couple, a man in a military uniform, and an older woman.

Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Healthy Aging Webinar: Food Safety for Older Adults

Wednesday, May 8 | 1:00 - 2:10 p.m.

May is Older Americans Month, a time to recognize the contributions of our older citizens. It's also the perfect time to talk about food safety risks for older adults. Adults aged 65 and over are particularly vulnerable to foodborne illness and are more likely to be hospitalized or die from it.

According to the CDC, nearly half of people aged 65 and older who have a lab-confirmed illness from Salmonella, Campylobacter, Listeria, or E. coli are hospitalized.

Hear federal experts share resources and discuss communication strategies for reaching adults aged 65 and over with vital food safety information.

Learn about new focus group research on older adult's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to food safety at home.

Registration and more information:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_COWLi7YbTRypOJz-QTFsZA#/registration



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Medicare Fraud Prevention Week, June 3 - 9, 2024

Please join the Senior Medicare Patrol in recognizing Medicare Fraud Prevention Week, June 3 - 9, 2024.

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week focuses on the actions everyone can take to prevent Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse. Medicare Fraud Prevention Week runs the week of June 5, or 6/5, because most people become eligible for Medicare when they turn 65. Medicare Fraud Prevention Week is hosted by the Senior Medicare Patrol, known as the SMP.

Resources for Medicare Fraud Prevention Week are available on the SMP Resource Center website: <https://smpresource.org/medicare-fraud-prevention-week/>

Please contact us directly if you'd like materials to help us spread the word about Medicare-related fraud and scams. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Download the flyer: <https://smpresource.org/download-file/30062>

