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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: 2024 ACL National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants (NSOAAP)

GWAAR has been selected to participate in the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants (NSOAAP). This nationwide survey, in which GWAAR has participated for over 10 years is conducted by the research firm Westat. The NSOAAP survey involves only county contracted Title III services as a different program performance report (PPR) is used by ACL to collect data on nutrition, caregiver, and supportive services provided to Native Americans under Title VI of the Older Americans Act (see: <https://agid.acl.gov/release.html>).



Our role involves uploading to Westat's server randomly selected data on a number of OAA program participants who received a Title III service sometime over the past 12 months. Of that set, approximately 120 individuals will be selected and mailed a paper survey to complete and return to Westat. The survey's cover letter includes a toll-free 'opt out' number individuals may call. Caregivers who are contacted are provided the option of completing an online survey or setting up a time to complete a phone interview. Those clients contacted who do not complete the mailed/online survey will be contacted to do the survey by phone. At all points anyone contacted may opt out of participating.

We are honored to again be working on this project. Involvement of program clients in completing the survey, "... is vital to providing ACL with representative estimates each year to meet Congressional requirements and support ACL budget requests, which are critical to improving long-term services and supports for all consumers." (ACL notification letter). For more information on this year's survey or to search data from previous years see: <https://agid.acl.gov/release.html>

If you have questions about the process in general contact Jayne Mullins, OAA Consultant at: jayne.mullins@gwaar.org.

Nice to Know

Reminder: GWAAR employment opportunities

Find a current listing of open positions and job descriptions at <https://gwaar.org/jobs>

VSDP Care Consultant

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

Bilingual Outreach & Education Coordinator

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

Reminder: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15, 2024

Recognized annually, WEAAD is a time during which we can show our support for victims of elder abuse and neglect. Included with this message is a PDF form you are encouraged to electronically sign and upload to Dropbox (see link). Those submitted through Dropbox will be added to the NCEA WEAAD online gallery. When you save the file title it with the word Wisconsin and then your first name and county/tribe. That way forms submitted from Wisconsin will stand out.

Download the PDF:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008195>



More information, submission link (Dropbox), and sign downloads (English, Spanish, Chinese and Korean):
<https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/finish-the-sentence/>

Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

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 Baldwin 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:

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

Last week, the Senate Special Committee on Aging also held a hearing on OAA Reauthorization. You can view that hearing here:

Senate Aging Committee hearing: <https://www.aging.senate.gov/hearings/the-older-americans-act-the-local-impact-of-the-law-and-the-upcoming-reauthorization>

House and Senate members are in their home states and districts this week for a brief recess period. This is a perfect time to connect with your federal legislators regarding the importance of reauthorizing the OAA.

Take action:

Contact your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson now to advocate for reauthorization of OAA programs and services. Use USAging's Reauthorization Toolkit at www.usaging.org/OAA as you engage your Members of Congress and local grassroots advocates! To get started, see the list of ideas and actions below.

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- **Send an email or letter to your Representative and Senators** (See Wisconsin Members of 118th Congress for contact information). Use USAging’s template letter to get started educating your Members of Congress. It is particularly important that lawmakers hear from you if they serve on the Senate HELP and/or Aging Committee(s) or the House Education and Labor Committees, which have jurisdiction over OAA in Congress. USAging has posted a list of key House and Senate committee members.
 - **Wisconsin Members of 118th Congress:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007697>
 - **USAging’s template letter:** <https://www.usaging.org/Files/USAging-OAAREauth-Toolkit-LetterToCongress-FinalVersion.pdf>
 - **Key House and Senate committee members:** <https://www.usaging.org/Files/USAging-OAAREauth-Toolkit-KeyCommittees-Final.pdf>
- **Engage your Members of Congress on social media.** Use USAging’s OAA social media toolkit on Facebook, LinkedIn and X to spread the word about OAA! Make sure to follow and tag your lawmakers in these posts.
 - **USAging’s OAA social media toolkit:** <https://www.usaging.org/Files/USAging-OAAREauth-Toolkit-SocialMedia-FinalVersion.pdf>
- **Ask your grassroots advocates to email/post a short social media note to lawmakers.** Members monitor their email/website traffic for constituent correspondence, and personal messages resonate most. Ask your grassroots advocates to share why OAA is important to them.
 - **USAging’s Advocacy alert template:** <https://www.usaging.org/Files/USAging-OAAREauth-Toolkit-AdvocacyAlertTemplate-Final-Version.pdf>
- **Share stories in person.** Attend a townhall meeting this week to share how important OAA services are to older adults and caregivers. Better yet, invite your Members of Congress to come see your agency in action and meet some of their constituents receiving OAA services!

We must ensure that all members of Congress know that OAA programs and services enable older constituents and family caregivers to age with health, well-being, dignity and independence in their districts and states.

Nearly 200 Advocates Participated in Aging Advocacy Day 2024

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network’s 8th annual Aging Advocacy Day was a great success! On May 14, nearly 200 advocates from across the state participated in Aging Advocacy Day to meet with their legislators and lift up five budget priorities for the 2025 – 2027 state budget.

The priorities included:

- Investing in Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs),
- Caring for Wisconsin’s Caregivers,
- Safeguarding Nutrition Supports,
- Reducing Falls Among Older Wisconsinites, and
- Supporting Increased Funding for Specialized Transportation



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Thank you to the sponsors, attendees, and volunteers of WIAAD 2024! Your support and participation was appreciated! A special thank you to those who shared their personal stories and helped legislators understand how specific policy issues and proposals impact individuals, families, and older constituents.

View the press release: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008187>

View event photos: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008207>

Read the article from WUWM: <https://bit.ly/4dUe5Jl>

Watch our page for updates on local events, and additional advocacy resources and opportunities.
<https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024>

Reminder: Brain Health Summit

Saturday, June 1 | 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Cairasu: All Things Alzheimer's is thrilled to announce the upcoming Brain Health Summit, taking place on June 1, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

This community event brings together world-renowned experts, researchers, and thought leaders in the field of neuroscience and brain health, including Dr. Nathaniel Chin from the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, and Lisa Simpson from the UW Health Center for Wellness.

Participants will have the chance to learn about cutting-edge developments, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and network with professionals in the field.

We invite and encourage all those interested in brain health - healthcare professionals, caregivers, educators, and the public - to join us for what promises to be a transformative morning of learning and connection.

Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding of brain health and join the conversation about how we can all lead healthier, more cognitively vibrant lives. Save the date for June 1, 2024!

Registration for the event is now open and free of cost.

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008196>

Event registration: <https://tinyurl.com/BrainHealthSummit24>



Aging Plans

Nick Musson, Older Americans Act Consultant

Need to Know

Reminder: Aging Plan training: Writing the Context

Thursday, May 30 | 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

The next Aging Plan technical assistance training will focus on writing the context section of the aging plan. The virtual meeting will be held on May 30, 2024 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. and will look at the components of a context section and how to find and use data for this section of the plan. If you are not registered for this event and would like to, please reach out to Nick Musson at nick.musson@gwaar.org.

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008206>

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Reminder: New and updated caregiver support resources available

NEW and UPDATED documents are available in the Program Management Resource page for both Alzheimer's and National Family Caregiver Support Programs!

*AFCSP-NFCSP-CRGP-Cross Comparison - NEW! <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006749>

*EXAMPLES - AFCSP Coordinator Checklist <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008191>

*EXAMPLES - NFCSP Coordinator Checklist <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008193>

*FAQs for NFCSP and AFCSP - categorized – UPDATED <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008194>

*Waitlist Procedure Policy Examples <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008184>

Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program:

<https://gwaar.org/alzheimers-family-caregiver-support-program>

National Family Caregiver Support Program:

<https://gwaar.org/national-family-caregiver-support-program>

Nice to Know

Local grant opportunity

We know times are tight! If your agency or a partner agency is interested in hosting a caregiver conference, possibly an in-district meeting related to older adult & family caregiver issues, or if you have another event you need additional funds for, consider a Spark Good Local Grant, through Walmart.Org

*Grants range from \$250 to \$5000!

*The next grant cycle submission ends on 7/15/24 - you still have time!

*Great timing! The event could be part of your 2025 - 2027 Aging Plan!

Learn more about the grants:

<https://walmart.org/how-we-give/program-guidelines/spark-good-local-grants-guidelines>



National Survey of Kinship Caregivers

Please share! Kinship caregivers can get a small payment for completing a National Survey conducted by The Ohio State University.

Learn more or take the survey:

https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aeHqgeSytn1VUzo



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[Carrie Kroetz](#) Older Americans Act Consultant – Data Management

Need to Know

Reminder: 2024 Final Budget Submission Deadline

Friday, May 31, 2024

Just a reminder that the deadline to submit the 2024 Final Budget is May 31, 2024. All Aging Units must also complete the online Waiver/I&A Spending form, regardless if a waiver is being requested. And if you are applying for a transfer of funds on the budget form, the online Transfer Request form must also be completed. All documents and links to the forms can be found on the GWAAR Fiscal SharePoint site. If you have any questions please reach out to any GWAAR Fiscal staff person.

GWAAR Fiscal SharePoint site: <https://bit.ly/4dMttaR>

or <https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/gwaaraging/EvPRIAMJYHtGm3wvJVtuczgB3DK1-sK2JJxghfb7RO6EA?e=kW7te1>

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Connectwi.org is now live!

The Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection now has a website! The website has resources for older adults and people with disabilities to stay connected and tools for professionals working to end social isolation and loneliness. Check it out!

Visit the new site: <https://connectwi.org/>



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: 3rd Annual Medicare Fraud Prevention Week

June 3-9, 2024

The Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) will be recognizing the 3rd Annual Medicare Fraud Prevention Week (MFPW) with SMP programs across the country June 3 - June 9, 2024.

A radio campaign will air between May 27 - June 9, featuring a 30-second public service announcement (PSA) talking about Medicare fraud and the SMP program mission. Please let us know if you hear the PSA on the radio in your community!

View the press release: <https://www.smpwi.org/pr-for-medicare-fraud-prevention-week/>

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



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There will also be Facebook posts throughout the week, focusing on MFPW and how everyone can play a role in helping to protect people from Medicare-related fraud. If you don't already, please consider following the Wisconsin SMP on Facebook: @WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol and sharing these posts on your Facebook page.

Wisconsin SMP website: <https://www.smpwi.org/pr-for-medicare-fraud-prevention-week/>

Wisconsin SMP on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol/>