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 Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974
 info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: New GWAAR Partners Resource site now available

We are excited to announce the arrival of the GWAAR Partners Resource-External site, a newly developed GWAAR SharePoint site for use by GWAAR Aging Units and others. This site was designed to provide our partners with a secure and convenient location to access the information you need to support your clients and staff.

Here you will find upcoming GWAAR News and Events, informational and training documents and recordings, and other important resources.

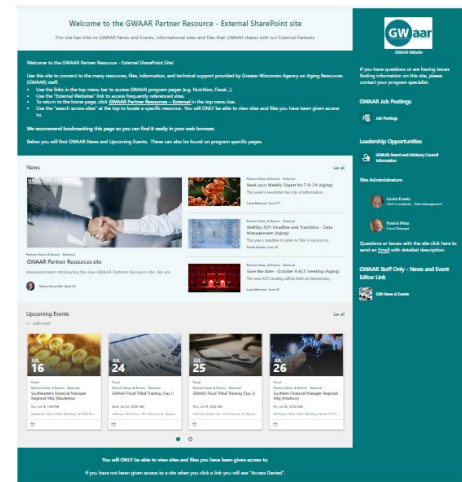
Partner Users must register to access this site:

<https://gwaar.org/registration-for-the-gwaar-partner-resource-external-site>

Once your access has been granted you will receive an email of notification and login security instructions.

All information has been copied over from the document library that was temporarily being used to house GWAAR information, such as the claim form and other training and webinar materials.

If you have any issues or questions related to the new site, please email Carrie Kroetz: carrie.kroetz@gwaar.org



Nice to Know

Richard Lavigne named as new manager of the ELAC

We are pleased to announce that Richard Lavigne was promoted from Elder Benefit Specialist Supervising Attorney to the manager of the Elder Law and Advocacy Center (ELAC).

Rich received his undergraduate degree in Biology from Northland College and worked in fields including environmental chemistry, craft brewing, land surveying, and wetland restoration prior to attending law school. He earned his law degree at the University of Wisconsin in 2007. Prior to joining GWAAR, he served as an Administrative Law Judge with the Department of Workforce Development hearing unemployment appeals during the COVID-19 pandemic. At GWAAR, Rich has worked as a Benefit Specialist Supervising Attorney since August of 2021 working with primarily the Northwestern region of the state.

Congratulations, Rich!



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.

VSDP Care Consultant Employment Opportunity

Read the full job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008217>

Advocacy

Janet Zander, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator

Need to Know

Reminder: House Labor-HHS Subcommittee Advances FY 2025 Appropriations Bill

Earlier this month, the House Appropriations Committee passed the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill. Details are now available regarding funding numbers for all Older Americans Act (OAA) programs.

Good News: The House bill includes increases over the FY 2024 funding for OAA Title III B – Supportive Services, Title III E – National Family Caregiver Support Program, and Title VI – Native American Nutrition, Supportive and Caregiver Services.

Bad News: The House bill makes significant funding cuts for some programs, including the complete elimination of two programs:

Title C1 and C2 Nutrition Programs

Funding for C1 Congregate Meals was reduced by \$22 million and C2 Home-Delivered Meals funding received a \$15 million cut. These funding cuts bring funding for the Nutrition programs nearly back to FY 2023 funding levels.

Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

The SCSEP received no funding under the House Committee bill. Based on an evaluation of the SCSEP that found the program led to unsubsidized employment for less than half of program participant available for employment and even lower rates of unsubsidized employment for participants with a disability and for older adults and participants with lower levels of education.

Adult Protective Services (APS)

The House Committee did not provide any funding for APS. No details were provided as to why this decision was made.

Read the detailed Advocacy update: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008265>

Read and share the Call to Action Advocacy Alert: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008266>

If you have questions or concerns about these Advocacy Alerts, please contact Janet Zander at janet.zander@gwaar.org.

Nice to Know

Reminder: Aging Advocacy Day: In-District Event listing available

Related to Aging Advocacy Day in May, several in-district events have been held or are being scheduled. A listing of these events is available on the Aging Advocacy Day 2024 page. For additional information on holding an event, or to get your event added to the listing, contact Emily Petersen at Emily.Petersen@milwaukeecountywi.gov.

View the listing (updated 7-18-24): <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008262>

Visit the Aging Advocacy Day page: <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024>

Reminder: DHS seeking input on IRIS program waiver renewal

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is seeking ideas/public input on the Medicaid waiver renewal for the IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct) program (Wisconsin's long-term care self-directed Medicaid waiver program). According to the most recent IRIS enrollment data - June 2024 Report - of the 26,489 IRIS participants, 6,310 or roughly 24% of all participants are listed in the frail elders (FE) category.

Enrollment data: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02354-24jun.pdf>

Two online public comment sessions have been scheduled:

- Tues., July 30 at 6 p.m.
- Wed., July 31 at 1 p.m.

Comments on the IRIS program waiver renewal can also be submitted via an online survey through Aug. 2. Find more information about the waiver renewal, the survey, timeline, and public input session registration on the IRIS Waiver Renewal webpage.

Learn more: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/iris/waiver-renewal.htm>

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Empowering Family Caregivers and Direct Care Workers to Meet Growing Demand for Care

Join The National Alliance for Caregiving and PHI for a webinar exploring the key findings of our "Together In Care" issue brief. We'll delve into recommendations on how we can empower family caregivers and direct care workers in supporting older adults and people with disabilities.

More details and registration: <https://bit.ly/4c5J82Z>



Nice to Know

National Respite Care Provider Training Toolkit released

Check this out! Our very own Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) has helped to create a national toolkit!

ARCH and the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin, in collaboration with the National Academy for State Health Policy, released the

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National Respite Care Provider Training Toolkit at the 2024 National Lifespan Respite Conference. The toolkit includes all you need to know to implement an online, competency-based training curriculum for entry-level respite providers and to recruit potential respite providers to take the training.

Find more information here: <https://bit.ly/4dnPmMq>

Fiscal

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

Need to Know

Wellsky Title III data deadline Oct. 18

This year's deadline to enter in Title III services to Wellsky/SAMS AND make sure all client and service data is accurate for the reporting period **October 2023-September 2024** is **October 18th!** For fiscal claim forms, your September (and all prior monthly claims) are due by **November 8th!** This information is then used for the GWAAR region and State of Wisconsin Federal Older American's Act Report.

If, upon reviewing and correcting data, services are removed from Title III to Title VI, NOAA or Family Care, as examples, you must let your fiscal staff know as it will impact your claim forms.

The list of Error and Informational reports to run can be found on the GWAAR Data Management "old" SharePoint Site, along with an instructional guide. We are continuing to work on providing users access to the new GWAAR Partner Resource site.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued work on this and all the hard work you put into it throughout the year! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or book an appointment with me.

carrie.kroetz@gwaar.org

[Carrie Kroetz - Appointment Scheduler \(office365.com\)](#)

<https://outlook.office365.com/book/CarrieKroetzAppointmentScheduler@gwaar.org/>

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Save the Date! Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar

Tuesday, August 20 | 9:00 -10:30 a.m.

Mark your calendars for the next Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar on Tuesday, August 20, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Polly Shoemaker, Attorney at the Wisconsin Guardian Support Center (GSC), will provide an overview of the GSC. Additionally, there will be a panel discussion featuring several Aging Units on how they utilized their ARPA D funds.



GWAAR will also present a summary of their Diversity, Equity & Inclusion self-assessment and provide the latest information on ARPA D funding.

Register today!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrd-mupjoiGNE5eHXC1JvCmYX6RRY3gPEj>

Nice to Know

Stepping On New Facilitator Training Added!

November 18-20 | 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Due to high demand, the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) added another Stepping On Facilitator Training this fall. Now is the time to spread the reach of your Stepping On falls prevention program and train additional facilitators.



Facilitator requirements include:

- Must be a healthcare professional, aging network professional, fitness specialist or other professional that works with older adults.
- Must be employed by or volunteer for a registered program provider.
- Must hold at least one community workshop every 12 months.
- Must identify an eligible co-facilitator.

Stepping On is researched and proven to reduce falls by 31%! This evidence-based falls prevention program helps older adults reduce their risk of falls, improve their ability to safely navigate their environment, and ultimately, increase their quality of life.

The deadline to apply for this training is October 14, 2024. Cost = \$525.00

If you have questions or want to learn more, please call or email Suzanne Morley, Health Promotion Program Coordinator, at 608-852-0813 or suzanne.morley@wihealthyaging.org. You can count on WIHA to provide technical assistance before, during and after the training.

Stepping On Facilitator training application: <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/s8d8tpv0cls7ng/>

Falls Prevention Awareness Month Resources

Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM) will be here before we know it! The Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition has been hard at work planning for September's awareness month and preparing customizable resources for you all. Here's a snapshot of what's available:

- **Are you hosting an event or activity** in September during FPAM? Share it with others! Submit your activities to the link below and it will be shared on FallsFreeWI.org for the public to see!

Submit your FPAM Event/Activity:

<https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/w1eeci1604bpoe4/>

- **Promotional resources:** Social media graphics & suggested text, newsletter article, press release, and more - coming soon!
- **Webinar:** for professionals on August 5th at 11 a.m. to discuss preparing for FPAM and go through these resources in more depth and network with others. Register below.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrfumoqTlvE9cAZ5e9Exc2WU2i9ca-DgWQ#/registration>

Falls Free WI encourages you to use their materials and align with their theme "Age With Confidence, Prevent Falls" in your communities!

For more info, contact Suzanne Morley at suzanne.morley@wihealthyaging.org or call 608-852-0813.

Visit the Falls Free Wisconsin site: <https://fallsfreewi.org/>



Medicare Outreach and Assistance

[Alyssa Kulpa](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

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

Wednesday, August 7 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

There will be an optional SHIP training coming up on 8/7/24 “Growing Partnerships: Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)” presented by Ingrid Kundinger, Senior Medicare Patrol Program Director, and Alyssa Kulpa, GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator.

Intended audience: SHIP counselors and supervisors seeking to enhance their understanding of the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program and its potential for partnership in Medicare outreach efforts.

Objectives:

- Gain insight into the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program.
- Explore the expanded SMP Volunteer team and their role in advancing mission delivery.
- Learn when to refer to and partner with SMP for successful Medicare outreach in Wisconsin.

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.

Outlook event: <https://zoom.us/meeting/tZ0kf-iurDgtHNJM2MSqLnmBPlI9Pq58xsf/ics>

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89981623766?pwd=6rymD9KtE8kGAA0Y3unw4gUPHAJ6bn.1>

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

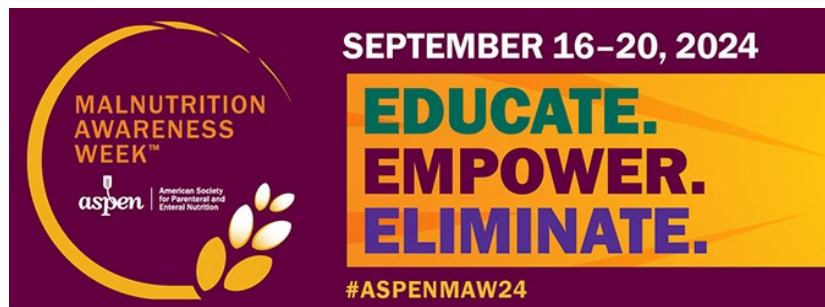
[Pam VanKampen](#), Older Americans Act Consultant - Nutrition Specialist/Senior Center Representative

Nice to Know

Malnutrition Awareness Week is Sept 16-20, 2024

GWAAR has once again partnered with ASPEN, the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, for ASPEN Malnutrition Awareness Week (MAW).

The goal of Malnutrition Awareness Week is to educate healthcare professionals on early detection, prevention, and treatment of malnutrition and educate consumers to discuss their nutrition status with healthcare providers.



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If you use social media to help promote the week, please use the hashtag #ASPENMAW24.

Feel free to help spread the word about MAW. You can also share the discount code **MAW-GWAAR** with your community so they may participate in the MAW24 webinars for free. Instructions on how to register for the webinars are available here: <https://bit.ly/3WtUfNg>

In addition, local programs can use any ASPEN's "Spread the Word" resources. There's a media toolkit, social media graphics, stickers and more:

<https://bit.ly/3WmXR3L>

For more information, visit <https://www.nutritioncare.org/MAW/>

Tribal Technical Center

[Kassy Heard](#), TTAC Program Director

Nice to Know

Reminder: Tribal Cook's Training

Wednesday, July 31 | 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Menominee Food Distribution, Keshena, WI

GLITC Tribal Technical Assistance Center is excited to partner with Chef Alegria from Menominee Nation to offer Cook's Training in Keshena, WI. Open to all Tribal Elder Nutrition Cooking Staff; up to 20 participants.

Planned training will include:

Preparing:

- Savory corn bread
- Bison corn gorditas
- Corn salad
- Corn bread cake
- Corn drink

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008247>

