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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: New GWAAR Partners Resource site now available

Don't forget to register and check out the new GWAAR Partners Resource-External site, for 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, as well as upcoming GWAAR News and Events, informational and training documents and recordings, and other important resources.

Partner Users must register to access this site:

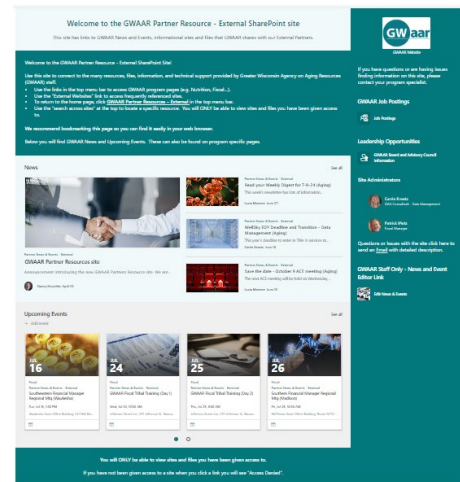
<https://gwaar.org/registration-for-the-gwaar-partner-resource-external-site>

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

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.

Reminder: 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

Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Funding

Last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced the Labor-HHS-Education bill which provides funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging programs. The bill provides flat funding (FY 2024 levels) for OAA Nutrition Programs for FY 2025. While that is certainly an improvement over the House proposed budget which cut the OAA Nutrition program by \$37 million, we **know flat funding represents a cut and presents real risks to local programs and older Wisconsinites**. Congress will consider final appropriations bills following the August summer Recess. In the meantime, we await an update from USAging – our national association – to find out what funding levels the Senate Committee proposed for the remaining OAA and aging service programs. Stay tuned for updates.

Reauthorization

Also last week, **the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee passed S. 4776 - the Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024**. USAging endorsed S. 4776, stating the bill incorporated many USAging priorities in full or in part, including:

- Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Independence: Freedom from state approval around business or health care contracts if no OAA funding is used (limited disclosure only) and updated, clarifying language about when OAA funding is leveraged.
- **Title III D Flexibility:** Funds can now be used for evidence-informed programs as well as evidence-based programs.
- **Nutrition Flexibility:** Grab-and-go meals option is codified in the law, with up to 25 percent of C1 available if the state approves, and the ability to distribute these meals in any community setting.
- Social Isolation: Prioritize national training and technical assistance to the Aging Network on social engagement programming and innovations.
- **Funding Recommendations:** Increase authorization levels by nearly 20 percent over the five-year period.

Next steps:

OAA reauthorization bills typically do not come to a floor vote until there is agreement between the House and the Senate on a final bill. So, our advocacy focus now shifts to the House. Watch for new advocacy alerts in the coming weeks!

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>

Family Caregiver Support

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

Nice to Know

34th Institute on Aging Annual Colloquium

Wednesday, September 18 | 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Gordon Dining & Event Center (2nd Floor) | 770 W. Dayton St., Madison, WI 53706

Open to anyone interested in positive aging, including the general public and professionals working with older adults. Topics include:

- Health and Psychological Well-Being of Parents of Adults with Developmental Disabilities: Impacts of Lifelong Caregiving
- Musculoskeletal Health with Aging: Perspective of an Aging Clinician Researcher
- Caring for My Abuser: Adverse Childhood Experiences and Intergenerational Caregiving
- Expansion, Equity, and the Economy of U.S. Higher Education since the 1960s

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Registration opened on Monday 08/5/24, spots fill up fast! If your plans change, please cancel before Sept. 3, 2024, so there is time to register someone from the waiting list. No walk-ins will be accepted.

Registration: https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7Uq0yONTzLrNZMW



The poster for the 34th Institute on Aging Annual Colloquium features a grid layout. The top left corner has a large '34th' logo. The main title 'Institute on Aging Annual Colloquium' is centered at the top. Below the title, there are four keynotes listed with speaker photos and titles: 1. 'Health and Psychological Well-Being of Parents of Adults with Developmental Disabilities: Impacts of Lifelong Caregiving' by Karsha Jastrick, PhD, UW-Madison. 2. 'Musculoskeletal Health with Aging: Perspective of an Aging Clinician Researcher' by Neil Baling, MD, UW-Madison. 3. 'Caring for My Abuser: Adverse Childhood Experiences and Intergenerational Caregiving' by Joyyoung Kong, PhD, MSW, UW-Madison. 4. 'Expansion, Equity, and the Economy of U.S. Higher Education since the 1960s' by Adam Nelson, PhD, UW-Madison. To the right of the keynotes is a photograph of hands clasped together. On the far right, there is a vertical text box with event details: 'Wednesday Sept. 18, 2024', '8:30am-1:30pm on the UW-Madison campus', 'Includes speakers in Health & Resource Pair with local aging organizations, and a Poster Session showcasing recent aging research', 'FREE & OPEN to the PUBLIC', 'Registration opens the first Monday in August and usually fills up quickly!', 'Sign up to receive event details at aging.wisc.edu', and 'or contact: (608) 262-1918 aging@ssc.wisc.edu'. At the bottom right, it says 'Hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Institute on Aging'. A banner at the bottom of the poster reads 'SPACE IS LIMITED • REGISTRATION OPENS THE FIRST MONDAY IN AUGUST: 8/5/24'.

Fiscal

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

Need to Know

Reminder: 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://office365.com/CarrieKroetzAppointmentScheduler)

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

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Reminder: 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

Reminder: 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/>

Medicare Outreach and Assistance

[Alyssa Kulpa](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Outreach Idea

Every month, the GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator, Alyssa Kulpa, shares a MIPPA outreach idea.

August's Idea of the Month is "Medicare Open Enrollment Period Outreach." Idea of Month resources are an ideal model for your organization to use to meet your outreach goals, educate Medicare beneficiaries, and encourage participants to become advocates for their own health care.

Download the August Idea of the Month: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008271>

View past ideas: <https://gwaar.org/idea-of-the-month>

Reminder: 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 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-iurDgtHNJM2MSqLnmBPLi9Pq58xsfm/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.

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/>

