



Volume 6, No. 50 December 10, 2024
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

USAgging: 2024 Home for the Holidays Campaign

Financial scams and fraud often increase during the holiday season and older adults are a prime target. Find out how older adults can protect themselves with the [2024 Home for the Holidays campaign!](#)

These resources include:

- “Protect Your Wallet”—a downloadable tip sheet in English and Spanish describing common scams and how to avoid them, which can be customized and printed.
- An article template to modify and share in newsletters.
- A press release template.
- Social media posts, including images and campaign hashtags.

View campaign resources: www.usaging.org/h4h2024

PROTECT YOUR WALLET: A Guide to Avoiding Financial Scams

Common Scams Targeting Older Adults

Scams targeting people age 50 and older resulted in over \$3.4 billion in losses in 2023 alone, according to the FBI. Here are some of the most common types of scams and fraud, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Read the complete CFPB list here:

- Charity:** Scammer pretends to represent a real or made-up organization and asks for donations.
- Non-Delivery:** A person buys something online but never receives the item.
- Grandparent:** Scammer pretends to be a grandchild or relative in trouble and asks for money or gift cards.
- Tech Support:** Scammer pretends to be a computer expert offering technical support for tech people into giving access to their computers and personal information.
- Romance:** Scammer pretends to be romantically interested in someone, develops trust and then asks for money or loans.
- Investment:** Scammer threatens to release personal information unless the victim sends money using wire transfer or gift cards.
- Investment:** Scammer pretends to be a financial professional with urgent investment opportunities that are low, including offers to teach you how to invest in cryptocurrency.

Contact the Eldercare Locator
 1-800-677-1116
 Email: eldercarelocator@usaging.org

Reminder: Medicare Outreach Coordinator employment opportunity

The Medicare Outreach Coordinator, in conjunction with the GWAAR benefit specialist supervising attorney team, provides training and technical assistance to Elder Benefits Specialists and the broader community of State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselors.

Read the full job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008362>

Use Your Leadership Skills to Support Older People in Wisconsin

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 leadership team of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), Inc. Our mission is to provide aging offices with training, technical assistance, and support to improve the well-being of older people in Wisconsin.

GWAAR is looking for thoughtful, civic-minded, energetic individuals to serve on its 11-member board and 9-member Advisory Council. Members play a critical role in guiding and overseeing the agency's actions and initiatives.

Learn more: <https://gwaar.org/leadership-opportunities>



Advocacy

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

Need to Know

Governor's Budget Listening Sessions

Governor Evers is convening budget listening sessions across the state of Wisconsin. The listening sessions will help inform the Governor on what's impacting communities most and what resources are needed to help continue to build thriving communities.

Please help spread the word! It's incredibly important that the Governor hears directly from the people of Wisconsin. The listening sessions will follow a similar format as previous sessions and folks can register using the registration links below.



There are three remaining listening sessions scheduled:

Tuesday 12/10 - Milwaukee 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

ThriveOn King, 2153 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Dr, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/governor-evers-milwaukee-budget-listening-session-tickets-1055127939069?aff=oddtcreator>

Thursday 12/12 - Ashland 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Ashland High School, 1900 Beaser Ave., Ashland, WI 54806

Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/governor-evers-ashland-budget-listening-session-tickets-1055194458029?aff=oddtcreator>

Monday 12/16 – VIRTUAL 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Registration Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtduqpqTgoE9Pizvu2wqHuwv84YCKT_Odl

Reminder: Please Contact Senators Baldwin and Johnson - Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization to Advance

After several months of quiet negotiations between the House and Senate OAA committees, and intensive lobbying by our national partner (USAgings), the Senate will attempt to advance the OAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 this week! The House is expected to follow suit quickly.

The Senate is expected to advance an amended OAA reauthorization bill that reflects negotiations between the Senate and House committees with jurisdiction over OAA. USAgings has learned that the Senate intends to "hotline" the bill immediately after the Thanksgiving recess. This means that Senators are informed that leadership intends to move the bill under a process reserved for non-controversial legislation—then Senators are given a short period of time during which to object to use of that "unanimous consent" process. If no Senators object to advancing the bill under that process, then the bill can move quickly to the floor. Such unanimous consent bills do not require much Senate floor time and are often dealt with in batches when the Senate isn't focused on more high-profile, recorded-vote measures.

Despite this promising news, **your advocacy is needed to get the bill across the finish line!** Please use the customizable online messaging tool below to contact Senator Baldwin and Senator Johnson and urge them to support the OAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

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Take Action Now

1. Using the customizable online messaging tool found [here](#), contact Senators Baldwin and Johnson requesting their support of the Senate and House Committees' negotiated version of the OAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 ([S. 4776](#)).

Senate and House Committees' negotiated version of the OAA Reauthorization Act of 2024:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/4776>

Online messaging tool: <https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/promo/63S>

Feel free to customize the message to best reflect the needs of your community.

2. **Engage others in your community to send their own emails to Senators Baldwin and Johnson using the online tool above.**

Please do all you can to amplify the message and engage others who understand the value of OAA in their community! Your advocacy will help to ensure OAA is reauthorized before the new year!



Action Alert:

Tell Congress to Fund Medicare Outreach and Enrollment Activities That Help Low-Income Beneficiaries

For 16 years, Congress has provided modest funding to find and enroll eligible older adults into programs that help people with limited incomes and assets with out-of-pocket health care costs. Without congressional action, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) funding will expire on Dec. 31, 2024. There is still time to protect these dollars, but we need your help!



Navigating Medicare

MIPPA funding helps community-based organizations across the country—like [State Health Insurance Assistance Programs \(SHIPs\)](#), Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)—enroll low-income Medicare beneficiaries in programs that can make their health care and prescription drugs more affordable, like the [Medicare Savings Programs \(MSPs\)](#) and Part D Low Income Subsidy ([LIS/Extra Help](#)). Wisconsin's latest [SHIP Fact Sheet \(P-00166\)](#) includes MIPPA statistics and shows how this essential funding is being used to provide education and assistance with Medicare preventive benefits and financial assistance programs.

State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) <https://www.shiphelp.org/>

Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs)

<https://www.medicareinteractive.org/get-answers/cost-saving-programs-for-people-with-medicare/medicare-savings-programs-qmb-slmb-qi/medicare-savings-program-basics>

LIS/Extra Help

<https://www.medicareinteractive.org/get-answers/cost-saving-programs-for-people-with-medicare/the-extra-helplow-income-subsidy-lis-program/extra-help-basics>

SHIP Fact Sheet (P-00166) <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p0/p00166.pdf>

Although these financial assistance programs can improve health, well-being, and economic security, many who are eligible are not enrolled. Research indicates many who may qualify are unaware of the program's existence.

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In the last three years alone, MIPPA grantees in every state have helped over three million people with Medicare better understand, afford, and use their coverage. If allowed to lapse, these community-based organizations will lose the capacity to conduct vital outreach and enrollment activities, and millions of beneficiaries will remain underserved.

Take Action: Join the Medicare Rights Center in urging Congress to prioritize MIPPA funding. Ask your federal legislators to support these proven community-based outreach and enrollment activities so that more people with Medicare can access and afford their coverage.

Use [this form](#) from the National Council on Aging (NCOA) to weigh in today.

National Council on Aging (NCOA) form: <https://act.ncoa.org/a/mippa>



Data Management

Carrie Kroetz Older Americans Act Consultant – Data Management

Need to Know

Important updates for PeerPlace Training

PeerPlace Training Details:

November 6, 2024 - PeerPlace “go-live” date. Users may begin entering data into the PeerPlace system. Note that WellSky information will remain available for viewing and creating reports through the end of calendar year 2024.

After November 6, you log in using this address:

<https://peerplace.dhs.wisconsin.gov>.

PeerPlace Information Page for Aging: this page contains detailed information related to PeerPlace training including live webinar schedules, live webinar registration links, job aids, user group information, and key dates.

Site for registered users:

https://share.health.wisconsin.gov/ltc/teams/ADRC/SitePages/PeerPlace_Aging.aspx

Recordings of completed webinars can be found on the **PeerPlace Training Vimeo Showcase:** <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11338036>.

Upcoming PeerPlace Training and Drop-in calls (registration required for some):

Optional PeerPlace Q&A opportunities for benefit specialists

These are optional opportunities for benefit specialists to meet with Cheri Stoffel and Michelle Grochocinski to ask questions about PeerPlace. Drop-in calls are informal chats, not formal training.

Tuesday, December 10 | 9:00 – 10:55 a.m.

PeerPlace drop in call for benefit specialists ([Add this meeting to your Outlook calendar](#)—no registration required)

Thursday, January 16 | 2:35 – 4:00 p.m.

PeerPlace drop in call for benefit specialists ([Add this meeting to your Outlook calendar](#)—no registration required)

GWAAR will be coming out shortly with PeerPlace Aging Office Hours for Q&A, as well as program specific trainings. In 2025, we will be conducting regional PeerPlace trainings.



DHS PeerPlace
Training

Please join the GWAAR staff as we host a review and Q&A session with BADR on PeerPlace, focusing on the Nutrition and Caregiver programs. I wanted to get a webinar in before the end of the year, but more will be coming and with more notice. These will be recorded and posted on the GWAAR SharePoint site, if you are unable to make the webinar.

[GWAAR - PeerPlace Review and Q&A Session - Nutrition](#)

Tuesday, December 17 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Registration:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/55fca49d-61c1-41e4-b61a-e36815e56886@8e087664-409d-4c4c-a6b4-7aa01020d6ea>

[GWAAR - PeerPlace Review and Q&A Session - Caregiver](#)

Wednesday, December 18 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Registration:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/445933fb-e19a-42f6-83ad-e4be41445db4@8e087664-409d-4c4c-a6b4-7aa01020d6ea>

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Reminder: Replay for Caregiver Coordinator Statewide call available

The recording, notes, and other meeting materials are now posted and can be found at <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>

Fiscal

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

Need to Know

ARPA Extension contract: now that September claims have been processed, we are able to provide the remaining allocations to the state for GWAAR to receive a new ARPA contract (Oct 2024-Sept 2025). Just as a reminder, this is a new contract not an amended contract extending out the date as before and should be used for expenses from Oct 2024-Dec 2024 for this calendar year, and then Jan 2025-Sept 2025 for expenses in 2025. The allocations will be posted on the Final claim form, until the ARPA funds are available on the claim form Aging Units should report the expenses in Cash Match or using other contract funds on their Oct-Dec claim forms and then adjust as necessary on the Final claim.

NSIP 24-25 contract: GWAAR has received the NSIP contract from the state and will be distributing out Aging Unit contracts shortly. As a reminder, this contract is for the expenses associated with raw food cost only and not the full cost of the meal. The allocations will be posted on the Final claim form, until the NSIP funds are available on the claim form Aging Units should report the expenses in Cash Match or using other contract funds on their Oct-Dec claim forms and then adjust as necessary on the Final claim.

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Other updates:

- The Variance report was delayed in posting and has been posted on SharePoint site Monday, December 9th. The deadline for submission will be December 20th. We are sorry for the inconvenience in the delay. Information to assist in completing the form has been included within the instructions tab (vs a training recording) – please make sure you read this before attempting to complete the form.
- Report 99 in PeerPlace – currently this custom report has not been created in PeerPlace, this will not prevent you from submitting your October claim. We are continuing to work with BADR and PeerPlace to have this available and will let you know when it is – along with providing training on how to run the report.
- The 2024 Re-Ob/De-Ob Request form link is available on the Fiscal Resources site. This form is used to request to de-obligate and re-obligate funds from Title III B-C1-C2-D-E, SSCS, Alzheimer's*, EBS*, or Elder Abuse contract funds. (*Only if your contract is with GWAAR.) Please complete by Dec. 15, 2024.
- If completing a Re-Obligation request, by completing this form you are requesting additional contract funding, if available, which must be spent by Dec. 31, 2024, for expenses from Jan.-Dec. 2024. By completing this form, you understand any requests are not guaranteed and must be claimed by the Final Claim form, due March 5, 2025.

Upcoming:

- The Budget to Actual document will also be forthcoming. This document compares your submitted Final Budget for 2024 against the actual expenses reported. We will host a webinar to assist Aging Unit Fiscal staff in reviewing the information and how to address inconsistencies.

Nice to Know

Dollars & Sense

Check this section for the answers to your Fiscal questions. Watch upcoming issues of the newsletter for more updates!

Q: If we received smoke detectors from a local agency that is Federally funded can we use the estimated cost as In-Kind?

A: If the donating agency is Federally funded then you cannot use the estimated cost as In-Kind as Federal dollars cannot be used as Match against other Federal funds – even if it is a donated service or item.

Q: We claimed expenses of \$5,000 of ARPA B funds prior to the October claim form and now would like to back out \$4,000 to draw down from IIIB to avoid losing funds – can we do this by the Final claim form?

A: The original ARPA contract ended September 30th, 2024 and expenses drawn against these funds cannot be adjusted or changed. This would have needed to be applied by the September claim form.



Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

StrongBodies now available in Hmong

We are excited to inform you that the final StrongBodies recording created in collaboration with PBS Wisconsin is now available! You are able to access and share recordings of StrongBodies classes in English, Spanish and Hmong.

Please share widely the latest recording in Hmong.

Printable PDF flyer to promote the most recent recording:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008394>

Image suitable for social media posting:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008396>

Flyer with QR codes for all three recordings: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008395>

You can also access the recordings through the links below:

- English recording: <https://pbswisconsin.org/watch/university-place/strongbodies-strength-training-for-life-xhmva8/>
- Spanish recording: <https://pbswisconsin.org/watch/university-place/gentefuerte-entrenamiento-de-fuerza-de-por-vida-jktmiw/>
- Hmoob recording: <https://pbswisconsin.org/watch/university-place/lub-cev-muaj-zog-ua-kom-muaj-zog-mus-ib-sim-neej-wdztw/>



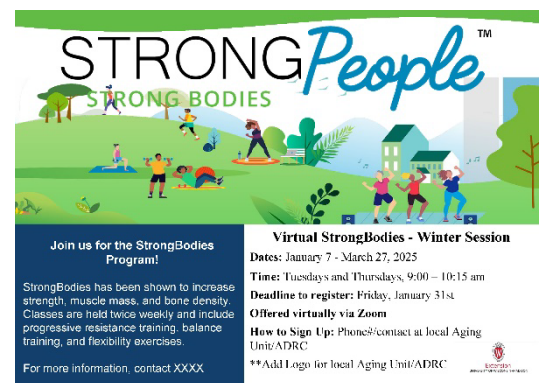
Reminder: Virtual Health Promotion Opportunity for OAA Title III-D and/or ARPA D Funding

UW Madison Extension Virtual StrongBodies Series

- Offered via Zoom
- Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. weekly for 11-12 weeks
- Aging Units can reserve spots for county residents (\$50 per/participant)
- Reserve spots here: <https://bit.ly/41oboMH>

After the Extension receives your request for spots, you will be emailed an invoice for payment, customizable flyer for upcoming virtual series for recruitment and link to online registration for the virtual class to register local participants.

Participant demographic information will be sent to you for Peer Place reporting after the registration deadline for each series.



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Find out more about StrongBodies: <https://healthyliving.extension.wisc.edu/programs/strongbodies/>

2025 Series:

- Winter Session: Jan 7 - Mar 27 (deadline: Fri, Jan 31)
- Spring Session: Apr 8 - Jun 28 (deadline: Fri, May 2)
- Summer Session: July 8 -Sept 25 (deadline: Fri, Aug 1)
- Fall Session: Oct 7 - Dec 18 (deadline, Fri, Oct 31)

Questions? Contact Jen Whitty, Health Promotion Programs Coordinator, Health & Well-Being Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison at jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu

Reminder: Join Our Health Promotion Advisory Group!

Are you a Health Promotion Coordinator, Aging Unit Director, or Manager passionate about improving health and wellness for older adults? We're seeking dedicated professionals to join a new Health Promotion Advisory Group designed to strengthen and enhance our collective efforts in implementing OAA Title III D evidence-based health promotion programs.



Why Join?

This group will meet quarterly to:

- Share challenges, successes, and best practices in implementing evidence-based programs.
- Collaboratively develop solutions to common barriers in service delivery.
- Assist in planning engaging and relevant agenda items for quarterly health promotion webinars.

Benefits of Participation

- Gain valuable insights and ideas from peers.
- Play a key role in shaping effective health promotion strategies.
- Network with other leaders in aging services.

Get Involved

Together, we can advance the health and well-being of older adults in our communities.

To express your interest or for more information, please complete this form: <https://bit.ly/410vtbB>

Let's work together to make a lasting impact in Wisconsin! For questions, contact Angie Sullivan OAA Consultant - Health Promotion at angela.sullivan@gwaar.org

Reminder: Keep Connecting with Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection (WCSC) Network meetings

Tuesday, December 17 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join future conversations and register for future Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection (WCSC) Network meetings. The next meeting will be held virtually on Zoom Tuesday, December 17 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.



Registration (required) for the December 2024 meeting here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufumrrzlgGdLby_Gdyl1Mrw6Ej6wOMbSj#/registration

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WCSC Network meetings 2025: Third Tuesday of every other month | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Save the date for 2025 WCSC Network meetings! Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of every other month (starting in February) from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Registration (required) for 2025 meetings here: <https://bit.ly/4g8VCcB>

Learn more: <https://connectwi.org/about/>

Reminder: In Case You Missed It... Social Connection Awareness Week

Weren't able to attend one or all of the Social Connection webinars during Social Connection Awareness Week? View the recordings on the Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection website (under the Awareness Week Resources drop down) and make a commitment to connection beyond the awareness week!

<https://connectwi.org/for-professionals/awareness-resources/#>

Nutrition

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

Need to Know

Dec. 12 call postponed: Network Call on Cost Efficiency Ideas for the Nutrition Program

Please note that the Cost Efficiency call originally scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 1:30 p.m. has been postponed until January. Stay tuned for the date and time of the rescheduled call.

Reminder: Please join us on December 17 for the Home Delivered Meal Assessor Peer Sharing call

Tuesday, December 17 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

We are excited to host the second Home Delivered Meal Assessor Peer Sharing call on Dec. 17 from 2 to 3 p.m. This call is for anyone who does the HDM initial and annual reassessments.

Tentative Agenda:

- How do you handle No Shows or not canceling meals?
- Other agenda items? Please send to pam.vankampen@gwaar.org

[Click here to join the meeting](#) | <https://bit.ly/3AsrSbz> Meeting ID: 214 394 008 477 | Passcode: dgk4rb

Dial in by phone | [+1 608-338-1382](tel:+16083381382), [685336459#](tel:+1608685336459) United States, Madison | [Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 685 336 459#

Transportation

[Nick Musson](#), Older Americans Act Consultant – Transportation

Nice to Know

ATRC Survey on Accessible Transportation

The Accessible Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) Steering Committee is looking for your input on accessible transportation to help guide their future activities.



**Accessible Transportation
Resource Center**

If you are a Rider, a Driver, Transportation Program Manager, Planner, Advocate or anyone who is involved

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in any way in transportation services in your community, you are invited to respond to a short survey about accessibility. The survey begins with a definition of accessible transportation and should take no more than 10 minutes.

Take the survey: <https://bit.ly/3OT6nUx>

About the ATRC: The Accessible Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) Steering Committee is a group of 20 accessible transportation advocates from across the country who guide ATRC's development and dissemination activities. The Steering Committee plays a pivotal role in building awareness and encouraging the adoption of accessible transportation strategies, inclusive planning, and Mobility on Demand. The meaningful inclusion of diverse older adults and people with disabilities and the insights, knowledge, opinions, and recommendations that riders and would-be transportation users bring to the table are critical to the success of the ATRC.

Learn more: <https://acl.gov/TransportationCenter>

Volunteerism

[Nick Musson](#), *Older Americans Act Consultant – Transportation*

Nice to Know

Webinar and resources to plan ahead for Global Volunteer Month in April

Wednesday, January 29 | 11:00 a.m.

Points of Light offers a free toolkit with resources and ideas to help plan for Global Volunteer Month and prepare for the April 1 social media surge. They provide ideas to honor and engage volunteers in your community.



View the toolkit:

<https://socialpresskit.com/points-of-light#global-volunteer-month>

Want to learn more? Register for the NGO Global Volunteer Webinar on Jan. 29 at 11:00 a.m.

Register for the webinar:

https://pointsoflight.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_26S_K2xZRa-zpdhAAIG1og#/registration

Global Volunteer Month is a time to celebrate volunteers and inspire volunteerism around the globe. Join Points of Light for a webinar to learn how your organization can be a part of Global Volunteer Month and in doing so, thank your volunteers, uplift their stories and inspire others to join the movement. You'll learn more about easy steps to participate, available resources, and practical examples from organizations who have participated in the past.

Learn more: <https://www.pointsoflight.org/global-volunteer-month/>

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Winter edition of The Scoop now available

The Winter edition of the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol's quarterly newsletter, The Scoop, is now available. This issue of The Scoop includes ideas to help you stay ahead of Medicare fraudsters, food safety tips for the fall and winter holidays, ways to stay connected to avoid loneliness, a story about a doctor charged in a Medicare fraud scheme, how to donate wisely on Giving Tuesday, and so much more!

You are welcome (and encouraged) to share this newsletter with anyone you think might find the information useful – whether it be consumers, Medicare beneficiaries, neighbors, family and friends, those who work with older adults, etc.

View the newsletter:

www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Winter-Newsletter-FINAL.pdf

The SMP SCOOP
PROTECT DETECT REPORT WINTER 2024

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Scoop is prepared by the GWAAR SMP Team to help Medicare beneficiaries and their advocates prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, abuse, and errors.

Please feel free to share this publication with others who may benefit from its contents.

TO CONTACT THE SMP
Call: (800) 815-2611
E-mail: smp@sgaiaar.org
Website: www.smpwi.org
Facebook: [@WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol)
To subscribe, please send us an e-mail.

Stay Ahead of Medicare Fraudsters
Resourced from: Medicare.gov

Every day, criminals target older Americans with one goal – to steal their Medicare numbers and other protected health information. To fraudsters, this information is just as valuable as credit card information. These criminals steal Medicare numbers and unlawfully bill Medicare for medical services that were never provided to the patient or overbill for provided services.

When criminals commit fraud, and falsely bill Medicare, patients' medical records may become inaccurate, and they can suffer delayed or even be denied care. In the end, Medicare fraud costs taxpayers.

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SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud