



Volume 6, No. 52 December 31, 2024  
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## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

### Need to Know

#### GWAAR closed Jan. 1 for New Year's Day

GWAAR offices are closed Wednesday, January 1. Happy New Year to you!



#### First quarter ACE meeting is next week

Wednesday, January 8 | 1:30 p.m.

An email reminder will be sent later this week with the agenda. Meeting links are also available in the agenda.

**Read the agenda:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008409>



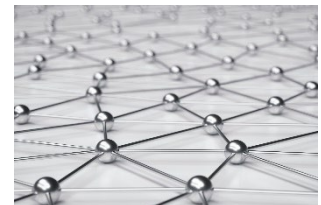
#### Reminder: Mark your calendars for these additional ACE dates in 2025

- Wednesday, April 9
- Wednesday, July 9 *In-person, Stevens Point*
- Wednesday, October 8

#### 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.

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

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

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **UPDATE: Congress failed to include Older Americans Act Reauthorization in stop gap funding bill**

Last weekend, President Biden signed into law H.R. 10545 the American Relief Act to prevent a shutdown of the federal government. This short-term funding bill extends FY 2024 appropriation levels through March 14, 2025. Congress passed this stopgap measure late on Dec. 20. The bill passed in the House (366-34) and in the Senate (85-11).

- The CR provided authorization and funding at federal FY 2024 levels for the Older Americans Act programs and the Medicare Improvements and for Patents and Providers Act (MIPPA).
- The reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) was not included as part of this Continuing Resolution (CR). Congress's failure to pass the bipartisan negotiated OAA reauthorization serves as a sad reminder that the needs of our nation's older adults do not get the attention they need or deserve. As the OAA reauthorization also included the RAISE Family Caregiver updates, these were also not included in the CR.

Final negotiations on the OAA bill were pushed off until the new Congress. Relationships with new and returning Members of Congress and their staffers must be formed to ensure older adults are protected and prioritized. Though we have bipartisan support for OAA reauthorization and generally for continued funding, aging advocates will need to be able to break through the noise to protect key aging programs!

Thank you for your continued advocacy. See you in 2025!

#### **New Advocacy Resources from the National Center to Reframe Aging**

The National Center to Reframe Aging is here to help you strengthen your advocacy communications with evidence-based communication strategies! Speaking with policymakers and community leaders is a powerful way to advance age-related issues, and their tools are designed to support you every step of the way:

**[Talking to Policymakers Script](#)**: This guide offers practical tips for presenting your issue to policymakers, along with a sample script that demonstrates effective, reframed messaging.

**View the Policymakers script**: <https://bit.ly/405Mpws>

**[Talking at a Town Hall Script](#)** Town halls are valuable forums for addressing elected leaders and community members about upcoming legislation. Use this resource to prepare your remarks with helpful tips and a sample script that showcases reframed language for age-inclusive advocacy.

**View the Town Hall script**: <https://bit.ly/4fA5F9V>

**Learn more**: <https://www.reframingaging.org/resources>

**Links to these resources and more are also available at** <https://gwaar.org/advocacy-toolkit>



## Data Management

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

### ***Need to Know***

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#### **TODAY: December 31, final date to access WellSky (SAMS)**

Don't forget! **WellSky (SAMS) will close down as of December 31.** If there is any information that you would like to download a report for, now is the time to do it.

Some of you have indicated missing information for clients that did not transition over to PeerPlace. One report that I have created is the Review Report XX – Name, Address and Phone under the top report of SAMS Service Delivery Consumer Listing Report (with Care Recipient Data). This report can provide for you, by service, the client name, address, phone number, and some demographic information.

#### **Important updates for PeerPlace Training**

##### **PeerPlace Training Details:**

**Following the November 6, 2024 - PeerPlace “go-live” date,** Users may enter data into the PeerPlace system using this address:

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



DHS PeerPlace  
Training

**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](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.

*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.**

## Family Caregiver Support

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

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **National Caregiver Support Collaborative (NCSC) Webinar: Introducing New Resources to Elevate Family Caregiver Programs**

Thursday, January 9 | 11:30 a.m.

Please join the Administration for Community Living (ACL) on January 9 to learn more about the National Caregiver Support Collaborative (NCSC), an innovative new initiative offering resources and technical assistance to aging, tribal, and kinship caregiver support networks. Network participants and partners will have the opportunity to connect with and hear from featured presenters, including six ACL awardees of grants aligned with the goals and cross-cutting principles of the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers. Participants will also learn about available resources and actionable tools to support service providers' operational and programmatic needs.



#### **Webinar registration:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_kOsol7MTTdSfOLWHCmLpJw#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kOsol7MTTdSfOLWHCmLpJw#/registration)

#### **Reminder: CARE U Workshops: free training for direct care workers**

Need more to increase the caregiver workforce in your area?

Please share this opportunity provided to us by the University of Wisconsin - Center for Aging Research & Education.



**Center for Aging Research and Education**

CARE at the UW-Madison School of Nursing

CARE U provides valuable education for certified nursing assistants (CNAs), personal care workers (PCWs), community health workers (CHWs), and other direct care staff who work with older adults. They know that CNAs and direct care staff want continuing education and use the information to improve the care they provide. That's why our Center for Aging Research and Education (CARE) began offering FREE one-day workshops for direct care staff in 2014.

**Learn more:** <https://care.nursing.wisc.edu/care-u-for-direct-care-staff/>

**View the flyer:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008406>

The next CARE U workshop is scheduled for January 28, 2025, from 8:30 to 5:00 at Northwood Technical College in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. This FREE one-day workshop is the first in a series that will be offered throughout Wisconsin over the next five years.

WAIT, there's more! To reach more CNAs and direct care staff across Wisconsin, CARE developed a train-the-trainer program to prepare health educators to offer their own local CARE U workshops.

#### **Learn more about the CARE U Train-the-Trainer:**

<https://care.nursing.wisc.edu/care-u-for-direct-care-staff/care-u-train-the-trainer-for-health-educators/>

**View the flyer:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008407>

## Fiscal

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

### **Need to Know**

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**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.

### **Other updates:**

- 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 continue 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.
- 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.

## Health Promotion

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

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **2025 Healthy Aging Summit**

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging's Healthy Aging Summit will be hosting its Healthy Aging Summit, an in-person conference designed to inform, inspire, engage and empower in May 2025! The summit is a fun, inspiring educational event for professionals and people with an interest in improving the health of their communities.

*-continued-*



To register and learn more about the Healthy Aging Summit, visit their website:

<https://wihealthyaging.org/healthy-aging-summit/#overview>

**When:** Thursday, May 15, 2025

**Where:** SentryWorld Conference Center Stevens Point, WI

**Who:** The summit draws program providers, leaders, volunteers, researchers, and professionals from local, state, and national organizations including: Aging Offices & Aging & Disability Resource Centers, Public Health Departments, Health care organizations (providers, insurers, and others), Independent Living Centers, Senior Centers, Senior Housing facilities, fitness centers, and anyone with an interest in engaging in and/or promoting healthy aging programs and practices.

**Cost:** \$165.00 | Register BEFORE January 31st and receive a \$10 discount.

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/3Dz1vBE>

## Nutrition

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

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **Get Ready To Celebrate the Senior Nutrition Program**

*Virtual Celebration: Wednesday March 19 | 1:00 p.m.*

Every March, ACL celebrates its Senior Nutrition Program and the services it has provided to millions of older Americans since 1972. The program anniversary is an opportunity to promote the program's purpose and impact, engage with partners, and applaud the achievements of the aging services network.



Our 2025 theme, A Place at the Table, recognizes the importance of local nutrition programs and the meals being served in communities across the country. ACL, its partners, and local programs can use this theme to highlight several key topics, like the benefits of getting to know your community and program participants and how coming together over meals can improve health and well-being.

#### **Join the Preview Event**

*Wednesday, January 22 | 1:00 p.m.*

Join ACL's Office of Nutrition and Health Promotion Programs to get a jump-start on the March celebration. Speakers will share resources to help you participate and offer a sneak peek of what's ahead for the program in 2025. This event will be captioned. A recording will be available on the celebration webpage after the event. If you have any questions or accommodation requests, email [Kathryn.Tucker@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Tucker@acl.hhs.gov).

Visit the celebration webpage for more information and materials, including logos, program promotion tips, and social graphics. <https://acl.gov/snp/celebrate>

## Transportation

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

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **Reminder: Transportation Equity Toolkit**

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) developed a Community Conversation on Transportation Equity Toolkit with useful tools to initiate discussions and move the needle towards more equitable solutions. The toolkit stems from 2023 when NADTC's facilitated a National Symposium by selecting six communities to convene locally facilitated meetings to talk about equity in transportation. The meetings were attended by local stakeholders representing transportation providers, community partners, advocates and community members who gathered to discuss, exchange ideas and identify promising practices on issues impacting diverse populations and historically marginalized and underserved communities.



With the success of the six community meetings, NADTC is now making the Community Conversation materials available to any community who wishes to take steps towards transportation equity.

This toolkit offers recorded presentations from industry leaders, checklists, templates and guidance to plan and facilitate community meetings that address transportation equity and create a plan to address community driven solutions. A January webinar will review the toolkit and discuss how it works.

Visit [NADTC's Community Conversation on Transportation Equity](#) Toolkit website **for more information and to register for the webinar:**

<https://www.nadtc.org/community-conversation-on-transportation-equity-toolkit/>

**Registration:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tPQcWITIQ6e89m3Tp1c3Pw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tPQcWITIQ6e89m3Tp1c3Pw#/registration)