



Volume 7, No. 9 March 4, 2025  
Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974  
info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org



## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

---

### *Nice to Know*

---

#### **Congratulations Jayne Mullins!**

Please join us in celebrating Jayne Mullins, GWAAR OAA Consultant, as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement. Jayne's last day is March 14.

After 25 plus years of dedication, hard work, and countless contributions, it's time to send her off with heartfelt wishes and gratitude. We invite you to send a card filled with your favorite memories, well wishes, or words of appreciation by March 10.

Please mail your card to: GWAAR, 1414 MacArthur Road, Madison, WI, 53714.



## Advocacy

---

*Janet Zander, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator*

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

---

#### **ACTION ALERT:**

#### **Urge Your Federal Lawmakers to Protect and Fund Critical Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs**

**Read the WAAN Advocacy Alert:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008477>

While Senate and House appropriators have been negotiating a deal, reports suggest they are at an impasse and a final FY 2025 funding bill may not be easy to produce by March 14. Work on the FY 2025 appropriations are complicated by:

- Proposed cuts to Medicaid, SNAP (FoodShare in Wis.), and other programs included in the FY 2026 budget resolution, and
- Past and current attempts by the federal administration to freeze federal funding and otherwise override congressional authority to appropriate federal funding. While a lot may change in the next two weeks, The conflicts right now are serious enough that one cannot rule out a shutdown.
- **That is why it is especially important for Aging Network advocates to keep weighing in on the importance of Older Americans Act and other federal funding sources you rely upon to meet the needs of older people and family caregivers in your community!**

Contact U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and your U.S. Representative to let them know how critical OAA funding is to the people you serve and to advocate for the highest possible level of funding (see USAgings' [Appropriations Chart](#)) for OAA programs and services, and to extend funding for MIPPA Medicare Low-Income Outreach and Enrollment programs.

*-continued-*

Find your Members' contact information on these websites: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) (or see **Wisconsin Members of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress** - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>).

**USAgings Appropriations Chart:** <https://www.usaging.org/Files/FY 2025 Senate 8.1.24.pdf>

- **Put your requests in writing!** Use USAgings' customizable templates ([AAA/Title VI](#)) to help you format your letter and customize your asks to reflect your agency/program. Give your Members of Congress a sense of how your/their communities are affected—take the time to localize what this funding means for the older adults and caregivers in your community, tribe, or state. Check out **USAgings' FY 2025 appropriations campaign page** for additional resources. You are encouraged to use your agency's letterhead, but if that is not feasible, send it from your Governing Board, Advisory Council or even yourself as a private citizen. Or do all three! You can find the contact information on your Members' websites: [house.gov](http://house.gov) and [senate.gov](http://senate.gov). (<https://www.house.gov/> and <https://www.senate.gov/>)
- **Encourage your board and members to attend any of your federal legislators' virtual or in-person events** and ask that they put in a good word for OAA funding and its impact in your community.
- **Engage your provider network.** Urge your vendors/providers, advisory board members and other important stakeholders to send their own letters to Congress.

**USAgings' FY 2025 appropriations campaign page:**

<https://www.usaging.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=1618>

Please do all you can to amplify the message and engage others who understand the value of OAA in their communities!

### Reminder: Save the date: Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Day 2025

*Tuesday, May 13 | 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.*

*Event registration will open on March 10*

**More info:** <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2025>

Share this ad in your newsletters and encourage your readers to join the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) in May.

Event participants will have a chance to share their stories and meet with their representatives.

More information, including registration, coming soon!

**Download the ad:**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008462>

**View the sponsorship form:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008298>

**Registration opens March 10**

## Aging Advocacy Day!

*May 13, 2025, Madison, WI*

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
*Registration and check-in begin at 9:00 a.m.*

Best Western Premier Park Hotel, 22 S. Carroll St., Madison and the Wisconsin State Capitol

Share your story with state legislators about issues affecting older adults and caregivers in Wisconsin! Training is provided prior to your meetings with state lawmakers at the State Capitol.

**Make a Difference. Let Your Voice Be Heard!**

Aging Advocacy Day 2025 helps connect advocates with their legislators to share the WAAN priorities and discuss state policy solutions to improve the health and well-being of the state's older adults.

2025 priorities include: Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Investment, Direct Care Workforce Supports, Home-Delivered Meal Funding, and Healthy Aging Grants – Falls Prevention

Registration opens March 10 at: <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day> or contact your local aging unit or ADRC

**Registration deadline is April 25, 2025**  
#WIAgingAdvocacyDay2025 #WIAAD



### Nice to Know

**Reminder: Webinar: Navigating Change:**

**The Impact of Shifting Administration and Congress on Aging Policies**

*Tuesday, March 11 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.*

This timely and insightful webinar will dive into how recent changes in the Administration and Congress may impact aging policies across the nation.

**Learn more:** <https://www.benrose.org/event/navigating-change/>

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/41GniRA>

**BENJAMIN ROSE**  
INSTITUTE ON AGING



**Elder Justice Coalition**

## Data Management

---

[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

### **Need to Know**

---

#### **Error Reporting Notice:**

##### **Back data entry into PeerPlace**

Upon review it has been noticed that some Aging Units have entered data into PeerPlace prior to October 2024. Please note - we were instructed by the State to not enter any previous data (prior to Oct) into PeerPlace as that data has already been submitted to the Federal NAPIS report and will not be included in any reporting - especially for grants that are funded based directly on the number of services provided. Carrie Kroetz will be reaching out to each Aging Unit to review why entries were made and how to adjust.

##### **Counties Reporting Title VI Services into PeerPlace**

Upon review it has been noticed that some County Aging Units have entered data into PeerPlace under the Funding Source of Title VI. Please note – this is a Tribal contract and should not be used by County Aging Units. Carrie Kroetz will be reaching out to each Aging Unit to review why entries were made and how to adjust.

##### **Program “Outreach” entry into PeerPlace**

Upon review it has been noticed that some Aging Units have entered data into PeerPlace under the Program/Service of Outreach. Please note – Outreach per Aging definition is a “cold call” where your agency reaches out to a potential client. What may be entered incorrectly is the service of Public Information, which is under the Program of Other Services. Carrie Kroetz will be reaching out to each Aging Unit to review why entries were made and how to adjust.

##### **Congregate Volunteer Meal entry into PeerPlace**

Upon review it has been noticed that some Aging Units have entered data into PeerPlace within a Congregate Meal Event Profile under Volunteer Meals Served. While this was presented on a webinar from PeerPlace, ACL has informed BADR that any eligible meal participants, including volunteers, must be entered in by the individual – as we did in WellSky/SAMS. Carrie Kroetz will be reaching out to each Aging Unit to address.

#### **Upcoming GWAAR PeerPlace Training**

GWAAR will be hosting webinars on focus program areas and general Q&A sessions. The first webinar is March 13 from 3-4pm. Registration for this training, and others, will be coming out this week.

We are also planning to host in the spring (tentatively April-May) 6 in-person regional trainings and are working with GLITC to schedule a Tribal focused training. Dates/Locations/Registration Fees will be forthcoming.

## Family Caregiver Support

---

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

### **Need to Know**

---

#### **Trualta re-launch webinar replay available**

In case you missed it! You can watch the Trualta Re-Launch Presentation and Training 2025 replay here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zR7OXmudtKE>

The link is also available on the Family Caregiver Support page of the GWAAR website:

<https://gwaar.org/family-caregiver-support-for-professionals>



🌟 **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALERT!** 🌟

**Don't Miss This Exclusive Learning Opportunity presented by Trualta!**

Thursday, March 6 | 1:00 p.m.

**Who Should Attend?**

Aging Unit (AU) Directors, Caregiver Coordinators, Dementia Care Specialists, and other AU/ADRC professionals.

**Featured Webinar:**

“Moments That Matter: Insights from 3 Million Minutes of Caregiver Support & Education”

**Why You Should Join:**

Caregivers spend millions of minutes learning and growing on Trualta’s platform—now, their experiences are fueling a groundbreaking "Moments That Matter" Report.

- Discover key insights from real caregiver experiences
- Learn about burnout triggers and confidence-building breakthroughs
- Gain practical strategies to improve caregiver outcomes

Whether you're supporting caregivers directly or shaping policy, these insights can help you make a real impact!

📣 Don't miss out—register now and be part of the conversation! Even if you can't attend, register to receive the report and recording following the live webinar.

**Registration:** <https://activate.trualta.com/moments-that-matter>



---

## Fiscal

[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

---

### Need to Know

#### Upcoming Training

Watch for upcoming GWAAR Fiscal training notices. We are planning on hosting 6 in-person, regional trainings in April and May. These are currently planned as a one all-day training. We will also be working with GLITC to schedule a Tribal focused training.

#### Claim Form Information

**The GWAAR Final Claim is due March 5th** and needs to include PeerPlace/SAMS data. Reminder...the ARPA allocations is a new contract, and the funds cannot be used for expenses prior to October 2024, nor can a negative amount be applied to pull down other contract expenses.

#### “Report 99” for PeerPlace Data

Instructions to run reports in PeerPlace to gather your “Report 99” data to be included on your December and Final claim forms were emailed out on 2/3/25 – this has also been posted in the Data Management and Fiscal Resources libraries on our SharePoint site.

Some brief information regarding data: Group entries (i.e. Public Information, Social Events and I&A entered into a group) were not transitioned into PeerPlace so the numbers for these services may not be accurate – please use numbers from the September claim and add additional information from PeerPlace entries.

-continued-

Services which have a unit type of Sessions, while they must be reported into each individual client – and not as a group entry, will pull in reporting for now as 1 unique session for that Event Profiles entry. For example, Nutrition Education, instead of reporting 50 clients and 50 sessions you will report it as 50 clients and 1 session.

### **Re-Obligations/De-Obligations Requested**

The deadline to submit requests for re-obligations of funds was Monday, **February 17**. Any requests after this date will only be considered if there are remaining funds to allocate. If your agency has contract funds remaining above the allowed carryover amount for that grant, please complete the de-obligation portion of this form located within Fiscal Resources library under Links as soon as possible.

### **Budget to Actual**

As this project continues to evolve, we will be using the full 2024 calendar year expenses to compare against the 2024 budget by the end of April. As we go into 2025, this comparison will occur earlier in the Fall – stay tuned for more information and training.

### **Dollars & Sense**

Check this section for answers to your Fiscal questions.

#### **Q: Will ARPA funds be available on the Jan/Feb 2025 claim?**

A: ARPA B, D and E remaining funds, including NSIP, SHIP, SPAP, and MIPPA remaining funds, will not be available until the March claim once GWAAR has finished processing all Final claim form and can include the funds remaining onto the new 2025 claim.



#### **Q: Can I back out ARPA expenses applied before Oct 2024 to use up other contract funds, such as IIIB, on the Final Claim?**

A: No, the 2024-2025 ARPA contract is a new contract, not an extension of the contract that ended on Sept. 30, 2024. Any expenses backed out would have to be against already applied expenses to the new ARPA contract from Oct-Dec 2024 which wouldn't be possible since it just was released and added to the claim form.

## **Health Promotion**

---

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

### **Nice to Know**

---

#### **Reminder: Call for Posters! Healthy Aging Summit**

Are you involved in community initiatives addressing social connection and healthy aging? The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) would like to invite you to showcase your work and share the exciting things happening in your community at the WIHA's upcoming Healthy Aging Summit held in Stevens Point, May 15, 2025.



Poster presentations are your chance to:

- Showcase your community's efforts in fostering healthy aging.
- Learn from others and discover new approaches from communities across the state.
- Network with professionals who share your passion for making a difference in the lives of older adults.

**Learn more and find the poster application instructions here:**

<https://wihealthyaging.org/2024/10/02/2025-has-call-for-posters/>

**Application deadline is March 14, 2025**



## Reminder: 2025 StrongBodies & GenteFuerte Leader Trainings

Registration is now open for the April StrongBodies leader trainings in Madison and the May GenteFuerte leader trainings in Milwaukee.

### 2025 StrongBodies Leader Trainings

- April 9, Madison, WI Register here - <https://bit.ly/3CVAxEF>
- May 21, Milwaukee, WI - GenteFuerte (StrongBodies for Spanish-speaking leaders)  
Register here - <https://bit.ly/4bfes0o>
- August 13, Rhinelander, WI - Registration opening in Spring 2025
- November 12, Appleton, WI - Registration in Spring 2025

For those not familiar with the GenteFuerte program - it is the StrongBodies program adapted for Spanish-Speaking audiences. The training, toolkit, and materials are all provided in Spanish. This training would be appropriate for native or bilingual Spanish speakers.

For information, contact Jen Whitty, Health Promotion Programs Coordinator/ Health & Well-Being Institute/ University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension/ [jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu](mailto:jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu)

**View the flyer:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008474>



## Nutrition

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

### Nice to Know

#### ACL Senior Nutrition Program Save the Date Virtual Celebration Event

Wednesday, March 19 | 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Attend this virtual event to celebrate the 53rd anniversary of the national Senior Nutrition Program. The webinar will recognize the program's impact and discuss topics like partnerships, volunteerism, and quality, all through the lens of this year's theme, *A Place at the Table*. Speakers include ACL's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aging, Kari Benson, and ONHPP Director Keri Lipperini.

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/41G97Mj>

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.

**Learn more:** <https://acl.gov/snp/celebrate>



# Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

## Nice to Know

### Spring edition of The Scoop is now available

This issue of the SMP Scoop highlights a new resource, the Scam Spotlight, and provides information about the benefits of lifelong exercise and brain health, safe travel tips, data privacy tips, justice served, 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. Please feel free to contact the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol if you have any questions.

We can be reached at our toll-free helpline, (888) 818-2611 or by email, [smp-wi@gwaar.org](mailto:smp-wi@gwaar.org).

### View the Spring edition of The Scoop:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Scoop-Spring-2025-Issue.pdf>



**The SMP SCOOP**  
PROTECT DETECT REPORT  
SPRING 2025

**A New Resource From Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol**  
By Ingrid Kundinger, Wisconsin SMP Program Director

**Wisconsin SMP SCAM SPOTLIGHT**

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 WI SMP**  
Call: (888) 818-2611  
E-mail: [smp-wi@gwaar.org](mailto:smp-wi@gwaar.org)  
Website: [www.smpwi.org](http://www.smpwi.org)  
Facebook: @WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol  
To subscribe, please send us an e-mail.

**GWaar**  
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

**SMP**  
Senior Medicare Patrol  
Preventing Medicare Fraud

One of the pillars of the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) mission is education. Our goal is to educate Wisconsin Medicare beneficiaries, their family members, and caregivers about Medicare fraud, and we do this in various ways.

- Presentations
- One-on-one discussions at senior expos and resource fairs
- Telephone conversations with people who call our toll-free helpline with concerns
- Our team of volunteers sharing SMP information with their friends and communities
- Articles and advertisements in many Aging and Disability Resource Center and Senior Center newsletters across the state as well as other publications

- Social media posts
- This newsletter
- Our website

Speaking of our website, did you know we have one? If you have access to a computer, have you ever visited our site? If not, we encourage you to check it out. There's a new focus that we hope will help us share information ... **the Scam Spotlight!**

The Scam Spotlight is a monthly focus on something we think is important for you to know and share with others. Often it will be related to Medicare-related fraud and scams, but will also cover other types of scams impacting older people.

Visit our website, [smpwi.org](http://smpwi.org), and you'll notice a banner on the home page that will take you to the **Scam Spotlight** information.

The Wisconsin SMP program is supported, in part by grant number 30MPP02023-01-02, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.