

# LeadingAge Wyoming Newsletter

## Funding For Testing Expenses

In a bold response to the significant challenges of staffing healthcare facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) has charged the Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) with distributing \$10 million to health care facilities to assist with the burdensome costs of procuring traveling staff.

This funding will be provided to hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities who have unreimbursed expenses related to traveling staff during calendar year 2021. These dollars will be equitably allocated, and eligible facilities will be able to draw down funds up to a maximum amount depending on facility type and bed size.

To draw down these funds, and prior to February 28, 2022, facilities will provide to WHA supporting documentation outlining eligible expenses. After submission of this documentation, WHA may make payments to the facility. WHA will provide further details, in writing, to eligible facilities within the next week.

In addition to funds for travel staff, the WHA is managing \$583,000 to reimburse nursing homes for costs incurred by testing employees for COVID in compliance with CDC/CMS guidance. The WHA has contacted all nursing homes in the state for information regarding their actual expenses because of testing and will be sending checks by the end of December.

The WHA and LeadingAge Wyoming are immensely grateful to Governor Gordon and leadership at WDH for their continued support of Wyoming's healthcare infrastructure. Their partnership and collaboration has been a bright spot during what has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging and unpredictable times in recent memory.



## Free Online Learning Available for Wyoming's Older Adults

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) has arranged free access to a unique online learning opportunity, including live interactive classes, for older Wyoming residents.

Jeff Clark, Community Health Section manager with the WDH Aging Division, said the “GetSetUp” digital education platform is designed to help older adults bridge the digital divide, combat social isolation and live more connected lives.

“We want to encourage our older residents to regularly engage with technology for social, informational and medical reasons,” Clark said. “We want them to learn new things, meet new people and unlock new life experiences.”

GetSetUp offers more than 2000 live interactive classes offered around the clock and across diverse subject areas, including:

**Digital Divide** – Learn how to use digital devices and access critical digital services (e.g., Zoom, Gmail, smartphones, online health, etc.)

**Physical Health** - Classes include healthy cooking, and evidence-based classes such as TaiChi, QiGong, and line dancing.

**Mental Health Classes** - Classes available on dementia, caring for loved ones with dementia, stress reduction and even chair meditation.

**Social Health** - These are interest groups hosted by fellow community members with topics ranging from gardening to travel to pets.

**Vocational Health**- Help for older adults to re-skill and re-enter the workforce with classes such as PowerPoint, Word, LinkedIn profiles, and how to build websites.

Clark said virtual classes are taught by older adults for other older adults, with more than 500 classes available weekly.

Because of the WDH Aging Division partnership with GetSetUp, the classes are free for state residents. The program is available online at <https://www.getsetup.io/partner/wyoming>. To avoid fees, residents should use the coupon code “Wyoming” while booking classes.

“Continual learning is healthy for all of us,” Clark said. “The internet is a part of everyday life. It’s important that older adults feel safe and comfortable online. The classes this program offers will help do just that.”

Happy  
New  
Year

To learn more about the needs of Wyoming residents affected by cancer, the Wyoming Cancer Coalition (WYCC) is encouraging participation in a survey about their needs during and after cancer treatment.

“This survey is meant to help gather a better recognition of the needs of our state’s cancer survivors,” said Star Jones, Cancer and Chronic Disease Prevention Unit manager with the Wyoming Department of Health. “We hope to learn how we might better serve people dealing with cancer in the future.”

Jones said the purpose is to gather information from people who have recently gone through a cancer diagnosis and/or treatment to help identify gaps in cancer services as part of a statewide needs assessment.

Adults over 18 who have received a cancer diagnosis in the past six years, regardless of whether treatment is complete, are specifically invited to respond to the survey.

The survey should take about 10-15 minutes to complete and asks about the physical, emotional and practical needs individuals had since their cancer diagnosis.

The survey is posted on <https://wyomingcancercoalition.org/survivorship-survey>.