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

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

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#### **Reminder: Next ACE meeting, Wednesday July 10**

July 10 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

A Teams meeting invite was emailed out on June 6. Contact Rosanna Mazzara for invitation details. ([Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org](mailto:Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org))

**View the agenda:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008235>



### ***Nice to Know***

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#### **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](mailto: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](mailto:john.schnabl@gwaar.org).

#### **Reminder: Share the ADRC and Tribal ADRS Customer Survey through July 12**

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is currently seeking public input on potential updates to aging and disability resource center (ADRC) and Tribal aging and disability resource specialist (ADRS) outreach materials.



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES**

With this survey, they are hoping to learn which creative concepts (such as taglines, color palettes, logos, and other visual elements) resonate most with Wisconsin residents, and why.

They would like help in distributing a survey via email/website to current and former ADRC and Tribal ADRS customers, including older adults, adults with disabilities, caregivers, and family members.

A [downloadable survey announcement template](#) is posted on the ADRC and Aging SharePoint site for your use. **Announcement template:** <https://bit.ly/3xzn9TW>

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Or, use the sample language below:

***You are invited to take a survey on Wisconsin's ADRC marketing and outreach materials!***

*Are you familiar with Wisconsin's aging and disability resource centers (ADRCs) or a Tribal aging and disability resource specialist (ADRSs)? Are you a current or former customer, caregiver, family member, or involved community member? If so, we are interested in hearing from you.*

*The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is currently seeking feedback on potential updates to statewide ADRC and Tribal ADRS outreach materials. We want to know which creative concepts (such as taglines, color palettes, logos, and other visual elements) resonate most with you, and why.*

*The survey will remain open through Friday, July 12.*

**Take the survey now:** <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7877368/Internal-ADRC-Concept-Testing>  
[\(Wisconsin Department of Health Services Internal Aging and Disabilities Resource Center \(ADRC\) Creative Concept Testing Survey \(alchemer.com\)\).](#)

*Your feedback is valuable. Thank you for helping us as we work to broaden awareness among Wisconsin residents of ADRC and Tribal ADRS services.*

*This project is made possible through dedicated, limited-term funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to improve and modernize ADRCs throughout Wisconsin ([American Rescue Plan Act: Modernizing Aging and Disability Resource Centers | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)).*

**Visit the site:** <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/arpa/hcbs-adrc.htm>

*If you have any questions about the surveys or the campaign, please contact ADRC Outreach Program Coordinator Liz Merfeld ([elizabeth.merfeld@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:elizabeth.merfeld@dhs.wisconsin.gov)).*

## **Employment Opportunities with GWAAR**

GWAAR currently has a few employment opportunities available. If you're passionate about delivering innovative support to lead aging agencies as we work together to promote, protect, and enhance the well-being of older people in Wisconsin, join us! Open positions can be found at: <https://gwaar.org/jobs>

### **Current opportunities include:**

Public Interest Elder Law Attorney

**Full job description:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008225>

VSDP Care Consultant

**Full job description:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008217>

## **Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!**

GWAAR will be closed for the holiday on Thursday, July 4.



## Advocacy

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

### **Need to Know**

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#### **House Labor-HHS Subcommittee Advances FY 2025 Appropriations Bill**

Last week, the House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Subcommittee approved a FY 2025 appropriations bill. This bill proposes an 11% reduction in the total discretionary allocation. Included in the House bill is **\$2.5 billion for the Administration for Community Living (ACL), a decrease of \$21 million (less than one percent) below the FY 2024 level.** It is not clear, at this point, whether most programs within the ACL budget were level funded or if there are dramatic winners and losers. **No details are available yet regarding ACL's Older Americans Act (OAA) funding for FY 2025.** Although USAging, our national area agency on aging association, has learned the House Subcommittee proposes to zero out funding for the OAA Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

We expect to learn the full funding details for OAA programs by mid-July. However, even with modest funding cuts to ACL overall, **it is imperative the Aging Network continues to push Congress to fully protect and ideally increase all titles of the OAA.** The rising number of older adults, the increasing complexity of needs seen in communities nationwide, workforce shortages and rising costs all demand much-needed increases for OAA and other aging and caregiver federal programs. The Senate has not yet released its comparable appropriations bill, so advocates need to educate their federal Representative and Senators.

#### **Take Action:**

**Contact your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson NOW to advocate for funding for OAA programs and services.** Read USAging's [appropriations request letter](#). Give your Members of Congress a sense of how their communities would be affected with funding cuts—take the time to localize what this funding means for the older adults and caregivers in your community or tribe.

#### **USAging's appropriations request letter:**

<https://www.usaging.org/Files/USAging%20FY%202025%20Funding%20Request%20Letter.pdf>

**STEP 1: Put Your Requests in Writing!** Send a letter requesting their support. Putting the letter on your agency's letterhead is ideal, but if that is not feasible, send it from your Advisory Board or even yourself as a private citizen. Or do all three! Use USAging's templates (AAA/Title VI) but customize to your agency/community. **Template language for Rep/Senate outreach re: FY 2025 Appropriations**

**AAA or General Advocate Version:** <https://bit.ly/3W748BC>

Send the letter via email to their DC and district offices. Find contact information for your federal legislators here - [Wisconsin Members of the 118th Congress](#) - (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007697>) . If you are unsure who your U.S. Representative is go [here](https://www.house.gov/representatives) (<https://www.house.gov/representatives>) and enter your home address zip code in the box on the upper right-hand side of the page.

**STEP 2: Schedule Meetings and Visits with Your Lawmakers.** Request virtual meetings with your Members of Congress—all you have to do is ask! (Tip: Put the request in writing. Call or email the DC office to ensure your request gets to the scheduler.)

**STEP 3: Engage Your Provider Network.** Urge your vendors/providers, advisory board members and other important stakeholders to send their own letters to Congress. **Please do all you can to amplify the message and engage others who understand the value of OAA in their community!** Forward this *Alert* to your networks or edit it to be best received by your agency's advocates.

**If you have questions or concerns about this Advocacy Alert,** please contact: [janet.zander@gwaar.org](mailto:janet.zander@gwaar.org).

## Nice to Know

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### Reminder: On Their Minds: Older Adults' Top Health-Related Concerns

From medical and dental care to medications, insurance and nursing homes, health-related costs weigh heavily on the minds of older Americans of all backgrounds, a new poll suggests.



Asked to rate their level of concern about 26 different health-related topics for people over 50 in their community, five of the six issues that the most people cited as very concerning involved health costs.

The sixth – financial scams and fraud – also had to do with money.

According to new findings from the University of Michigan's National Poll on Healthy Aging, those same six topics rose to the top no matter what age group, gender, race, ethnic group, region of the country, size of community, political ideology or income group older adults came from.

[Poll Report: On Their Minds: Older Adults' Top Health-Related Concerns \(umich.edu\)](#)

**View the report:** <https://bit.ly/3KYvONS>

## Family Caregiver Support

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

### Need to Know

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#### Reminder: Family Caregiver priorities and survey opportunity

Nearly every person served by the Aging, Disability, and Independent Living (ADIL) Network has one or more family members or friends who provide them with care or some form of help. We at the [Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance \(WFACSA\)](#) are working to identify which priorities in the [2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers](#) most strongly align with our state's needs. Sharing what your agencies and organizations currently do and would like to see us focus on in the future, will be key to strengthening caregiver supports across our state.



**Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA):** <https://wisconsincaregiver.org/alliance>

**2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers:** <https://acl.gov/CaregiverStrategy>

For this reason, we request your input through this [professional survey](#) to learn about the needs of family caregivers. Your expertise is vital to understanding needs across our network and state. We have also generated a [family caregiver-specific survey](#) which has been shared on our Wisconsin Family Caregiver Support FB page and by other members of the Alliance. We ask that you share this link with family caregivers that you work with as well.

**Professional Survey Link:** <https://bit.ly/3zapxRp>

**Family Caregiver-Specific Survey Link:** <https://bit.ly/3xqPITp>

**NEW! Printable family caregiver-specific survey link and instructions:** <https://bit.ly/3W5WB5T>

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What we learn from these surveys will be helpful for our state and shared with the national [RAISE Caregiver Advisory Council and ACL](#) to design improvements in caregiver supports across federal programs.

**RAISE Caregiver Advisory Council and ACL:**

<https://acl.gov/programs/support-caregivers/raise-family-caregiving-advisory-council>

Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your professional expertise with us and for helping to gather family-caregiver feedback. Nearly everyone has been, will be, or will need a caregiver at some point in their lives. Together we can make sure those caregivers are supported when the time comes.

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**Nice to Know**

**Reminder: Have you heard of AARP's Friendly Voices Program?**

This program is operated by trained AARP Friendly Voice volunteers; they will provide a call to say hello.

**Learn more about the program:** <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/friends-family/friendly-voice/>

**Link to their flyer to share with caregivers and others:**

<https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/home-and-family/family-and-friends/pdf/2021/aarp-friendly-voices-program.pdf>

**AARP**

**We may be apart,  
but we're not alone.**

Someone who cares is  
just a phone call away.

If you or someone you love is feeling isolated or anxious in these challenging times, hearing a friendly voice on the phone may help. That's why we created the AARP Friendly Voice program – a trained, caring group of volunteers standing by ready to chat, listen, or just say hello.

It's easy. Request a call by dialing AARP at 1-888-281-0445 for English or 1-888-497-4108 for Spanish, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. local time.



**Reminder: Falls Free Wisconsin for Caregivers!**

Caregivers give so much to others. It's especially important to take steps to prevent your own falls to be able to continue to care for loved ones.

Falls Prevention and Training information related to Balance & Strength, Hearing Loss, Home Safety, Medications, and Safe Footwear. **View the site:** <https://fallsfreewi.org/prevent-falls/caregivers/>

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**Health Promotion**

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

**Nice to Know**

**Reminder: Falls Prevention Awareness Month event listing**

Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM) will be here before we know it! If you are hosting an event or activity in September during FPAM, please share it with others! Submit your activity using the link below and it will be shared on the FallsFreeWI.org website. We can't wait to hear about what everyone will be up to.

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging encourages you to use their materials and align with their theme, "Age With Confidence, Prevent Falls" in your communities!

**Submit Your FPAM Event:** <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/w1eeci1604bpoe4/>

**Falls Free® Wisconsin listing:** <https://fallsfreewi.org/events/list/>





## Reminder: Falls Prevention Awareness Month Placemat Contest!

The Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition's Awareness Workgroup is holding a contest for Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM). The goal is to create a placemat with falls prevention education for older adults to be used by partners throughout the state during FPAM in September.

The submitted placemats will be judged by members of the Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition, and monetary prizes will be awarded to cover printing costs for the top 3 winners! We encourage submissions in Spanish, Hmong, or other languages.

**Link to view full flyer:** <https://bit.ly/3xllwcm>

We can't wait to see what you all come up with. Submit your placemat designs by Friday, July 26.

**How to Enter:**

- Email submissions to [falls@wifree.org](mailto:falls@wifree.org).
- Include submitter's name, organization, city, state, email address, and phone number.

**Deadline: Friday, July 26, 2024.**

**Judging and Awards:**

- Placemat submissions will be shared on the Falls Free Wisconsin website to be shared with statewide partners for use throughout WI.
- Judges from the Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition will choose the top 3 winners.
- Monetary prizes will be awarded to the organization to cover printing costs for 1st-3rd places: 1st place: \$125; 2nd place: \$100; 3rd place: \$75.

**Questions? Contact [falls@wifree.org](mailto:falls@wifree.org). Need examples for inspiration? Check out North Carolina Falls Prevention Coalition's 2023 placemat contest submissions at [bit.ly/4d4ECUa](https://bit.ly/4d4ECUa).**

**Happy designing! Thank you for all that you do to prevent falls in Wisconsin!**

Falls Free Wisconsin  
fallsfree.org

## Nutrition

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

### Need to Know

#### Meal Prioritization/Wait List Procedure (Right Meal for You)

This is a reminder that as of 7-1-24, if you are going to adopt Meal Prioritization and/or if you have a Waitlist or need to start one, the Nutrition programs in the GWAAR Service area are required to use the tool and process created by GWAAR in collaboration with your peers on various workgroups. If you are going to adopt and implement this process locally, please notify your GWAAR Nutrition Team Representative by completing this Waitlist/Meal Prioritization [Notification Form](https://bit.ly/3VQBqn1): <https://bit.ly/3VQBqn1>

We have three Training Modules posted. You can access the training modules, required score form, editable templates, and supporting documents on the GWAAR Nutrition External SharePoint in the *Meal Prioritization* Folder.

**GWAAR Nutrition External SharePoint:** <https://bit.ly/3ZVzRpT>

#### Training Modules:

**Module 1-** How to Use the Meal Prioritization (Right Meal for You) tool. (45 minutes). This is intended for you as directors as well as your staff who will be completing the form and process. Written instructions are also provided.

**Module 2-** Review of Technical Assistance Guide, Forms, and Supporting Documents. (30 minutes). For Directors. Please note that several templates can be customized for you to use locally.

**Module 3-** Overview and Why. (15 minutes). Intended for your board, advisory council, staff, etc. Anyone who wants a high-level understanding of the process.

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We will have a call on July 18 from 2 to 3 p.m. for anyone using or interested in learning more about the process.

This will be the first call for programs using the new process. We will then have office hours once a month and quarterly calls (Date Saver will be shared on the call). We will use the same meeting log-in information for each meeting but, the dates and times will be updated and a reminder will be sent before the calls.

If you have any questions, please contact your regional GWAAR Nutrition Team Representative, they will be happy to assist you.

*Thursday, July 18 | 2-3 p.m.*

Teams link: <https://bit.ly/3XLcjEU>

Meeting ID: 290 848 179 447 | Passcode: A4aREM

Dial in by phone [+1 608-338-1382](tel:+16083381382), [451418114#](tel:+16083384514) | Phone conference ID: 451 418 114#