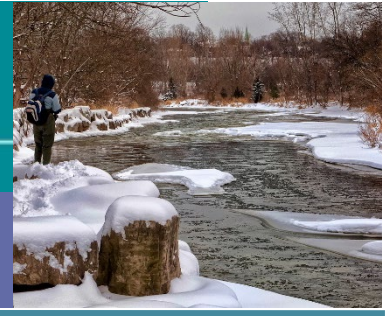




Volume 7, No. 2 January 14, 2025
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: Accepting applications for GWAAR Board of Directors and Advisory Council

Use Your Leadership Skills to Support 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 or view applications at: <https://gwaar.org/leadership-opportunities>



Reminder: Valentines for Wisconsin Veterans

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) is asking for help showing veterans how much we appreciate their service and sacrifice by sending Valentine's Day cards to veterans living in WDVA facilities.

Cards must be mailed no later than Jan. 31, to allow time to be distributed on Feb. 14. Do not include candy, food, or snacks. Cards can be sent to:

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
Attn: Veteran Valentines
PO Box 7843
Madison, WI 53707-7843

View the press release: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDVA/bulletins/3c8230f>



Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

Direct Services Elder Abuse Training - February 26

Wednesday, February 26 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (lunch is on your own)

Location: Walworth County Health & Human Services Building

1910 County Road NN, Elkhorn

The purpose of this training is to enhance older victims' safety and quality of life by strengthening collaboration among direct service providers.

-continued-

Topics include:

- Types of Abuse in Later Life
- Understanding types of abuse in later life and abuser tactics
- Collaborating to create a victim-centered response
- Planning for victim safety
- Existing services for older victims

Who should attend?

The training is open to state-based organizations and agencies that work with adult protective services, victim services, system-based advocates, and aging network professionals.

Registration:

<https://wisdoj.eventsair.com/direct-services-elder-abuse-training---walworth-county/feb-26/Site/Register>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008429>



Date/Time:
February 26, 2025 8:00am - 4:30pm)
Location:
Walworth County Health & Human Services Building
1910 County Road NN, Elkhorn
Register here:
<https://wisdoj.eventsair.com/direct-services-elder-abuse-training---walworth-county/feb-26>

About:
The purpose of this training is to enhance older victims' safety and quality of life by strengthening collaboration among direct service providers.

- Topics include:**
- Types of Abuse in Later Life
 - Understanding types of abuse in later life and abuser tactics
 - Collaborating to create a victim-centered response
 - Planning for victim safety
 - Existing services for older victims



Nice to Know

In the media: Collaborating to prevent and care for victims of elder abuse

Training held in LaCrosse this past November was covered on WXOW. The segment featured Elder Abuse Later in Life Program Coordinator Erika Deal.

“That's one of the core objectives to the training - identifying resources in the community and how they can come together to support victims.

‘Everyone that's attending this training right now - we have large group discussions on how to collaborate,’ Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources Project Coordinator Erika Deal said. ‘We've encouraged them to bring resources and really share what they experience on a day-to-day basis.’”

View the segment: <https://bit.ly/40vGykd>



Advocacy

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

Need to Know

Reminder: 119th Congress – Wisconsin Delegation

The 119th Congress began on January 3, 2025, following the adjournment of the 118th Congress. Biographies and contact information for Wisconsin's Members of the 119th Congress have been updated and can be found here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>

Nice to Know

Wisconsin Supreme Court Election webinars

Learn more/register:

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/event/wisconsin-supreme-court-election%C2%A0-ethics-and-money>

Wisconsin Supreme Court Election: Ethics and Money

Tuesday, January 28 | 6:00 p.m.

Join the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin for a virtual webinar at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28. The program "Wisconsin Supreme Court Election: Ethics and Money," will provide voters with all the information they need for the next Wisconsin Supreme Court Election this spring.



Speakers include: Jay Heck from Common Cause; former Supreme Court Justice Janine Geske; Attorney Doug Keith from the Brennan Center.

Registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkfuuqrzlvHdx6_fwIv500PYEtp_VN5P6z#/registration

Wisconsin Supreme Court Election: Judging Judicial Candidates

Tuesday, February 25 | 6:00 p.m.

Join the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin for the second of our webinars about the spring Wisconsin Supreme Court election. The second virtual webinar is at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25th. The program "Wisconsin Supreme Court Election: Judging Judicial Candidates" will provide voters with information about how citizens can assess candidates' perspectives on and knowledge of the judging process of a Supreme Court justice.

Speakers include: Chad Oldfather from Marquette University Law School; Rob Yablon of the State Democracy Research Institute; Attorney Jeff Mandell of Law Forward,; and George Penn of United to Amend.

Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/X3idkeSTQm2phphk6gclQ#/registration>

Save the date: Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Advocacy Day

Tuesday, March 4 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Best Western Premier Park Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin

You're invited to the Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Day and gather at the Wisconsin State Capitol and show our elected officials how Wisconsinites are impacted by Alzheimer's disease.



You will hear from key state policymakers and take away tools to empower your advocacy efforts on behalf of all who are impacted by Alzheimer's and dementia. In the afternoon, you can meet with your state lawmakers and ask them to support our policies! Lunch is included for all participants.

To register online, please visit: <http://bit.ly/WIAdvocacy2025>

If you have any questions about this year's Advocacy Day or any state policy activities, please contact Vanessa Kent by email at vlkent@alz.org or by phone at 608-318-4057.

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities hosting virtual workshops

Tuesday, Jan. 21 | 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 23 | 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Many state and federal policymakers do not know how Medicaid funded services and programs—like Family Care, IRIS, and CLTS—support people with disabilities to stay healthy and living in their communities.

This workshop will cover:

- Latest updates on cuts to Federal Medicaid funding;
- How to tell your story with a focus on public policy and to legislators;
- Large group discussions on how to tell your Medicaid story;
- Working with other advocates in small groups to refine your Medicaid story and practice telling it in a low-stakes situation.

More information and registration:

https://wi-bpdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/StoryTellingWebinar_Jan2025.pdf



Data Management

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

Need to Know

PeerPlace Training Resources

Users may now enter data into the PeerPlace system using this address:

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

PeerPlace Training Details:

Site for registered users:

<https://share.health.wisconsin.gov/ltc/teams/ADRC/sitepages/PPTrg.aspx>

PeerPlace Information Page for Aging:

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

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.

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.



DHS PeerPlace
Training

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Tualta caregiver resources now available in Wisconsin

GWAAR and DHS are incredibly excited to announce that the 24/7 online caregiver resource, Tualta is now back and available free of charge for all the Wisconsin caregivers you work with!

Tualta Login/registration:

<https://wisconsin-caregiver.tualta.com/login>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007769>

As part of this re-launch, we have scheduled two staff trainings. You are not required to attend, but it is highly encouraged that Caregiver Coordinators or the staff responsible for your agency's caregiver grant programs, attend at least one training.

We will also be recording the training so that new staff can view the recording and learn about Tualta as part of their initial onboarding and training.

Tualta training dates

Friday, January 24 | 9:00 – 10 a.m.

Jan. 24 meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84844278137?pwd=OLKplzanB3GCPafYfpaHKCyigNLzyb.1#success>

Wednesday, January 29 | 10:00 -11:00 a.m.

Jan. 29 meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82062669969?pwd=glpShX3sHaoEcaPz9OyZHbWpxl6rtH.1#success>

Save the dates: Caregiver Coordinator Statewide meetings:

Next meeting: *Tuesday, January 28 | 10:00 a.m.*

Save the date – future meetings:

Tuesday, March 18 | 11:00 a.m. (3rd Tuesday of the month & different time than usual)

Tuesday, May 27 | 10:00 a.m. (4th Tuesday of the month)

Tuesday, July 15 | 11:00 a.m. (3rd Tuesday of the month & different time than usual)

In-person TBD *Tuesday, September 23 | (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.); ideally location is hybrid for virtual option as well (4th Tuesday of the month)*

Tuesday, November 25 | 10:00 a.m. (4th Tuesday of the month)

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. (4th Tuesday of the month)

Nice to Know

Life Experience Informing Careers in Dementia Services and Supports: Panel Discussion

Tuesday, January 28 | 1:00 p.m.

National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center will be offering a webinar: Life Experience Informing Careers in Dementia Services and Supports: Panel Discussion.

-continued-



The overlap of professional and personal lives can be a challenge to navigate, but there are opportunities for each role to inform the other. It is not uncommon for professionals in the dementia field to have personal experiences as caregivers. This personal experience informs their work, providing opportunities to infuse their perspective in the programs and services they develop and deliver. The lessons learned from people who experience both roles are compelling and can help guide dementia work and caregiving practices. This webinar will have a panel discussion about the intersection of careers in supporting people living with dementia and caregivers and the ways their personal experiences as dementia caregivers have informed this work.

More information and webinar registration:

https://rtiorg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s9wLTlhFQ0ij9W79PCRsFQ#/registration



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.

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

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

Need to Know

Reminder: Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar -- Register Today!

Tuesday, February 4 | 9:00 a.m.

Don't miss the first Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar of the year. You will have an opportunity to learn about the UW-Extension Regional Community Health Team and how they can assist you in reaching your health promotion goals. The last 30 minutes will be dedicated to answering your questions regarding Peer Place and Health Promotion data entry.

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008427>

Please submit your PeerPlace Questions ahead of time via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/WqgzW0cHtV>

Webinar registration link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudu2orzMpHNQGUGgAHa2ZW2wNmaZTkUsd>

Nice to Know

Reminder: Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults: Special Focus on Holidays and Anniversaries

Wednesday, January 15 | 12:00 p.m.

This webinar on Adult Social Isolation and Loneliness addresses the unique challenges older adults face during holidays, anniversaries, and personal milestones, which can amplify feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Participants will explore the emotional impact of occasions like Mother's Day, Father's Day, Pet Day, and the death of loved ones on seniors, particularly those aging solo. The session covers lifestyle challenges, including loss of purpose and workplace connections, health challenges, and caregiving that can further deepen social isolation.

Join Carol Marak, on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 10 a.m. PT | 12 p.m., for a webinar that will discuss remedies and solutions including building social support networks, planning for holiday connections, utilizing technology, and engaging in meaningful activities like volunteering or pet therapy. Through real-life case studies and professional tools, attendees will gain actionable strategies to support seniors in overcoming loneliness during difficult times.

More information and registration:

<https://www.rightathome.net/professionals/continuing-education-units/addressing-social-isolation>



Registration is now open for the 2025 Wise Wisconsin Virtual Learning Series!

February 5 through March 12th, 2025 Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Registration is required. Connection link will be sent out the Monday prior to the series and reminders will go out weekly. Sessions will be recorded and available on YouTube once they are available.

UW-Madison Division of Extension's Life Span program presents Wise Wisconsin Virtual Learning Series. Extension Faculty, staff and partners from around the state will host sessions on topics that will help you increase joy and satisfaction in your life, provide you with new skills and resources, and help you connect with others during the cold, snowy winter months. Grab a hot beverage and join us on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. on Zoom starting February 5th through March 12th. Registration includes all sessions.

February

2/5: Renovate Today, Stay Tomorrow: How to Successfully Age in Place, Presented by Leacy Brown, Field Specialist, South Dakota State University

2/12: The Wisconsin Naturalist Program, Presented by Becky Sapper, Program Manager, The Wisconsin Naturalist Program

2/19: Inflation's Impact on Finances, Presented by Jonathon Ferguson, Extension Specialist, UW-Madison Division of Extension

2/26: 8 Dimensions of Wellness, Presented by Katie Jaegly, Health & Wellbeing Educator, UW-Madison Division of Extension Winnebago County

March

3/5: The Art of Caregiving, Presented by Dr. Kristin Litzelman, Extension Specialist, UW-Madison Division of Extension

3/12: Edible Landscaping, Presented by Jacob Kluza, Horticulture Educator, UW-Madison Division of Extension Winnebago County

Registration: https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NpcEdbXSIN3wuW

YouTube recordings: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWYkTfj_LDJYBR1mYv2h3IIndQp45gcU

Detailed session information: <https://aging.extension.wisc.edu/programs/wise-wisconsin-program/>

Contact Sara Richie, Life Span Program Manager at sara.richie@wisc.edu with questions about the series.



The graphic features the logo for the Human Development & Relationships Institute, Division of Extension, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Below the logo is a red banner with the text "WISE WISCONSIN Virtual Learning Series". To the right is an illustration of a woman sitting at a table with a laptop, looking at a screen displaying a virtual meeting. Below the illustration is a list of topics for the series, a registration link, a QR code, and contact information for Sara Richie.

Human Development & Relationships Institute
DIVISION OF EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

WISE WISCONSIN
Virtual Learning Series

Join us on Wednesdays at 9am from February 5th - March 12th! This free series will have sessions on the following topics:

- **February 5:** Renovate Today, Stay Tomorrow: How to Successfully Age in Place
- **February 12:** The Master Naturalist Program
- **February 19:** Inflation's Impact on Finances
- **February 26:** 8 Dimensions of Wellness
- **March 5:** The Art of Caregiving
- **March 12:** Edible Landscaping

To register, go to:
<https://go.wisc.edu/8517v>

Contact, Sara Richie, Life Span Program Manager, at sara.richie@wisc.edu with questions about the series.

For archived recordings and program descriptions, go to: <https://aging.extension.wisc.edu/programs/wise-wisconsin-program/>

Nutrition

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

Need to Know

Watch for 2025 Nutrition meeting dates to be posted on our SharePoint site soon

Scheduled meetings include:

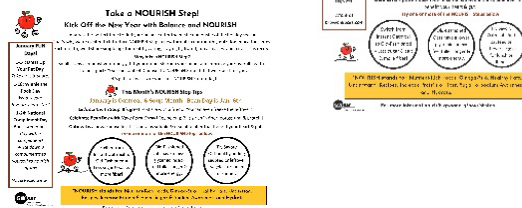
- Meal Prioritization/Waitlist-“Right Meal & Services for You” Calls (1/21/25- 9 to 10 a.m.)
- Stepping Up Your Nutrition Leader Call (1/30/25- 2 to 3 p.m.).
- Dietitian/Diet Tech’s Call (2/25/25- 2 to 3 p.m.)

Reminder: First and second quarter 2025 GWAAR Nutrition Ed Handouts now available!

We have transitioned from the Eat Well, Age Well monthly handout to a new format, Take a NOURISH Step. The handouts are 2 pages long and are available in both Landscape view, for placemats, back of menus, etc. Or in portrait view that may be more newsletter and handout friendly. As always, we welcome your feedback.

Handouts include:

- Fun theme days,
- An activity,
- A tie to wellness and socialization,
- And, of course, nutrition tips into each version.



Past issues of Eat Well, Age Well are still available on our website:

<https://gwaar.org/nutrition-education-and-activities>

If you prefer this format, you are welcome to use any of the past issues, as they are still relevant. If you are looking for the Beneficial Bites materials, visit:

https://www.adrcconnections.org/programs-and-services/nutrition_1

To access the newest handouts for 2025, registered users can visit GWAAR Partner Resources | Aging Programs | Nutrition | Nutrition Files | NOURISH Step: <https://bit.ly/4gJ2JJr>

These handouts are also available publicly on the GWAAR website: <https://gwaar.org/nourishstep>

Transportation

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Transportation Equity Toolkit and Webinar

Tuesday, Jan. 28 | 1:00 p.m.

Get a sneak peek at NADTC's newest resource to promote transportation equity at the local level!

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.

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

