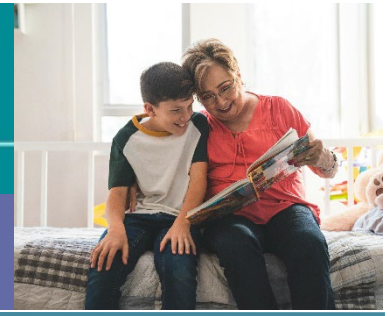




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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

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>



Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

Reminder: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training - February 26

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

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.

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.

Any questions on this training, please contact Doreen Goetsch 608-219-5013 or by email at

Doreen.Goetsch@gwaar.org

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3PRck59>

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



Any questions on this training, please contact Doreen Goetsch 608-219-5013 or by email at Doreen.Goetsch@gwaar.org

Advocacy

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

Need to Know

Protect Medicaid

Aging and disability constituents and other advocates throughout the state and across the country have been contacting Congress to talk about what Medicaid cuts would mean for them, their families, and the workers paid to provide their care. Your calls are making an impact. Congress knows older adults, people living with disabilities and those who care for and about them are watching.

Late last week, [media reports](#) said there are some Medicaid cuts many members of Congress support, but your calls are making lawmakers question how other Medicaid cuts will impact the areas they represent. Congress must decide which Medicaid cuts they want to put in or leave out of a bill. They are trying to decide in the next few days. The longer the delay the more likely there is not agreement on what to cut and how much.

Read the media reports: <https://bit.ly/4hn8oVU>

Your calls early this week can help them decide NOT to put Medicaid cuts in the bill.

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) has been collecting feedback from constituents who have called their U.S. Senators and Congressional Representative. Here is link to a presentation given last Friday that will help you learn what advocates have heard and will provide you Medicaid resources you can use when making calls to, conducting visits with, or sending follow up emails to your federal legislators or their staff - [Medicaid 2025 What People are Hearing from Congressional offices and Next Steps You Can Take](#).

View the presentation: <https://bit.ly/3Q5fpic>

Background

Congress is considering \$2.17 Trillion cuts in federal Medicaid spending ([summary](#), [detailed list](#)), which would dramatically reduce the amount of money sent to states. Cuts of this size will impact Wisconsin's state budget, the 1.2 million Wisconsinites who get health and long-term care coverage through [programs funded by Medicaid](#), and the businesses and providers whose salaries and costs are paid for by Medicaid dollars.

View the summary: <https://bit.ly/40NywIw>

View the detailed list: <https://bit.ly/40ZPaj8>

Programs funded by Medicaid: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02383.pdf>

National advocates believe these ideas to cut federal Medicaid spending will be part of a budget reconciliation bill and that the bill will move fast. The first steps could move as early as this week. Stay tuned for updates as we learn more.

Action Steps you can take today:

Make three phone calls to your Federal Legislators.

You have three Federal legislators who will make decisions about cuts to Federal Medicaid spending.

- Contact Wisconsin's two U.S. Senators, **Sen. Tammy Baldwin** (202) 224-5653 and **Sen. Ron Johnson** (202) 224-5323, and
- **Your U.S. Representative** (use your ZIP code to [Look up your U.S. Representative](#)).

-continued-

Federal lawmakers need to know how Medicaid helps you, your family, or someone you care about and what it would mean if services and supports were reduced or stopped. Urge your legislators to reject any proposals that reduce federal Medicaid funding.

Consider asking your Federal Legislators what they think about:

1. Medicaid cuts (for or against).
2. Changing Medicaid into a block grant or per capita cap.
3. Lowering the amount of federal money given to states (FMAP) to pay the workers who provide health and long-term care services for people in Wisconsin Medicaid programs.
4. Making people in Medicaid prove they are working to get health or long-term care.
5. Raising how much it costs to buy a health insurance plan on the Marketplace.
6. Stopping payments on spending Congress has approved, including Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and disability, aging, and other organizations that serve people in their districts.

Let us know what you hear from federal lawmakers, as it helps advocates know what messages lawmakers need to hear.

Additional Medicaid resources you can use:

- **[Congress's Medicaid Cut Ideas](https://bit.ly/4iGoXO3)**: <https://bit.ly/4iGoXO3>
- **[Wisconsin Medicaid Factsheet \(Kaiser Health\)](https://files.kff.org/attachment/fact-sheet-medicaid-state-WI)**: <https://files.kff.org/attachment/fact-sheet-medicaid-state-WI>
- **[Wisconsin's Medicaid Programs \(DHS\)](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02383.pdf)**: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02383.pdf>
- **[Look up people covered by Medicaid by County \(see map under Enrollment Trends and Demographics\)](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/renewal-data.htm)**: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/renewal-data.htm>
- **[What Medicaid cuts mean to Wisconsin](https://wi-bpdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/MedicaidInWisconsinSheet_012325.pdf)**: https://wi-bpdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/MedicaidInWisconsinSheet_012325.pdf

Nice to Know

Save the date: Disability Advocacy Day: March 12, 2025

Wednesday, March 12 | 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Monona Terrace, One John Nolen Drive, Madison, Wisconsin

Disability Advocacy Day is a day-long event focused on connecting Self-Advocates with their legislators to talk about issues that matter to them.

This in-person event will be held in Madison on March 12, 2025. Mark your calendar and plan to meet with your elected officials!

View the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008457>

Registration and more information:

<http://www.survivalcoalitionwi.org/>



**Survival
Coalition**

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

Reminder: Save the date: Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Advocacy Day - Registration is open

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 vkent@alz.org or by phone at 608-318-4057.



Reminder: Wisconsin Supreme Court Election webinar

February: Wisconsin Supreme Court Election: Judging Judicial Candidates

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

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/X3idkeSTQm2phpnhk6gclQ#/registration>



Data Management

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

Need to Know

Updated Participant Registration forms are now available on the GWAAR Partner Resources site in the Aging/Data Management Library:

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources>

Reminder: GWAAR PeerPlace Training

Watch for upcoming program specific GWAAR PeerPlace webinar trainings.

We are also planning to host in the Spring (tent April-May) 6 in-person regional trainings. These are currently planned as 2-day trainings. We will also be working with GLITC to schedule a Tribal training. Stay tuned!



DHS PeerPlace
Training

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Replay for Caregiver Coordinator Statewide call available

The recording, notes, and other meeting materials for the January 28 statewide call are now posted and can be found at <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>.

Nice to Know

Updated FAQs available

Please continue to review the *FAQs for NFCSP and AFCSP - categorized - UPDATED document. It was just updated on 1-30-2025. This FAQ document includes information about PeerPlace, records retention, allowable use of program funds, and more.

View the updated FAQs:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008194>



Expert Tips for Caregiver Support Groups - Trualta Recorded Webinar

Are you a Caregiver Coordinator who would like to brush up on your Caregiver Support Group facilitation skills? Or maybe you are newer to your role as a Caregiver Coordinator and want to learn how to start and facilitate a Caregiver Support Group. In either case, Trualta has crafted a webinar training just for you!

This webinar as well as other professional staff training, marketing materials, and resources can be found on the Wisconsin Trualta Staff Space page: <https://trualta.docsend.com/view/s/qi6pwprjtjbevgp2>

Expert Tips for Caregiver Support Groups replay - Trualta: <https://vimeo.com/700493553/3ce9c94f41>



Fiscal

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

Need to Know

Upcoming Webinar

GWAAR Fiscal Staff will be hosting their 1st Qtr 2025 webinar on February 17th from 10:30-12:00 (this will be recorded). This will cover 2024 closeout information and provide upcoming information for 2025. (Elder Abuse contract holders are optional to attend, but always welcome.)

Please register here: GWAAR 2025 1st Quarter Fiscal Webinar Registration: <https://bit.ly/3EkCZVw>

Upcoming Training

Watch for upcoming GWAAR Fiscal trainings as we are planning to host in the Spring (tent April-May) 6 in-person regional trainings. These are currently planned as one all-day trainings. We will also be working with GLITC to schedule a Tribal training. Stay tuned!

Claim Form Information

The December Claim is due February 5th and needs to include PeerPlace/SAMS data, as this needs to be reviewed by GWAAR staff before the Final claim submission in the event changes need to be addressed. We continue to wait for the ARPA contract and once we have that we'll post the Final Claim – submission deadline to be determined. Reminder this is a new contract, and the funds cannot be used for expenses prior to October 2024.

“Report 99” for PeerPlace data

Instructions to run reports in PeerPlace to gather your “Report 99” data to include on your December and Final claim forms were emailed out on 2/3/25 – this will also be posted within the Data Management library shortly.

-continued-

Re-Obligations/De-Obligations requested

All agencies looking to request additional funds within the Title III grants or Elder Abuse must complete the online Re-ob/De-ob form by February 17th. Any requests after that 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.

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.

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Intergenerational Connections - Scripps AVID

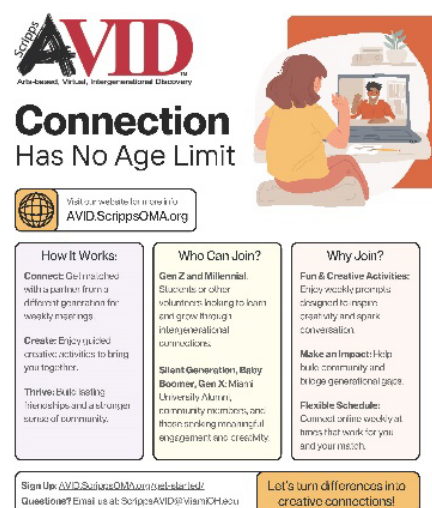
Scripps AVID is actively recruiting participants to be matched with students at Miami University starting the first week of March 2025. ScrippsAVID (Arts-based, Virtual, Intergenerational Discovery) is a digital platform designed to foster meaningful connections across generations through creative engagement. It pairs participants, based on availability and generational differences.

Through guided arts-based prompts, participants share music, storytelling, drawing, and conversation, creating opportunities for social connection, creativity, and personal growth. The program is designed to combat loneliness, bridge generational gaps, and build a supportive network where people at different life stages can learn from each other.

ScrippsAVID is FREE to use and has already facilitated 235 intergenerational matches, with participants reporting a 92% satisfaction rate. For more information, contact Krysta Peterson at falasckm@miamioh.edu

View the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008458>



The flyer features the Scripps AVID logo at the top left, with the tagline 'Arts-based, Virtual, Intergenerational Discovery'. To the right is an illustration of a woman in a yellow shirt sitting at a desk with a laptop, talking to a young boy on a video call. The main title 'Connection Has No Age Limit' is prominently displayed. Below the title are three columns of text: 'How It Works' (describing the matching process and creative activities), 'Who Can Join?' (listing Gen Z, Millennials, Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, and Gen X), and 'Why Join?' (highlighting fun activities, impact, and flexible scheduling). At the bottom, there are two call-to-action buttons: 'Sign Up' and 'Let's turn differences into creative connections!'. A 'Proven Success' section at the bottom left notes a 92% satisfaction rate. A quote at the bottom right reads: 'This was another enjoyable session. These were fine examples of non-judgmental interactions between two vastly divergent age groups.'



Nutrition

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

Need to Know

Reminder: Save the dates: 2025 Nutrition meeting dates

Meal Prioritization/Waitlist - "Right Meal & Services for You" Calls (9:00-10:00 a.m.)

An email with more detailed information about the updated resources will be sent before the meeting. The meetings are held on Teams and will be recorded.

- 1/24/25
- 2/21/25
- 3/21/25
- 6/20/25
- 8/15/25
- 11/14/25

[Click here to join the meeting now](#) | Meeting ID: 290 848 179 447 | Passcode: A4aREM
Dial in by phone | [+1 608-338-1382,,451418114#](#) | Phone conference ID: 451 418 114#

Stepping Up Your Nutrition Leader Call (2:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

This call is for all the current and interested leaders of this fun, informative Nutrition Ed Class. Please join us and your peers. The call is held on Teams and will be recorded. Please let Pam VanKampen know if you have any questions about the class or how to become a leader. Pam.vankampen@gwaar.org

- 1/30/25
- 4/24/25
- 7/31/25
- 11/20/25

[Click here to join the meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 214 340 884 640 | Passcode: 9wS7VD
Or call in (audio only) | [+1 608-338-1382,,83218773#](#) | Phone Conference ID: 832 187 73#

Dietitian/Diet Techs Call (2:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

Please save the date. Sara Koenig, the state dietitian, will be joining each call this year! Agendas will be out closer to the date. Please let us know if you have any topics you would like featured. Meetings will be held quarterly from 2 to 3 pm, are held on Teams and will be recorded. We will use this same login for each meeting. We look forward to an exciting year!

- 2/27/25
- 6/26/25
- 9/4/25
- 12/4/25

[Click here to join the meeting now](#) | Meeting ID: 234 136 223 685 | Passcode: Jd3WY9LN
Dial in by phone | [+1 608-338-1382,,195045346#](#) | Phone conference ID: 195 045 346#

Home-Delivered Meal Assessor Calls (2:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

We have increased the meetings to quarterly based on your feedback. Please let your GWAAR Nutrition Team Representative know what topics or discussion questions you have for your peers.

Meetings will be held quarterly from 2 to 3 p.m., are held on Teams and will be recorded. We will use this same login for each meeting. The GWAAR Nutrition Team (Jean, Lori, Pam and Ryan)

- 2/25/25
- 6/24/25
- 8/26/25
- 11/18/25

[Click here to join the meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 214 394 008 477 | Passcode: dgk4rb
Dial in by phone | [+1 608-338-1382,,685336459#](#) | Phone conference ID: 685 336 459#

Transportation

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

Nice to Know

Transit Equity Day 2025: Tuesday, February 4

Transit Equity Day is observed on February 4 to commemorate the life and legacy of Rosa Parks on her birthday and highlights the importance of public transportation and transit equity. Transit Equity Day aims to highlight the need for equitable and accessible public transportation for all.

The observance is an opportunity to advocate for fair transportation policies including such topics as affordable fares, reliable service, improved transit infrastructure and increased transit funding. Transit agencies, organizations, community groups, and activists often use Transit Equity Day to organize events, discussions, and advocacy initiatives aimed at promoting equitable and accessible public transportation.

The goal is to engage the public, policymakers, and stakeholders in efforts to address transit-related disparities and work toward a more just and inclusive transportation system. Check with your local transit agency to see what they have planned to celebrate Transit Equity Day.

View the proclamation:

https://evers.wi.gov/Documents/020425_Proclamation_Transit%20Equity%20Day.pdf

