



Volume 7, No. 7 February 18, 2025
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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.

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. For questions, contact Doreen Goetsch 608-219-5013 or 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 8:30am - 4:30pm
Location:
Walworth County Health & Human Services Building
1910 County Road NNE, Elkhorn
[Register here.](https://wisdoj.eventsite.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

Celebrate Older Americans Month 2025: Flip the Script on Aging

Each May, ACL leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month, celebrating the contributions of older adults and promoting positive aging. This year's theme, Flip the Script on Aging, challenges stereotypes and highlights the opportunities that come with growing older. Begin planning now for how you will recognize older adults' impact and share ways to stay engaged.

The 2025 logos are available now. ACL will also be providing a social media toolkit and posters, so stay tuned. As you share messaging related to Older Americans Month use #OlderAmericansMonth to join the nationwide conversation!

Learn more:

<https://acl.gov/oam/2025/oam-materials>

<https://acl.gov/oam/2025/older-americans-month-2025>

<https://acl.gov/oam>



FLIP THE SCRIPT ON AGING: MAY 2025

House and Senate Advance Competing Federal FY 2025 Budget Plans

Last week, the House and Senate Budget Committees advanced their respective, but competing, FY 2025 budget resolutions. Budget resolutions, while not laws, can direct other committees to cut or increase spending or alter the tax code. With a narrow majority in both House and Senate, Republicans in Congress intend to use a budget process called reconciliation, which bypasses the Senate's filibuster rule and makes it possible to make significant changes with a simple majority (or 51 Senate votes).

The resolution passed by the Senate Budget Committee includes instructions for two separate reconciliation packages, with one bill focusing on immigration and defense and the other on spending and taxes. The Senate proposal directs the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee (of which Sen. Tammy Baldwin is a member) and the Finance Committee (of which Sen. Ron Johnson is a member) to find \$1 billion in funding cuts; these committees collectively have jurisdiction over the Older Americans Act (OAA), Medicare and Medicaid.

The House Budget Committee's budget resolution calls for one, massive reconciliation bill. The House proposal would cut mandatory spending by at least \$1.5 trillion, allow Congress to pursue up to \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts and increase the debt ceiling by \$4 trillion. It also directs significant cuts for committees, including Energy and Commerce (\$880 billion), Education and Workforce (\$330 billion) and Agriculture (\$230 billion).

These cuts would likely impact Medicaid, OAA and other nutrition programs such as SNAP (FoodShare in Wisconsin). With a slim majority in the House and several Republicans concerned with some provisions, it is unclear if the House will be able to advance these aggressive cuts in their post-recess vote when they return on February 24. In the meantime, the Senate could vote on its proposal as early as this week.

Stay tuned for an Advocacy Alert from our national partner, USAging, to help us educate Congress on what these cuts in funding would mean for Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS), OAA and the people you serve with these critical programs.

In related state news, last week a letter, signed by 97 organizations in Wisconsin, was sent to Wisconsin's Congressional delegation asking them to protect Medicaid funding. The letter now has 105 organizational sign-ons. Sign-ons are still open and those who would like to add their organization to the letter are welcome to do so: <https://forms.gle/uxLJA63PiGJtdMKY7>.

If you are unable to access the Google doc form and are considering signing on, please contact Janet Zander at janet.zander@gwaar.org for a copy of the letter and sign-on information. View the related media release here: <https://kidsforward.org/leaders-across-the-state-call-on-congress-to-protect-medicaid/>.

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

Webinar: Navigating Change: The Impact of Shifting Administration and Congress on Aging Policies

Tuesday, March 11 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Join Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging and the Elder Justice Coalition for a virtual presentation “Navigating Change: The Impact of Shifting Administration and Congress on Aging Policies.”

This timely and insightful webinar will dive into how recent changes in the Administration and Congress may impact aging policies across the nation. With new leadership in both the executive and legislative branches, the shifting political landscape is set to affect key programs and services for older adults, such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Policy expert Bob Blancato, President of Matz, Blancato & Associates and National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition, will examine proposed legislation, new policy directions, and emerging trends that could reshape the future of aging services. Participants will gain critical insights into the challenges and opportunities ahead and learn how these developments might influence advocacy efforts to support older Americans.

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

Registration: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1lcCGOR3QmCL6Hrn299kjw#/registration



Elder Justice Coalition

Reminder: “Working Together to Protect Wisconsin Consumers” 2025 Consumer Protection Conference

Thursday, March 20 | 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Madison College - Goodman South Campus, 2429 Perry Street, Madison, WI

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection’s Bureau of Consumer Protection is hosting a Consumer Protection Conference for organizations that work with consumers and communities targeted by scams and fraud. This includes community-based organizations and chambers of commerce.

The conference, titled Working Together to Protect Wisconsin Consumers, includes:

- An update on consumer protection housing cases,
- An update on complaint reporting,
- How scammers’ use of A.I. and cryptocurrency is impacting WI consumers,
- An understanding on how WI consumer protection agency resources are working together,
- Efforts by FTC & DATCP to reach different communities,
- A facilitated session on collaborating and the best ways to continue to work together,
- An opportunity to make connections with those who do similar work to your organization.

Attendance is free and lunch will be provided at no cost to registrants. Registration is required, limited to 100 attendees, and closes at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2025.

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



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!

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.

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Reminder: New technical assistance resource available

Even if you are not new to the Caregiver Grant Programs, I encourage you to check out this new technical assistance resource! The

*Examples - Caregiver Coordinator Checklists and Letters compiles sample checklists to help you prepare for your visits with caregivers.

The sample letters offer suggested communication so that expectations are clear.

View the resource: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008191>



Nice to Know

Celebrate National Caregivers Day on Friday, February 21!

Friday, February 21 | 3:00 p.m.

From Caring Across Generations, you are invited to a "Care Connects Us All Rally" for caregivers and care recipients. "...we'll hear from caregivers and care recipients about their care experiences and share our love for the caregivers in our lives – all while mobilizing to protect Medicaid and ensure every person in our country has the high-quality care they need."

Registration: <https://go.caringacross.org/a/care-rally>



Share Your Medicaid Story survey

The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations needs your help to get more Medicaid stories into the hands of legislators and media outlets. They have created a survey to collect stories and photos that can be shared.

If you are attending Disability Advocacy Day on Wednesday, March 12th in Madison, The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations will print copies of your story to make it available to legislatures! What an awesome opportunity to make your voice heard!

Share your story here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CBQG9PZ>



of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

Reminder: Disability Advocacy Day 2025: Registration deadline is February 26!

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

Monona Terrace, One John Nolen Drive, Madison, Wisconsin

Join the Survival Coalition in Madison on Wednesday March 12th with other advocates from around the state and meet with your elected officials. This is a great opportunity to share your story and educate your legislators on disability rights!

There is limited space available at Disability Advocacy Day and the names of each person who registers are sent to their legislators in advance. Please do not register unless you can commit to attending. We understand that emergencies come up. If you need to cancel, please email us as soon as possible at survivalcoalitionwi@gmail.com

Registration is free but required to attend. Registration deadline is February 26.

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

Registration and schedule information (English): <https://bit.ly/DAD2025>

Registration and schedule information (Spanish): <https://bit.ly/DAD2025Span>

Falls Prevention for Caregivers

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) and Falls Free® Wisconsin have created the Falls Prevention for Caregivers page. The created resources are based on feedback from caregivers and contain topics that will help caregivers and care recipients prevent falls.

Falls Prevention for Caregivers: <https://fallsfreewi.org/prevent-falls/caregivers/>

WIHA is asking for help within the Aging and Disability Network to distribute the Caregiver Falls Prevention materials. WIHA encourages you to share printed copies, as caregivers who were surveyed expressed a preference for receiving physical paper copies. Also, feel free to share the information electronically by including it in newsletters, posting on social media, writing a newspaper article, or attaching a handout to the article.

Caregiver Handouts: <https://fallsfreewi.org/prevent-falls/caregivers/>

Additionally, WIHA needs your help in tracking the number of people who receive the materials. In a few months, they will begin collecting feedback and they will reach out to us for your distribution numbers, as well as any feedback you've received about the materials (please make sure to track this!)



Fiscal

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

Need to Know

GWAAR Fiscal staff has heard back from the state and the current approved indirect cost is 15% versus the 10% as stated in the webinar, effective January 1, 2025. Capital purchase limits remains at \$5,000.

GWAAR Fiscal 1st Quarter 2025 Webinar replay: Watch for this to be posted on SharePoint soon!

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 Final Claim is due March 5th and needs to include PeerPlace/SAMS data. We continue to wait for the ARPA contract and once we have that we'll post the Final Claim. 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.

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.

Guardianship Support Center

[Polly Shoemaker](#), WI Guardianship Support Center Attorney

Nice to Know

Reminder: Read “The Guardian” for in-depth news and updates

The December/January issue of the Guardianship Support Center newsletter “The Guardian” is now available on the GWAAR website.

You'll find news, resources and helpful information on issues related to adult guardianship, protective placement, advance directives, and more.

Read this issue: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008439>

Visit the Guardian Support Center page:

<https://gwaar.org/guardianship-resources>



Health Promotion

Angie Sullivan, Older Americans Act Consultant - Health Promotions Specialist

Need to Know

February 4 Quarterly Health Promotion webinar replay available

In case you missed it, view the recording of the Tuesday, February 4th Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar. Featured topics included: an overview of Vivo - a pioneering small group, interactive fitness program taught by live instructors and a discussion regarding Health Promotion and Peer Place and data entry.

View the replay: <https://youtu.be/G025s5lu0Jg>



Nice to Know

Call for Posters! Healthy Aging Summit

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

The application deadline is March 14, 2025.

Virtual Health Promotion Programming Opportunity for Title III-D Funding

UW-Madison Extension Virtual StrongBodies Program Series

- Offered via Zoom
- Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. weekly for 11-12 weeks
- Aging Units and ADRC's can reserve spots for county residents (\$50/participant)
- After the Extension receives your request for spots, you will be mailed an invoice for payment, flyer for upcoming virtual series for recruitment of participants (editable for you to add your local contact information) and link to online registration for the virtual class so you can register local residents.
- Participant demographic information will be sent to you for Peer Place data entry after the registration deadline for each series.
- **Reserve spots here:**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdR3AiuppiZvIaWzYTk3YmpmFpAMhM-9EAtqJX8JWAuvqqAKw/viewform?usp=sf_link

LIFTING PEOPLE TO BETTER HEALTH



-continued-

Find out more about StrongBodies here: <https://health.extension.wisc.edu/strongbodies/>

Remaining 2025 Series:

- Spring Session - April 8 - June 28 (deadline Friday, May 2)
- Summer Session - July 8 - September 25 (deadline Friday, August 1)
- Fall Session - October 7 - December 18 (deadline Friday, October 31)

Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Next Meal Prioritization/Waitlist call - "Right Meal & Services for You"

Friday, February 21 | 9:00-10:00 a.m.

[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#

Newsletter Postings to Connect with NOURISH Step Monthly Handouts

Registered SharePoint users can access this document for pre-written newsletter posts to share NOURISH Step resources. Sample posts have been written through June, so they're ready to go!

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources> | Aging Programs | Nutrition | Nutrition Files | NOURISH Step | [NOURISH Step Newsletter or Social Media Posts Feb-June 2025.docx](#)



[Click Here to Access Nutrition Files](#)

Or, use the post below to share NOURISH Step anytime!

If you want more pep, take a NOURISH Step!

Stay informed and inspired with NOURISH Step! Each month, highlights important health and wellness topics, offering nutrition tips, seasonal food insights, and fun activities to support your well-being. From brain health and hydration to heart-healthy eating and mindful habits, our posts provide practical ways to take small steps toward better health.

Check out the latest monthly handouts, recipes, and interactive activities by visiting: gwaar.org/nourishstep

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: February Scam Spotlight: Looking for Love?

The February Scam Spotlight is focused on romance scams, including what "catfishing" is, and the red flags to watch out for. While this is not directly related to Medicare-related fraud and scams, many of the older adults we interact with at presentations and outreach events tell us stories of romance scams that either they or a friend or family member were involved in. The impact can be devastating.

View the February Scam Spotlight:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/02-February-2025-Romance-Scam.pdf>