



Volume 7, No. 8 February 25, 2025
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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.

**OLDER
AMERICANS
MONTH**



FLIP THE SCRIPT ON AGING: MAY 2025

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>

Advocacy

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

Need to Know

Protect Medicaid – Advocacy Alerts

Read the WAAN Advocacy Alert: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008473>

Read the USAging Advocacy Alert: <https://www.usaging.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=1704>

In mid-February, the House and Senate Budget Committees advanced competing FY 2025 budget resolutions. Budget resolutions direct other committees to cut or increase spending or alter the tax code. **The House and Senate budget resolutions propose detrimental cuts to Medicaid.** The resolutions direct the **House Energy and Commerce Committee to cut nearly \$900 billion and the Senate Finance Committee** (of which Sen. Ron Johnson is a member) **to cut \$1 billion in federal funding.** These two committees have authority over Medicaid. The full Senate passed their budget resolution last week. **The House is expected to vote on their own version Tuesday night (2/25/25)!**

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These proposed cuts put older adults and people living with disabilities at risk of losing health and long-term care coverage, including the potential loss of home and community-based services. Federal Medicaid cuts will leave states with huge budget holes to fill and nothing but bad choices – eliminating needed care, reducing needed care and services, paying providers less, and/or restricting program eligibility. The proposed cuts are so large, they would impact not only Medicaid services, but other state programs and services as well.

Action Steps you can take today (2/25):

The House must pass their budget resolution before they can begin making cuts to Medicaid. The House has a narrow majority. **One- or two-House members from the majority party voting “no” would mean the resolution cannot pass** and the process that would lead to Medicaid cuts could not start.

- **Call your U.S. Representatives TODAY using our online advocacy platform – <https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/promo/671> -**
- **or** (find your Representative’s phone number by typing your ZIP code in the upper righthand side of the page at this link: [Look up your U.S. Representative](#)). **Let your Representative know how important Medicaid is to you, your family, your community, your agency, and/or those you serve. For those who can, ask your Representative to oppose any cuts to Medicaid!**

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 federal legislator to reject any proposals that reduce federal Medicaid funding.**

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 signed on. 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 to receive a copy of the letter and sign-on information needed. A related media release can be viewed here: <https://kidsforward.org/leaders-across-the-state-call-on-congress-to-protect-medicaid/>.

Reminder: 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>



The poster for Aging Advocacy Day 2025 features a black background with white and yellow text. At the top, it says "Registration opens March 10" in white. Below that, "Aging Advocacy Day!" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. The date "May 13, 2025, Madison, WI" is in white. The time "10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m." is also in white, with a note "Registration and check-in begin at 9:00 a.m." below it. The location "Best Western Premier Park Hotel, 22 S. Carroll St., Madison and the Wisconsin State Capitol" is listed. A photograph of the Wisconsin State Capitol building is on the right. The text "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." is in white. Below that, "Make a Difference. Let Your Voice Be Heard!" is in bold white. The poster lists 2025 priorities: "Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Investment, Direct Care Workforce Supports, Home-Delivered Meal Funding, and Healthy Aging Grants – Falls Prevention." It includes the registration deadline "Registration opens March 10 at: <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day> or contact your local aging unit or ADRC." and the event date "Registration deadline is April 25, 2025" with the hashtag "#WIAgingAdvocacyDay2025 #WIAAD". The WAAN logo is at the bottom right.

Nice to Know

Reframing Aging and Disability in Wisconsin

You are invited to join Wisconsin's network of passionate leaders who seek to change the way our society thinks and talks about aging and disability. With leadership from the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, this group is taking steps to advance effective communication strategies about aging. Part of the multi-faceted activities includes presentations and workshops from the National Center to Reframe Aging. Please complete the interest form associated with the options you or your organization are interested in by Friday February 28, 2025. (new deadline)

Reframing Aging & Disability in Wisconsin interest form: <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/w10vv90q0eytfry/>

Medicaid stories needed

We need your help to get more Medicaid stories into the hands of legislators and media outlets. The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) created a survey to collect stories and photos that we can all share. The stories are being organized by Congressional district.

Please encourage people to share their own stories regarding the importance of Medicaid services and supports to their own life or the life of someone in their care. You can read more about this in the Family Caregiver section of this newsletter. **View the survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CBGQ9PZ>

Reminder: 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_1lcGOR3QmCL6Hrn299kjw#/registration

**BENJAMIN
ROSE**

INSTITUTE ON AGING



**Elder Justice
Coalition**

Business Development Center

[Sky Van Rossum](#), Special Projects Manager

Need to Know

Cost of services increased in January. Are your expenses being covered?

From the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

“In January, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers rose 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, and rose 3.0 percent over the last 12 months, not seasonally adjusted. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.4 percent in January (SA); up 3.3 percent over the year (NSA).”



Read the release: https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/cpi_02122025.pdf

What does this mean for you?

This relates directly to the costs for transportation and meals. In other words, what a dollar could purchase 12 months ago, now costs \$1.03. So, if the fee for a delivered meal was \$10 twelve months ago, that same meal now costs \$10.30. If your organization is delivering 1500 meals per week, that means an added \$450 per week, or over \$23,000 in added unbudgeted expense per year.

The good news is that there are ways to manage this. Contact Sky Van Rossum GWAAR Special Programs Manager to learn more. sky.vanrossum@gwaar.org or 608-228-8088

Data Management

[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

Error Reporting 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.

Counties Reporting Title VI Services into PeerPlace

Upon review it has been noticed that some County Aging Units have entered data into PeerPlace under the Funding Source of Title VI. Please note – this is a Tribal contract and should not be used by County Aging Units. Carrie Kroetz will be reaching out to each Aging Unit to review why entries were made and how to adjust.

Program “Outreach” entry into PeerPlace

Upon review it has been noticed that some Aging Units have entered data into PeerPlace under the Program/Service of Outreach. Please note – Outreach per Aging definition is a “cold call” where your agency reaches out to a potential client. What may be entered incorrectly is the service of Public Information, which is under the Program of Other Services. Carrie Kroetz will be reaching out to each Aging Unit to review why entries were made and how to adjust.

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Congregate Volunteer Meal entry into PeerPlace

Upon review it has been noticed that some Aging Units have entered data into PeerPlace within a Congregate Meal Event Profile under Volunteer Meals Served. While this was presented on a webinar from PeerPlace, ACL has informed BADR that any eligible meal participants, including volunteers, must be entered in by the individual – as we did in WellSky/SAMS. Carrie Kroetz will reach out to each Aging Unit to address.

Updated Participant Registration Forms

The 2025 Participant Registration forms are available on the GWAAR Partner Resources site in the Aging/Data Management Library.

Upcoming 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. Additionally, we will be working with GLITC to schedule a Tribal focused training. Dates/Locations/Registration Fees will be forthcoming.

Family Caregiver Support

Bryn Ceman, Older Americans Act Consultant - Family Caregiver Support Specialist

Nice to Know

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

Join the Survival Coalition in Madison on Wednesday, March 12 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!



**Survival
Coalition**

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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>

In case you missed it: 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/CBGQ9PZ>

Reminder: 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](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

GWAAR Fiscal 1st Quarter 2025 Webinar

The Fiscal 1st Quarter 2025 webinar has been posted, along with the PowerPoint. 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 remain at \$5,000.

Upcoming Training

Watch for upcoming GWAAR Fiscal training notices. We are planning on hosting 6 in-person, regional trainings in April and May. These are currently planned as a one all-day training. We will also be working with GLITC to schedule a Tribal focused training.

Claim Form Information

The GWAAR Final Claim is due March 5th and needs to include PeerPlace/SAMS data. We will have the claim posted by Monday, February 24th which will include NSIP, MIPPA, and ARPA contract funds. Reminder...the ARPA allocations is a new contract, and the funds cannot be used for expenses prior to October 2024, nor can a negative amount be applied to pull down other contract expenses.

“Report 99” for PeerPlace Data

Instructions to run reports in PeerPlace to gather your “Report 99” data to be included on your December and Final claim forms were emailed out on 2/3/25 – this has also been posted in the Data Management and Fiscal Resources libraries on our SharePoint site.

Some brief information regarding data: Group entries (i.e. Public Information, Social Events and I&A entered into a group) were not transitioned into PeerPlace so the numbers for these services may not be accurate – please use numbers from the September claim and add additional information from PeerPlace entries.

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Services which have a unit type of Sessions, while they must be reported into each individual client – and not as a group entry, will pull in reporting for now as 1 unique session for that Event Profiles entry. For example, Nutrition Education, instead of reporting 50 clients and 50 sessions you will report it as 50 clients and 1 session.

Re-Obligations/De-Obligations Requested

The deadline to submit requests for re-obligations of funds was Monday, **February 17**. Any requests after this 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 under Links.

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.

Dollars & Sense

Check this section for answers to your Fiscal questions.

Q: Can Title III funds be used for capital purchases?

A: Yes, up to \$5,000 of Title III funding can be used for a single purchase. Please note if making a capital purchase for the nutrition program that does not mean that \$5,000 from C-1 and \$5,000 from C-2 can be used for the purchase. \$5,000 is the max amount of Federal funds that can be used for that project's individual capital purchases.



Q: Can I back out ARPA expenses applied before Oct 2024 to use up other contract funds, such as IIIB, on the Final Claim?

A: No, the 2024-2025 ARPA contract is a new contract, not an extension of the contract that ended on September 30, 2024. Any expenses backed out, would have to be against already applied expenses to the new ARPA contract from Oct-Dec 2024 which wouldn't be possible since it just was released and added to the claim form.

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

2025 StrongBodies & GenteFuerte Leader Trainings

Registration is now open for the April StrongBodies leader trainings in Madison and the May GenteFuerte leader trainings in Milwaukee.

2025 StrongBodies Leader Trainings

- April 9, Madison, WI Register here - <https://bit.ly/3CVAxEF>
- May 21, Milwaukee, WI - GenteFuerte (StrongBodies for Spanish-speaking leaders) Register here - <https://bit.ly/4bfes0o>
- August 13, Rhinelander, WI - Registration opening in Spring 2025
- November 12, Appleton, WI - Registration in Spring 2025

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For those not familiar with the GenteFuerte program - it is the StrongBodies program adapted for Spanish-Speaking audiences. The training, toolkit, and materials are all provided in Spanish. This training would be appropriate for native or bilingual Spanish speakers.

For information, contact Jen Whitty, Health Promotion Programs Coordinator/ Health & Well-Being Institute/ University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension/ jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu

View the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008474>

Reminder: 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://bit.ly/3RmQjfc>

LIFTING PEOPLE TO BETTER HEALTH



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: 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