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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

The Impact of the Wisconsin State Budget for Public Health

Wednesday, March 19 | 10 - 11 a.m. (via Zoom)

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3ReHnZ4>

Attend this webinar to join a conversation about Wisconsin's state budget process within the context of federal actions that impact public health.

After this session presented by Andrew Hoyer-Booth, executive director of the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB), will participants will be able to:

- Analyze the components of the Wisconsin biennial budget and the impact the budget has on public health.
- Understand the process and timeline of the budget process, including the Joint Finance Committee hearings.
- Utilize provided resources to stay informed on developments in the budget process.

This session will be recorded and made available with event follow-up materials.

Questions? Contact the UWPHI PHIG Training and Learning Team: learning@pophealth.wisc.edu



DHS 2025-2027 Biennial Budget Briefings

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is hosting a series of focused budget briefings for partners highlighting critical portions of Governor Evers' 2025-2027 DHS budget.



Improving Mental Health and Crisis Services

Thursday, April 3 | 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Mental health and crisis services remain critical as Wisconsin's kids, families, and workforce continue to struggle to find the help they need. Recognizing that behavioral health is essential to overall wellness, Gov. Evers' budget builds on past efforts to support Wisconsin's mental and behavioral health infrastructure, especially as levels of anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicidal thoughts among youth across the state continue to rise at concerning rates. This budget makes significant investments in expanding the availability of behavioral health services so Wisconsinites in all stages of life can receive care closer to home.

This DHS budget briefing will focus on key behavioral health initiatives included in Governor Evers' 2025-2027 biennial budget.

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

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Access to Care

Tuesday, April 8 | 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For too many people, accessing quality health care is out of reach. To build a healthier Wisconsin, we need to shrink barriers to care by improving our public health coverage programs and private health insurance market. The governor's budget takes advantage of common-sense solutions to these problems, many of which have already been adopted in nearly every other state in the country. This DHS budget briefing will focus on investments included in the budget that aim to make health care more accessible and affordable. **Registration:** <https://bit.ly/4kDKQhE>



Investing in Long-Term Care

Wednesday, April 23 | 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Whether it's a family member, friend, or neighbor, we all know an older adult who has made a difference in our lives and our communities. After giving so much to Wisconsin, they deserve Wisconsin to respect, support, and protect them as they age.

Gov. Evers' budget advances the safety and dignity of older adults and people with disabilities and makes significant investments to bolster, stabilize, and support long-term care providers across the state.

This DHS budget briefing will focus on investments that will provide meaningful supports throughout all stages of life. **Registration:** <https://bit.ly/3ReLuV0>

Reminder: Accepting applications: GWAAR Board of Directors and GWAAR 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 – May 15

Thursday, May 15 | 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

3001 US Highway 12 East, Room 54, Menomonie, WI 54751

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

Registration:

<https://gwaar.org/menomonie-elder-abuse-training-5-15-25-registration>

View the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008483>



Date/Time:
May 15, 2025 (8:00am - 4:30pm)
Location:
Brew County Government Center
3001 US Highway 12 East, Room 54, Menomonie, WI 54751
Register Here:
<https://wis11.eventbrite.com/direct-services-elder-abuse-training-5-15-25>

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 abuse tactics
 - Collaborating to create a victim centered response
 - Planning for victim safety
 - Existing services for older victims



Advocacy

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

Need to Know

State Budget Hearings Announced

The state's Joint Finance Committee's State Budget Hearings have just been announced - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1909520>.

- April 2 – Kaukauna High School
- April 4 – Wisconsin State Fair Park, West Allis
- April 28 – Hayward High School
- April 29 – Northcentral Technical College, Wausau

Plan to attend and make your voice heard! See WAAN's updated 2025-2027 Status of State Budget Priorities document here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008488>



Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Day 2025 – Registration is open!

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Registration and information: <https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/promo/5m5>

Are you interested in issues affecting older adults and caregivers? Would you like to tell your legislator what aging/caregiver services mean/have meant to you, your family, or those you serve?

If you answered yes, please join members of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN), aging network professionals, older adults, and family caregivers on **Tuesday, May 13** to “tell your story,” and help educate state legislators about issues impacting Wisconsin’s aging population.

Citizens from around the state will gather in Madison on Tuesday, May 13 for training, to meet with other constituents from your Senate and Assembly district, and for office visits with your legislators.

No experience is necessary; you’ll get the training and support you need before meeting with state lawmakers. Following the training, join others from your state Senate and Assembly district to provide information and share personal stories with your legislators to help them understand how specific policy issues and proposals impact you, your family, and older constituents.

The registration link is also posted at: <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2025>.

Check back regularly for updates!

Congress Passes Continuing Resolution to Avert Government Shutdown

Last week, Congress approved a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal government for fiscal year 2025, successfully averting a government shutdown. The CR extends government funding through Sept. 30. The bill was signed into law by the President on Saturday, March 15, 2025. The CR level funds Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, the State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs), and most federal agencies at fiscal year 2024 (FY24) levels. The final CR is not a “clean” Cr, where every spending item remains frozen at the prior year’s level.

Instead, the bill boosts defense funding by \$6 billion and imposes \$13 billion in cuts to nondefense funding. The bill also leaves out directive language that further spells out congressional intent for a portion of the spending. The following program extensions were also included in the bill:

- Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers (MIPPA) programs – funding to continue outreach to enroll low-income Medicare beneficiaries in cost-saving Medicare programs through Sept. 30, 2025,
- Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Relief. The bill eliminates the Medicaid DSH cuts through Sept. 30, 2025,
- Medicare Rural Extenders. The bill would extend the enhanced low-volume adjustment program through Sept. 30, 2025, and the Medicare-dependent hospital program through Oct. 1, 2025,
- Medicare Telehealth and Hospital-at-home Extensions. The bill would extend key telehealth waivers and the hospital-at-home program through Sept. 30, 2025,
- Medicare Rural Ambulance. The bill will extend add-on payments for ambulance services through Oct. 1, 2025. These add-on payments support rural, “super-rural,” and urban ambulance services,
- Funding for the Community Health Center Fund, a primary source of federal support for community health centers, and
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to provide income support to families with children with low-income

Advocacy efforts regarding FY 2026 funding for OAA, elder justice, and the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will begin very soon! Advocacy efforts will also continue to prevent huge cuts to Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) and SNAP (FoodShare in Wisconsin) in FY 2026, and to advance OAA Reauthorization. Stay tuned.

Action Alert – Protect Medicaid

Members of Congress are back home in their own districts this week, making this is a great time to connect with your Congressional representatives and urge them to reject cuts to Medicaid.

About one out of every five Wisconsinites receives health care coverage and/or long-term care services through one of the state’s 19 Medicaid funded programs, which include BadgerCare, Family Care, SeniorCare, IRIS, and SSI-related health coverage.

If you or someone you care about relies on a Medicaid-funded program, please contact the district offices of U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and your U.S. Representative in Congress and share your story. You can also put your Medicaid story in writing (and include a photo) to leave behind with their staff. Additionally, consider sharing a photo of yourself and/or your loved one who would be harmed by cuts to Medicaid on social media or with local media.

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If we want to protect Medicaid, and the people served by its programs, from harmful federal funding cuts, we must act take action now. Cuts to federal Medicaid funding will negatively impact individuals served by Medicaid programs, family caregivers, Medicaid providers, workers paid by Medicaid funding, our communities, and our state budget. Please take action today to protect our state and nation’s fragile health care safety net!

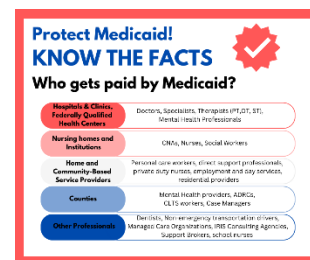
To find out who represents you in Congress go to: <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> and typing in your home address. From there, you can navigate to their individual website and find contact information for their district office. If you know who represents you, you can find local office addresses and phone numbers at: Wisconsin Members of 119th Congress - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>

Reminder: Protect Medicaid social media toolkit available

To help educate the public and policymakers about the important role Medicaid services play in the health and well-being of 1.2 million Wisconsinites, the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) has a new social media calendar of Medicaid infographics and text available for anyone to use over the next few weeks.

View the resources:

<https://app.box.com/s/nbeo49an0w46dke3god563i6cdswu93i>



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. We 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. We 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. We will be reaching out to each Aging Unit to review why entries were made and how to adjust.

Upcoming error Reports or View Builders to run in PeerPlace will be forthcoming.

“Report 99” for PeerPlace Data

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

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Some brief information regarding data:

- Group entries (e.g. Public Information, Social Events and I&A entered into a group) were not transitioned into PeerPlace.
- 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.
- Under the Program of I&A (not NFCSP I&A) the current unit of service is listed as Hours, however it should state Contacts as it did in WellSky. BADR is addressing this with PeerPlace.

Upcoming GWAAR PeerPlace Training

GWAAR will be hosting weekly webinars on focus program areas and general Q&A sessions.

Thursday, March 20 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

This week's webinar training will focus on Supportive Services (to include Assisted Transportation, Transportation, Outreach, Recreation/Socialization and Other Services – e.g. Public Information) and be held on Thursday, March 20th, from 9-10am.

Registration for this training, and others, have been emailed and the registration links will be posted on the GWAAR SP site within Data Management-Library-Registrations. **All webinars will be recorded if you are unable to attend.**

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

Catch Up on the Moments that Matter Webinar!

Did you miss Trualta's latest webinar? No worries—you can watch the full recording and download the complete Moments that Matter report anytime!

Watch now: <https://bit.ly/4c3pkyH>

Read the full Moments That Matter report: <https://bit.ly/4byWy8Z>

 **Bookmark this link for future access:** <https://activate.trualta.com/moments-that-matter>



Fiscal

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

Need to Know

Upcoming Training

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.

Waivers for Title IIIB and IIIE

The link to the official request for the 2025 Waiver form for IIIB and IIIE has been posted under Fiscal

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Resources-Library-Links. All Aging Units must complete this form by March 25. These waivers are not guaranteed. Fiscal Staff and Aging Directors should meet to discuss your agency's request – only one submission should be made.

Claim Form Information

The January/February Claim form has been posted. Submissions by Wednesday, March 12th are scheduled to be processed, barring no issues. Reminder, contracts that rollover into the new year (NSIP, ARPA, SHIP, SPAP and MIPPA) will not be on this claim as remaining allocations from 2024 are not yet determined. Due to some changes on the claim for 2025, if you notice any issues, please let us know so we can address and correct as quickly as possible.

New information on the 2025 claim form:

- 1) Carryout Meals – if your agency is providing Carryout Meals, these expenses must now be allocated separately from the Home Delivered Meal service line.
- 2) Your agency will be asked if you include AMSO costs, if you include Indirect costs, the percentage of claimed Indirect costs, and if these costs are applied to each contract (N/A NSIP).
- 3) Reminder – AFCSP is no longer able to be used as match against the NFCSP contract. This went into effect as of January 1st, 2025.
- 4) For AFCSP and Elder Abuse we have added the option to capture agency funds that are used to supplement the program under Cash Match.

Re-Obligations/De-Obligations Requested

As soon as we have all Final claims in to verify remaining contract allocations, re-obligation requests will be finalized, and Aging Units will be notified as soon as possible.

Budget to Actual

Once we have all Final claims submitted and processed, we will send out the Budget to Actual forms for your agency to analyze and respond with discrepancies. More information will be forthcoming on how to complete this project.

Reminder: Dollars & Sense

Check this section for answers to your Fiscal questions.

Q: Will ARPA funds be available on the Jan/Feb 2025 claim?

A: ARPA B, D and E remaining funds, including NSIP, SHIP, SPAP, and MIPPA remaining funds, will not be available until the March claim once GWAAR has finished processing all Final claim form and can include the funds remaining onto the new 2025 claim.

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 Sept. 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

Need to Know

Reminder: May Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar

Tuesday, May 6 | 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc--orTktGdPSWnNFkb0NS28WIN6Sagsd>

Save the Date! The next Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar will take place on Tuesday, May 6th from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

This session will include important updates from GWAAR and the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA). The featured topic will be Compassion Resilience presented by Heather Quackenboss from the UW Madison Division of Extension in LaCrosse, WI. Compassion Resilience explores ways to maintain a compassionate presence in our interactions within our community including our colleagues, partners, neighbors, families, children and those we count on to support us. Throughout the presentation we will explore creating a culture of compassion while maintaining our own well-being.



Nice to Know

Statewide Virtual Planning AHEAD Series

April 10 - May 22 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$25 (Includes hard copy or digital materials)

Space is limited. Register here: <https://go.wisc.edu/20plp0>

National Healthcare Decisions Day is observed annually on April 16th and serves as a reminder to think about, plan and document your healthcare wishes, encouraging everyone to ensure their preferences are known and respected.

Celebrate by participating in the statewide virtual Planning AHEAD series. Planning AHEAD is an end-of-life planning curriculum for all ages developed by UW-Madison Division of Extension faculty and staff. This 7-session program will help participants understand how to prepare for the end of life for themselves or a loved one, and why it's important to have a plan in place.

This program and workbook were designed for residents in Wisconsin and is specific to Wisconsin law. For more information go to: <https://aging.extension.wisc.edu/programs/planning-ahead/>

For more information on Planning AHEAD, contact Life Span Program Manager, Sara Richie by email at sara.richie@wisc.edu



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

2025 Healthy Aging Summit - Aging is Living

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Sentry World, Stevens Point

Conference Fee: \$165.00 Registration closes May 1st, 2025

Registration:

<https://wihealthyaging.org/healthy-aging-summit/>

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) is excited to present the 2025 Healthy Aging Summit, a dynamic event dedicated to exploring research, programs, and strategies that support healthy aging. This year's theme, "Aging is Living", celebrates the opportunities, vitality, and resilience that come with aging. From engaging sessions to networking opportunities, this is an event you won't want to miss!

The poster for the 2025 Healthy Aging Summit, titled "AGING IS LIVING", is held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at SentryWorld in Stevens Point, WI. It is designed for leaders, volunteers, researchers, and professionals to learn, collaborate, and celebrate advances in healthy aging. The event features three guest speakers: John McGivern (Actor, TV Host, Storyteller), Patricia M. D'Antonio (National Center to Reframe Aging), and a Health Equity Panel featuring WI program providers. Key items include 2 keynote speakers, a health equity panel, poster presentations, and an exhibit hall. Registration is available via QR code or by clicking a link to register on the website wihealthyaging.org. The event is supported by various sponsors, including Platinum Level (BADER PHARMACEUTICALS), Gold Level (AARP Wisconsin, CHARN), Silver Level (VIAILITY, SecurityHealthPlan, ZCARE, INCUSA, tmg, n4n), and Corporate (LWHealth).

Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Nutrition Ed Bingo!

You may have seen *The March Next Bite* - News from the [Nutrition and Aging Resource Center](#) this month. GWAAR was honored to have one of our Nutrition Ed initiatives featured that an Intern created a few years ago. I have created a document that goes along with the Bingo Cards to help you use the Bingo Cards for Nutrition Education.

View the Nutrition Ed Bingo Notes Page: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008489>

You can download the Bingo Cards, and Nutrition Ed Nutrition Tips & Talking Points for each Call item on our [Nutrition Program](#) SharePoint site in the Nutrition Education Folder and then in the Nutr Ed Bingo Sub-folder. Please reach out with any questions.

Pam.vankampen@gwaar.org

[Nutrition and Aging Resource Center](https://acl.gov/senior-nutrition): <https://acl.gov/senior-nutrition>

Nutrition Program SharePoint Site (for registered users):

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/GWAARAgging-External/SitePages/Nutrition.aspx>



The Nutrition and Aging Resource Center prioritized compiling and developing [ready-to-use nutrition education](#) materials for nutrition programs to use. All of the materials were reviewed by a registered dietitian. Some of my favorites include:

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- Nutrition Education [Bingo Cards](https://acl.gov/senior-nutrition/ready-use-education) from the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources: <https://acl.gov/senior-nutrition/ready-use-education>
- On-demand [nutrition education videos](https://bit.ly/3DS5XvT) from Open Hand Atlanta: <https://bit.ly/3DS5XvT>
- [Nutrition Education in Spanish, Hmong, Vietnamese, and Chinese](https://acl.gov/senior-nutrition/materials-other-languages): <https://acl.gov/senior-nutrition/materials-other-languages>
- [Words on Wellness](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/wellness) monthly newsletters from Iowa State University: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/wellness>
- [Cooking with NYC Aging's](https://sites.google.com/view/cookinglivewithdfta/home?authuser=0&pli=1) healthy recipes and cooking demonstration recordings in English, Chinese, Spanish, Russian, and Korean: <https://sites.google.com/view/cookinglivewithdfta/home?authuser=0&pli=1>

Reminder: Unlock the Power of Nutrition for Healthy Aging webinar

Hosted by Wisconsin Institute for Health Aging (WIHA)

Wednesday, March 26 | 11:00 am.

Are you ready to take charge of your health and vitality as you age? Join us for an exciting webinar that dives into the essential vitamins and minerals older adults need to feel their best. Discover how small changes to your nutrition can make a big impact on your energy, immunity, and overall well-being! We'll explore the must-haves for healthy aging, like Vitamin D for strong bones, B12 for a sharp mind, and magnesium and potassium to keep your heart happy. Plus, we'll share practical tips on incorporating nutrient-rich foods into your meals and discuss when supplements might come in handy.

View the flyer: <https://bit.ly/41JNLfM>

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4iHYQ80>



Reminder: ACL Senior Nutrition Program Anniversary

Every March, ACL celebrates its Senior Nutrition Program and the services it has provided to millions of older Americans since 1972. The program anniversary is an opportunity to promote the program's purpose and impact, engage with partners, and applaud the achievements of the aging services network.



Learn more: <https://acl.gov/snp/celebrate>

Updated registration link for ACL Senior Nutrition Virtual Celebration

Wednesday, March 19 | 1:00-2:00 p.m.

This webinar will highlight the Senior Nutrition Program's accomplishments and best practices. ACL's Office of Nutrition and Health Promotion Programs will reflect on the program's impact and opportunities to increase effectiveness and showcase key resources on the Nutrition and Aging Resource Center website.

Registration:

https://hhs.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_aiYVd9DeSGWo6tVoNSOdRA#/registration

