



Volume 7, No. 15 April 15, 2025  
Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974  
info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org



## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

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### *Nice to Know*

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#### **ACE meeting replay and survey available**

Thank you to the attendees of the virtual ACE Meeting on April 9! Please take a moment to complete our short ACE Meeting survey that was emailed on Tuesday, April 15. We value your input as it assists us with the planning process.

**April 9, 2025 ACE Meeting Survey:** <https://bit.ly/4lLzBUS>

If you wish to view the ACE meeting recording, supporting documents and presentations, they can be found on our new GWAAR Partners Resource-External site, a newly developed GWAAR SharePoint site for use by GWAAR Aging Units and others --ACE MEETINGS. This site was designed to provide our partners with a secure and convenient location to access the information you need to support your clients and staff. Here you will find upcoming GWAAR news and events, informational and training documents and recordings, as well as other important resources.



Partner Users must register to access this site: You should receive access information within 3-5 business days. **Information about registration:** <https://gwaar.org/gpr-ext>

If you have any questions about the registration process, you may contact [Carrie.Kroetz@gwaar.org](mailto:Carrie.Kroetz@gwaar.org).

#### **Reminder: Now hiring: Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) Care Consultant**

The Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) helps Veterans needing assistance choose their own caregivers, services, and supports to be able to safely and successfully remain living in their home. In conjunction with the Veteran and their family, the VSDP Care Consultant is responsible for assessing the Veteran's abilities and level of functioning, identifying areas of need and preferences for meeting those needs, developing a care plan to meet the needs; assisting the Veteran and family caregiver with setting up and purchasing goods and services within their individual budget allocation; and assisting the Veteran with monitoring service provision.

This position requires a significant amount of travel within the North Chicago, Tomah, Madison, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis VAMC catchment areas. Ideal candidate will be located in Dane, Green, or Rock County areas (Central/Southern WI).

**View the full job description:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008516>

To apply, send cover letter and resume to the following:

Lisa Drouin, VA Programs Manager

[Lisa.Drouin@GWAAR.org](mailto:Lisa.Drouin@GWAAR.org)

## Reminder: April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day

National Healthcare Decisions Day is celebrated annually on April 16th, the day after the date traditionally known as Tax Day. The date was chosen based on this quote from Benjamin Franklin, "...in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes." So, by April 15th of each year make sure your taxes are completed and on April 16th review your health care wishes.



NHDD is a way to encourage people to have conversations about their wishes for care through the end of life. This day, as well as events held throughout the year, are intended to empower people to complete advance directives by providing education on the importance of advance care planning and sharing the tools (forms, resources, guides, training) to help them express their wishes regarding healthcare.

Below are a few of the NHDD resources available:

### **Wisconsin Advance Care Planning and Advance Directive Information:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hQRKHcXCEZQ21pdEYITo5ExaOuQbr6-L/view>

### **What is Advance Care Planning (ACP) and Advance Directive (AD)?:**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008509>

### **Your Path to Get What You Want: Advance Care Planning For Health Care & Financial Choices:**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008510>

**The Conversation Project:** <https://theconversationproject.org/nhdd/>

### **Share local events**

Numerous events are held each year in April, as well as throughout the year. If you are holding an advance directives workshop or training in your area, **please send us your event information** to share.

Dr. George Lange, representing [Wisconsin Medical Society](#) has indicated a willingness to help others with Advance Care Planning (CP) and Advance Directive (AD) presentations. He can be reached at [glange1@hotmail.com](mailto:glange1@hotmail.com).

**Let'sTalk, Fox Valley Fox Valley Advance Care Planning Partnership** <https://www.fvacpp.org/nhdd-2025>

April 14-18

### **Reminder: 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). Additional information was posted in the March 18 & 25 Weekly Digests. **Space is limited. Register here:** <https://go.wisc.edu/20plp0>

### **Additional NHDD information, resources and events:**

<https://gwaar.org/national-healthcare-decisions-day-nhdd-april-16-2025>

## Reminder: DHS 2025-2027 Biennial Budget Briefings

The final session in the series of focused budget briefing hosted by the Department of Health Services (DHS) will be held on April 23. These briefings for partners highlight critical portions of Governor Evers' 2025-2027 DHS budget.



### **Investing in Long-Term Care**

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

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

## Join the GWAAR Board of Directors

If you'd like to play a role in shaping the direction of programs and services for older people in the state, we invite you to volunteer for our Board of Directors. Our mission is to provide aging offices with training, technical assistance, and support to improve the well-being of older people in Wisconsin. To apply, please fill out our [online application](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629): <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629>

**Learn more at:** <https://gwaar.org/leadership-opportunities>

## Abuse in Later Life Grant

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### Need to Know

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#### Direct Services Elder Abuse Training

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

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

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/3RJhDUZ>

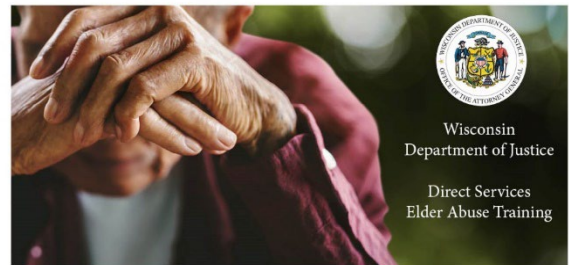
**View the flyer:**

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

*Wednesday, July 23 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Green Bay*

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/4j1uX35>

**View the flyer:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008524>



## Advocacy

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

### Need to Know

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#### ACTION ALERT: 2025-27 State Budget: Week 2

The state legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) has two remaining public hearings on the 2025-2027 State Budget. The remaining public hearing schedule is:

- April 28 – Hayward High School Auditorium - 10320 Greenwood Lane Hayward, WI 54843; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- April 29 – Northcentral Technical College - Center for Health Sciences 1000 West Campus Drive Wausau, WI 54401 Wausau, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For tips on testifying before the Joint Finance Committee see:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006628>

If you would like to submit written testimony to JFC regarding your priorities for the State Budget, comments can be sent via an online portal at <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomment>, by email at [budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov) or sent via U.S. mail to: Joe Malkasian, Room 305 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702.

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With so much at stake for older adults, people living with disabilities, and caregivers in this budget, we must use every opportunity available to provide input on the 2025-27 state budget. **This is week two of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network’s (WAAN) four-week state budget campaign.** The campaign includes strategies for connecting with JFC members, your own state Senator and Assembly Representative, as well as opportunities to educate the public and media about WAAN’s budget priority issues and their impact on your life and/or the lives of those you care for and about.

Your stories are important and impactful!

To help coordinate our messages, WAAN created a theme for each week of the campaign. The themes each week cover issues of importance to older people and family caregivers.

Themes for the remaining three weeks are:

- April 14th – Support and Protection: This week will focus on funding for the Board on Aging and Long Term Care and Elder Abuse Prevention
- April 21st – Health and Independence: This week will focus on funding for Healthy Aging Grants and the Direct Care Workforce
- April 28th Knowledge is Power: This week our focus will be on funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), the Elder Benefit Specialist Program, and the Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center

**Week Two (4/14 – 4/18/25) - Bullet/Talking Points for this week’s “Support and Protection” theme -**

**Read the April 14 Action Alert:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008529>

**See WAAN’s BOALTC Issue Brief:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008478>

**See WAAN’s Elder Abuse & Fraud Prevention Issue Brief:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008442>

### **Federal Action Alert: Contact Congress to Protect FY 2026 OAA Funding**

FY 2025 appropriations are finally done, but appropriations season is heating up again on Capitol Hill for FY 2026 funding. Our national partner, USAging, is asking us to act now! Congress needs to hear directly from their constituents.

Our collective goal is to ensure that members of Congress recognize that funding for the Aging Network’s programs and services needs to be protected and increased on a long-term basis for three reasons:

1. To serve the rapidly growing numbers of older adults who need them,
2. To meet the greater complexity of needs among the older adults you serve, and
3. To address the workforce challenges that are affecting older adults’ access to services.

**Read the full Federal Action Alert:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008530>

### **Shifting language on Health Issues**

To kick off the spring season, the National Center to Reframe Aging shared a new “Frame of Mind” video. See their announcement and a link to the video below.

Watch the new “Shifting Language on Health Issues” - [https://youtu.be/YNswfzRv\\_k8?si=YOH4DrJzYJZAlloeB](https://youtu.be/YNswfzRv_k8?si=YOH4DrJzYJZAlloeB)

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Throughout our health and social care system, we need programs and services that support us as we age, no matter the health conditions we may experience. Research has shown that society considers frailty an inevitable part of aging, leading people to see slow recovery from poor health as an inevitable part of aging and an individual's burden rather than a collective issue. This perception can weaken support for essential programs and services. Thus, how we frame our messages is crucial for maintaining support. To demonstrate a more effective framing of this important issue, The National Center to Reframe Aging is excited to introduce a new addition to the Frame of Mind video series, "Shifting Language on Health Issues." Watch the video today to learn how intentional language can shift perspectives and build stronger support for accessible healthcare programs and check out the entire series here.

Explore the full "Frame of Mind" video series –

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvp61CQapZJem64r\\_6AVViL8G5KLQoQ4A](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvp61CQapZJem64r_6AVViL8G5KLQoQ4A)

### **Aging Advocacy Day 2025 – Registration and Volunteer Sign Up**

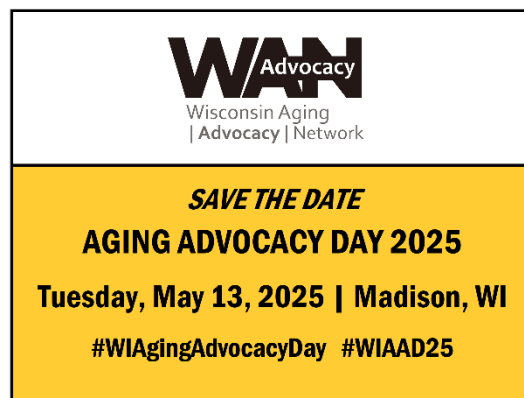
**Register now!** <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2025>! Registration closes Friday, April 25 at 5 p.m.

Advocacy priorities include:

- Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Investment,
- Direct Care Workforce Supports,
- Meals on Wheels Funding, and
- Healthy Aging – Falls Prevention Grants

Find Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) issue briefs here <https://gwaar.org/waan-issues-and-initiatives>.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the event can sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/FelYbrY> or by using the link on the Aging Advocacy Day webpage - <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2025>!



## **Business Development Center**

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

### ***Need to Know***

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#### **Cost of services slightly down in March**

The overall cost of goods through March was slightly down achieving a rate just below three percent over the past 12 months. This means the purchases made supporting programs today, are 2.8 percent more than at this time last year. A contract providing a home delivered meal at a cost of \$10 now costs \$10.28. For an organization providing 12,000 meals annually budgeted at \$10 each last year, this means an additional unbudgeted expense of \$2,800. Changes in trade policy could have impact in the months to come. Consider this factor when renewing contracts. Links to the specific details are found below.

***CPI for all items falls 0.1% in March; gasoline declines:*** <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm>



## Data Management

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

### Need to Know

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#### Update: Upcoming In-Person Training

In-person training dates and locations have been scheduled (no virtual option). Registration links will be posted on the GWAAR SharePoint site under the Aging Programs – Data Management – Library.

#### Upcoming registration deadlines:

05/05/25 - Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Hayward (registration deadline 04/21/25)

05/08/25 - Holiday Inn - Eau Claire (registration deadline 04/24/25)

PeerPlace Training		
Location	Address	Mtg Date
Iowa County Health and Human Services (registration closed)	303 W. Chapel St., Dodgeville, WI 53533	4/25/2025
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843	5/5/2025
Holiday Inn Eau Claire South I-94	4751 Owen Ayres Ct, Eau Claire, WI 54701	5/8/2025
Walworth County Health and Human Services	1910 County Rd NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121	5/16/2025
Comfort Suites Appleton Airport **NEW**	3809 W Wisconsin Ave, Appleton, WI 54914	5/22/2025
Antigo NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center (TRIBAL ONLY) **NEW**	400 Prosser Pl, Antigo, WI 54409	5/28/2025
Antigo NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center **NEW**	400 Prosser Pl, Antigo, WI 54409	5/29/2025

Each location is limited to 50 attendees (Iowa location is limited to 35). Lunch and training materials will be provided. Internet access will be available – please feel free to bring a laptop. Non-refundable registration fee is \$25 per person. Each participant must register separately. **Registrations are due 14 days prior to the session.** *Virtual attendance and recording will not be available.* (This training will not cover EBS data entry.) **A confirmation email will be sent to you within 5 business days, along with an invoice for payment.** Payment will be required for no-shows or cancellations.

## Family Caregiver Support

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

### Need to Know

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#### Allowable expenses expanded through the Supplemental Respite Grant Program (SRGP)

YOU SHOULD KNOW! If you're working with a caregiver who is not eligible for AFCSP or NFCSP or has exhausted their funding, there's great news—RCAW has expanded allowable expenses through the Supplemental Respite Grant Program (SRGP)! Expanded support now includes:

-  Access to nutritious food (in-home prepared meals, grocery kits, etc.)
-  Safe living environments
-  Reliable transportation

For many caregivers, having healthy meals delivered or accessible is a powerful form of respite—helping reduce stress, save time, and support overall wellness.

Help caregivers apply here: <https://respitecarewi.org/grants/supplemental-respite-grant-program/>

REMINDER: Stay current with helpful updates and shareable caregiver resources by following: <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinFamilyCaregiver>



**Nice to Know**

**Visit and share the Wisconsin Family Caregiver Support Facebook page**

📞 Have You Visited Our Facebook Page Lately? If you haven't checked it out recently, you're missing out on a goldmine of caregiver tools, tips, and support opportunities! From webinars and virtual support groups to fresh ideas for self-care and practical caregiving advice—you'll find it all on our Wisconsin Family Caregiver Support Facebook page.

- ✔️ **Professionals:** Shareable resources, training events, and real-time updates to support the families you serve
- ✔️ **Caregivers:** Guided sessions, expert tips, emotional support, and encouragement from people who truly get it

Here's a peek at what's coming soon:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008532>

🔗 Action Step: Click the link below, give us a follow, and explore upcoming events you can join or share with others who may need them!

👉 Follow us now:

<https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinFamilyCaregiver>

Let's stay connected and keep caregiving a little less overwhelming—together.

**Chippewa Valley Dementia Conference**

Tuesday, May 20 | 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25. Registration required: <https://bit.ly/3QusVvY>

The Chippewa Valley Dementia Conference is a day of learning, support and resources for professionals and family caregivers.

**View the flyer for more information:**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008531>

**Fiscal**

*Carrie Kroetz, Data Management and Technology Coordinator*

**Need to Know**

**Upcoming In-Person Training**

In-person training dates and locations have been scheduled (no virtual option). Registration links will be posted on the GWAAR SharePoint site under the Fiscal Resources – Library.

**Upcoming registration deadlines:**

May 6th - Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Hayward (registration deadline 04/22/25)

May 7th - Holiday Inn - Eau Claire (registration deadline 04/23/25)

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Fiscal Training		
Location	Address	Mtg Date
Walworth County Health and Human Services (registration closed)	1910 County Rd NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121	4/23/2025
Iowa County Health and Human Services (registration closed)	303 W. Chapel St., Dodgeville, WI 53533	4/24/2025
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843	5/6/2025
Holiday Inn Eau Claire South I-94	4751 Owen Ayres Ct, Eau Claire, WI 54701	5/7/2025
Antigo NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center	400 Prosser Pl, Antigo, WI 54409	5/20/2025
Fox Valley Tech	1825 N Bluemound Drive Appleton WI 54914	5/21/2025

Each location is limited to 50 attendees (Iowa location is limited to 35). Lunch and training materials will be provided. Internet access will be available – please feel free to bring a laptop. Non-refundable registration fee is \$25 per person. Each participant must register separately. **Registrations are due 14 days prior to the session.** *Virtual attendance and recording will not be available.* (Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence contract holders need not attend.) **A confirmation email will be sent to you within 5 business days, along with an invoice for payment.** Payment will be required for no-shows or cancellations.

GLITC to schedule a Tribal focused training.

## Health Promotion

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

### Nice to Know

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#### Reminder: Healthy Living with Diabetes 2025 Facilitator Training

In response to an increased demand, a virtual Healthy Living with Diabetes facilitator training has been scheduled. Additionally, the in-person facilitator training in Milwaukee is still available. Now is the perfect opportunity to spend down your ARPA D and OAA Title III-D to expand the reach or initiate a Healthy Living with Diabetes program in your community.

Healthy Living with Diabetes Trainings:

- Virtually - June 25-August 6, 2025 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Monday and Wednesday)
- In-Person - October 8,9,15 and 16 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Facilitator Requirements:

- Experience with diabetes - personally or professionally
- Be employed by or volunteer for a registered program provider
- Must hold at least one community workshop every 12 months
- Must identify an eligible co-facilitator

Applications will close 4 weeks prior to the training. Trainees are required to attend all sessions. The training fee is \$950.00

You can rely on WIHA for technical assistance and support throughout the entire training process.

**Become a facilitator** - <https://wihealthyaging.org/for-professionals/become-a-facilitator/>

**Training Application** - <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/w1iseaoc0k9exur/>

**Questions?** Contact Amie Rein: [amie.rein@wihealthyaging.org](mailto:amie.rein@wihealthyaging.org), Health Promotion Program Provider



## Nutrition

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

### Need to Know

#### Advocate for Home-Delivered Meals: Resources to Support Your Conversations

If you're getting ready to speak with legislators about the critical role of Meals on Wheels or Home-Delivered Meals (HDMs), be sure to check out the impactful fact sheet from Meals on Wheels America. It offers compelling talking points to help guide your discussion. It pairs well with the WAAN Issue Brief on Meals on Wheels (or HDMs) for a well-rounded, informative approach.



**Fact Sheet: The case for Meals on Wheels:** <https://bit.ly/4jctOGc>

## Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

### Nice to Know

#### Reminder: April Scam Spotlight: Imposter Scams

If you have a phone, are on social media, or receive mail, you have probably experienced an imposter scam. Learn more about imposter scams related to Medicare, government agencies, and grandparents in this scam spotlight.

**View the April Scam Spotlight:** <https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/04-April-2025-Imposter-Scams.pdf>

The infographic is titled "Wisconsin SMP April 2025 SCAM SPOTLIGHT IMPOSTER SCAMS". It features a yellow and blue header with a spotlight icon. Below the title, it asks questions like "Do you have a cell phone? What about a landline? Are you on social media? Do you receive mail?" and explains that imposter scammers pretend to be from legitimate organizations. A yellow box highlights "What you need to know about imposter scams!". Three columns list key points for Medicare, Government, and Grandparent scams. At the bottom, it provides contact information for the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol and the Federal Trade Commission, and mentions funding from the U.S. Administration for Community Living.

**Wisconsin SMP**  
April 2025 **SCAM SPOTLIGHT**

**IMPOSTER SCAMS**

Do you have a cell phone? What about a landline? Are you on social media? Do you receive mail? If so, you've probably experienced a scam. Imposter scams are when a scammer pretends to be someone of authority or from a legitimate organization. They sometimes even spoof the call, which means they can have the caller ID show up as "Medicare" or "IRS" to look legitimate. If you receive a call from a number not in your contact list, do not answer. It could be a scammer impersonating any number of organizations.

**What you need to know about imposter scams!**

Medicare	Government	Grandparent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medicare will not call you to verify your information, or to ask if you received your new Medicare card.</li><li>• DO NOT share your Medicare Number.</li><li>• DO NOT share personal medical information.</li><li>• DO NOT share your personal doctor's name or their contact information.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Government agencies will not call you out of the blue, including the IRS and the Social Security Administration.</li><li>• DO NOT share any of your personal information.</li><li>• DO NOT share your Social Security Number.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Never send money to people you do not know.</li><li>• Never send gift cards or another odd payment method.</li><li>• Immediately check with loved ones even if they tell you not to contact anyone.</li><li>• Artificial Intelligence (AI) can clone voices, know who you are talking to.</li></ul>

If you are contacted by a Medicare imposter, report it!  
Contact the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol at 888-818-2611

Report other imposter fraud to the Federal Trade Commission at: [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov)

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 59A-FPG2-02, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201