

Volume 7, No. 16 April 22, 2025
Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974
info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org





Join us for Aging Advocacy Day Tuesday, May 13, 2025 #WIAgingAdvocacyDay #WIAAD25 Registration closes
Friday April 25!

Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

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!

Share the Facebook event: https://www.facebook.com/events/573879199020059?active tab=about

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.



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 | https://acl.gov/oam | https://acl.gov/oam | https://acl.gov/oam | https://acl.gov/oam/2025/oam-materials |

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

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

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

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

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

Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

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



<u>Janet Zander</u>, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator

Need to Know

ACTION ALERT: 2025-27 State Budget – Week Three

Read the full Action Alert: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008536

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.

See <u>Tips for Testifying Before JFC at State Budget Hearings</u>. See the Joint Finance Committee 2025-27 Biennial Budget <u>Public Comment</u> <u>Website</u> for additional information, including the link to submit written budget testimony via the JFC's online portal.

Tips for Testifying: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006628

Public Comment website:

https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments/

- In 2019, 83% of hip fracture deaths and 88% of emergency department visits and hospitalizations for hip fractures in older adults – a common cause of both long-term nursing home admissions and rehabilitation stays – were caused by failed.
- In 2022, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Wisconsin responded to over 130,000 falls, and th

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 three 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 two weeks are:

- April 21st Health and Independence: This week will focus on funding for Reducing Falls Among Older Adults and the Direct Care Workforce
 - o For more information, see WAAN's related Issue briefs:
 - Reducing Falls Issue Brief: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008534
 - Direct Care Workforce Issue Brief: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008535

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

ACTION ALERT Update: Ask Your State Legislators to Protect Wisconsin's Caregiver Support Programs

Read the full Action Alert: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008537

Public hearing: Wednesday, April 23 | 1 p.m.

SB 152 – Legislation that removes income requirements for the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) to align with the federal National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) has now been **introduced in the Assembly** - AB 176! Thank you for continuing to reach out to your state legislator to thank them or ask for their support of this important legislation. Removing income-based eligibility requirements from AFCSP will protect \$3.5 million in annual federal NFCSP funding and ensure support remains accessible to all families.

Take Action:

The Senate's <u>Health Committee</u> scheduled a public hearing on SB 152 this Wed., April 23 at 1 p.m. (see <u>hearing notice</u>). The Senate Health Committee members are: <u>Senator Cabral-Guevara (Chair)</u>, <u>Senator Testin (Vice-Chair)</u>, <u>Senator James</u>, <u>Senator Smith</u>, and <u>Senator Drake</u>. If your state Senator is a member of this committee, please reach out and let them know how you and/or your agency utilize this program to help serve caregivers in your area.

Read the full Action Alert: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008537

Federal News: OAA Programs Under Attack, Contact Your Members of Congress Today

Read the full Action Alert: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008538

Reach Out to Your U.S. Senators and Representatives to Ensure Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs Stay Together!

The President's FY 2026 HHS budget draft was leaked last week, and it shows the Trump Administration's intent to separate the OAA programs and send them to two different agencies (the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [CMS] and the Administration for Children and Families [ACF]) to administer. The budget also calls for zeroing out several key OAA and other aging programs, including OAA Title III D (Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Self-Management Education) and Title VII (Long-Term Care Ombudsman), as well as elder falls prevention, lifespan respite, elder justice/adult protective services, ADRCs (note: funding for Wis. ADRCs is not affected by this), State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP), and Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) (although a one-year extension is included).



Action Needed: Contact your Members of Congress today and call for OAA programs to remain together at the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) and for critical aging programs to be saved from elimination! **Advocacy is not optional!**

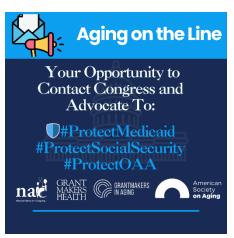
Read the full Action Alert here: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008538

Download a Word document with the letter template: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008539

Aging on the Line

Aging on the Line is an opportunity to contact your federal representatives as an individual constituent and advocate for the protection of critical programs that benefit all of us as we age. Aging on the Line is sponsored by Grantmakers In Aging and Grantmakers In Health in partnership with the National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) and American Society on Aging (ASA).

You can use the script word for word or make the message your own. The script advocates for the protection of three federal programs that are critical to the health and well-being of older adults, family caregivers, and people with disabilities: Medicaid, Social Security and the Older Americans Act. You can find additional policy priorities and resources shared by their partners here.



Whether you call, email or leave a voicemail, this is an opportunity to voice your opinion and advocate for what you believe in. See talking points below and click here - https://caregiving.quorum.us/campaign/AgingOnTheLine/ to take action.

Medicaid

- 68 million individuals are enrolled in Medicare—and one in five rely on Medicaid to afford and access essential health and long-term care. Without Medicaid, 12 million Medicare enrollees could not access the care they need.
- 15 million people with disabilities rely on Medicaid for healthcare coverage.
- Medicaid, not Medicare, is the primary payer of both home- and facility-based long-term care.

Social Security

- Without Social Security, about 40% of Americans over 65 would fall below the poverty line
- Plans to close offices and cut staff by 7,000 workers will make it more difficult to access and apply for benefits

Older Americans Act

- The Older Americans Act funds essential community services for nearly 11 million older people and caregivers
- OAA-supported programs include transportation, Meals on Wheels, legal assistance and more

2025 Federal Funding: 4/25 Info and Action Steps Webinar (spots limited)

Friday, April 25 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) is offering a no cost weekly webinar to cover the latest federal news impacting people with disabilities.

This week's webinar will cover Medicaid, Social Security, Disability Programs, and Education. Join BPDD this Friday to get the latest on Federal funding cuts and federal agency changes that impact people with disabilities.

(Registration English, Registration Spanish)

-continued-



This webinar will cover:

- The latest on what Congress is doing on the budget reconciliation bill, a way Congress can make cuts to Medicaid and other programs important to people with disabilities.
- Actions the Executive Branch is taking at federal agencies that impact programs and services important to people with disabilities.
- What other disability advocates have been doing this week that you could do too. Media content to share with your networks.
- New talking points and resources to share that will help keep the conversation going with lawmakers.

This webinar is limited to the first 500 people who log on. BPDD is committed to making its resources as accessible as possible. If you need interpretation to participate in this webinar, please indicate that when registering and let us know by each Wednesday before the webinar. BPDD has not received funding since March 14 and has no assurance of continued funding, so will not be providing interpretation unless it is requested by Wednesday before the Friday webinar.

The presentation will be recorded. All people who register will get a follow up email after the webinar with a link to the recording and presentation slides.

When you register, you will receive another e-mail with the registration link for the webinar. Please note, some people have reported issues with phones and tablets showing all screens (ASL interpreters, speaker, and screen share).

SAVE Act

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act (H.R. 22) would require citizenship documentation to register to vote even though voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering.

Earlier this month, the House of Representatives passed the SAVE Act for the second time. in April 2025. Action must now be taken to ask U.S. Senators to reject this bill to prevent it from becoming law.

It is already illegal for noncitizens to register and vote in federal or state elections. The bill's requirement of a document to prove American citizenship to register to vote creates another barrier to voting.

Many communities of eligible voters would be unnecessarily burdened by the requirements of the SAVE Act. Among them are military voters who would be required to present documentation every time they reregister to vote when their family moves and families who have been impacted by natural disasters may have lost necessary documentation and would be required to jump through hoops to replace these documents to register to vote. Additionally, Americans who have changed their name, like married women, would also be required to secure updated documentation to register to vote.

See the League of Women Voters SAVE Act Action Alert: https://www.lwv.org/take-action/tell-your-senators-oppose-save-act.

Please share this action alert and/or this League of Women Voters Facebook post – https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AEb3SFAuQ/ with others and encourage them to take action too.

Business Development Center

Sky Van Rossum, Special Projects Manager

Need to Know

Reminder: 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 and 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

Carrie Kroetz, Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

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)

05/16/25 - Walworth County Health and Human Services - Elkhorn (registration deadline 05/02/25)

PeerPlace Training		
Location	Address	Mtg Date
lowa 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

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

Need to Know

Reminder: 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:



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

Free webinar Bridging the Gap: How Community Health Workers Support Family Caregivers

Wednesday, April 30 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Family caregivers are navigating a maze of health care, long-term care, and community services — even more challenging in rural and underserved areas. Enter Community Health Workers (CHWs) — trusted community members with shared lived experience who serve as connectors to care, support, and HOPE.

Join us for an empowering webinar exploring:

- ♦ Innovative CHW programs and caregiver support models
- State & local training + funding opportunities
- Real-world examples from across the country
- Speakers:

Phoebe Hefko – WI Department of Health Services

Dr. Denise A. Hernandez – UT Arlington

Imelda Aguirre – Alzheimer's Association, DEI Manager

Webinar Registration: https://bit.ly/4jEyoxf

This webinar is hosted by NASHP and generously supported by The John A. Hartford Foundation.



Reminder: 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



6 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.

Reminder: 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



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)

May 20th - NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center - Antigo (registration deadline 05/06/25)

May 21st - Fox Valley Tech - Appleton (registration deadline 05/07/25)

Fiscal Training		
Location	Address	Mtg Date
Walworth County Health and Human Services (registration closed)	1910 County Rd NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121	4/23/2025
lowa 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.

Guardianship Support Center

Polly Shoemaker, WI Guardianship Support Center Attorney

Nice to Know

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

The April 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/2008528

Visit the Guardian Support Center page:

https://gwaar.org/guardianship-resources



Health Promotion

Angie Sullivan, Older Americans Act Consultant - Health Promotions Specialist

Nice to Know

Mind Matters: Navigating Mental Health in Older Adulthood

Tuesday, May 20 | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Virtual on Zoom

Register Here: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Vp8PD5LyStiaSO4_outnaw#/registration

Join the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging and Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection as we host:

- Dr. Rebecca Radue, Geriatric Psychiatrist
- Danette Hopke, Behavioral Health Program Manager, UW-Madison Division of Extension
- Mark Miller, Outreach Manager, 988 Wisconsin Lifeline



Learn about the importance of taking care of our mental health and tools to help us stay connected and mentally well as we age.

Nutrition

Pam VanKampen, Older Americans Act Consultant - Nutrition Specialist/Senior Center Representative

Need to Know

Reminder: 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