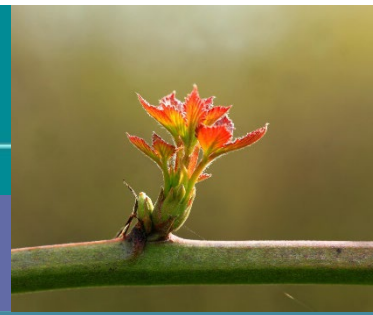




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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Wisconsin State Plan on Aging draft for (FFY) 2026 –2028 ready for public review

The new Wisconsin State Plan on Aging for federal fiscal years (FFY) 2026–2028 has been drafted and is now ready for public review.



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

Every three years, the Wisconsin State Unit on Aging develops a state plan and submits it to the federal Administration on Aging. The state plan is required for the state to receive federal funding under the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. Additionally, the state plan helps to structure our priorities, set an agenda for aging services and programs, and explain the financial plan and formulas that allocate program funding.

The Wisconsin State Unit on Aging has taken a forward-looking approach to the challenges of a rapidly aging population. This state plan prioritizes adapting and improving aging programs, funding, and network culture to effectively serve growing and demographically complex older population. Given growth and change in the older population, this state plan reviews and updates the state's method for targeting program resources to those with the greatest need. Additionally, the plan highlights ongoing work to bring the Wisconsin State Unit on Aging's policies and procedures into closer alignment with new clarifications detailed in the Older Americans Act final rule, Code of Federal Regulations 45(1321).

The draft Wisconsin State Plan on Aging FFY 2026–2028 is available for public review through Sunday, May 25, 2025. **Visit the Wisconsin Department of Health Services [Aging: Programs and Services for Older Adults](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/index.htm) to review and provide feedback:** <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/index.htm>

1. Review the state plan narrative and attachments.

- [Draft Wisconsin State Plan on Aging FFY 2026–2028 \(PDF\)](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/2025-aging-narrative-draft.pdf)
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/2025-aging-narrative-draft.pdf>
- [Draft Attachment C: Wisconsin State Aging Plan Financial Plan and Intrastate Funding \(PDF\)](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/2025-aging-financial-plan-draft.pdf)
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/2025-aging-financial-plan-draft.pdf>
- [Draft Attachment F: Goals, Strategies, and Outcomes \(PDF\)](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/2025-aging-goals-draft.pdf)
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/2025-aging-goals-draft.pdf>

2. Complete the public review surveys to provide comments on the plan narrative and attachments.

- [State Plan on Aging public comments survey](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8280953/Wisconsin-State-Aging-Plan-Public-Review-Survey)
<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8280953/Wisconsin-State-Aging-Plan-Public-Review-Survey>
- [Financial Plan and Intrastate Funding Formula public comments survey:](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8280909/Public-Review-Survey-Draft-Wisconsin-State-Aging-Financial-Plan-and-Intrastate-Funding-Formula)
<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8280909/Public-Review-Survey-Draft-Wisconsin-State-Aging-Financial-Plan-and-Intrastate-Funding-Formula>

-continued-

Your input is both valued and appreciated. Please share this request for public review with your local community, and others across the Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Network. **All comments received by Sunday, May 25, 2025, will be considered in crafting final revisions.** The finalized State Plan on Aging is due to the Administration on Aging by June 30, 2025.

Questions? Please contact the State Unit on Aging by emailing Older Americans Act Program Supervisor [Neal Minogue](mailto:neal.minogue@dhs.wisconsin.gov) at neal.minogue@dhs.wisconsin.gov or State Aging Plan Analyst [Sara O'Donnell](mailto:sara.odonnell@dhs.wisconsin.gov) at sara.odonnell@dhs.wisconsin.gov

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.



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

Advocacy

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

Need to Know

ACTION ALERT: 2025-27 State Budget – Week Four

Read the full Action Alert:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008546>

The state legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) **has one remaining public hearing** on the 2025-2027 State Budget **TODAY:**

April 29 – Northcentral Technical College - Center for Health Sciences 1000 West Campus Drive Wausau, WI 54401 Wausau, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

See [Tips for Testifying Before JFC at State Budget Hearings](#). See the Joint Finance Committee 2025-27 Biennial Budget [Public Comment Website](#) 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/>

The image is a flyer for the ACTION ALERT: 2025-27 State Budget, Week Four, dated 4-28-25. It features the WAAAN logo (Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network) and contact information for Janet Zander at 608.228.1200. The flyer lists two public hearings: one on April 28 at Hayward High School Auditorium and another on April 29 at Northcentral Technical College. It includes a link to the JFC's online portal for submitting written budget testimony. The flyer also mentions that the state legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) has two remaining public hearings on the 2025-2027 State Budget. A section titled "Your stories are important and impactful!" encourages sharing stories about aging, disability, and caregiving. It notes that the theme for this week is "Knowledge is Power" and lists several key points: the importance of knowledge, the role of the JFC, and the need for funding for aging and disability services. The flyer concludes with a call to action to share stories and contact information.

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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 the fourth and final week 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.

The theme for this fourth and final week is:

- **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
- For more information, see WAAN's related Issue briefs:
 - **ADRC Issue Brief:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008440>
 - **GSC Issue Brief:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008444>

Share your story (see [Five Steps for Creating Powerful Personal Testimony](#)). How do the programs or services in this week's theme or the absence of these services and programs affect your life or the life of a family member, friend, or someone you serve.

Five Steps for Creating Powerful Personal Testimony: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007740>

In addition to sharing your personal story in your written comments to JFC and your own state legislators, consider one or more of these additional actions:

- A. Write a letter to the editor!** Using your story and/or talking points on this week's issues (see above) write a short letter to the editor to your local daily or weekly paper.
- B. Prepare articles for your agency newsletter related to these budget topics** (and/or submit an article to your local newspaper regarding this week's issues).
- C. Attend an in-district listening session with your legislator(s).** Many legislators are holding listening sessions in their districts. Sign up for your legislators' electronic newsletters and watch for opportunities for you to connect with them.
- D. Invite your legislators for a site visit or to attend an agency event or board meeting.** This is a great way to help your legislators hear about and see the great work you are doing.

Your voice matters! The more of us that participate in the hearings and the weekly campaign activities, the more legislators will hear about the issues important to aging advocates and older adults.

All WAAN issue briefs are available at: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008488>.

Previously issued WAAN 2025-27 State Budget Action Alerts are available at:

- **Week One** - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008518>
- **Week Two** - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008529>
- **Week Three** - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008536>
- **Week Four** - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008546>

Nice to Know

Applications being accepted for Medicaid Member Experience Council ambassadors

Deadline to apply, May 12

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is putting together a Medicaid Member Experience Council (MMEC). This Council will be composed of:

- People who currently have Medicaid benefits, or their caregivers; and
- People who had Medicaid benefits in the last two years, or their caregivers

The MMEC will connect with decision makers to identify service gaps, improvements, and what's working right to improve the Medicaid experience.

Please apply by May 12, 2025! More information on this opportunity can be found here -

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/mmec.htm>.

The application to apply is here - <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8239554/mmec-application>

Reminder: 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 and take action: <https://caregiving.quorum.us/campaign/AgingOnTheLine/>

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



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:

- 05/16/25 - Walworth County Health and Human Services - Elkhorn (**registration deadline 05/02/25**)
- 05/22/25 - Comfort Suites Appleton Airport (**registration deadline 05/06/25**)
- 05/28/25 - TRIBAL ONLY - NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center - Antigo (**registration deadline 05/14/25**)
- 05/29/25 - NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center - Antigo (**registration deadline 05/15/25**)

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

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

Nice to Know

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

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

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

Join the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) for a dynamic webinar exploring how Community Health Workers (CHWs) are helping caregivers and older adults navigate complex health and social systems—especially in underserved and rural areas. Learn about innovative state and local efforts, training models, and funding opportunities that elevate CHWs as trusted connectors to care.

- Featuring Wisconsin's own Phoebe Hefko, ADRC Program & Policy Unit Supervisor at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Plus leaders from the University of Texas at Arlington and the Alzheimer's Association

Don't miss this opportunity to explore practical strategies for linking caregivers to critical community resources. *This webinar supported by The John A. Hartford Foundation.*



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 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
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

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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.

Medicare Outreach and Assistance

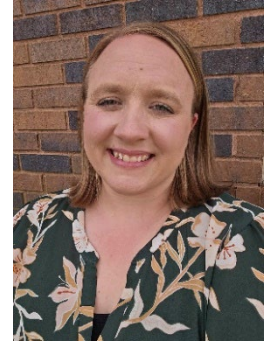
[Stephanie Haas](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

Introducing Stephanie Haas, GWAAR's new Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Effective March 10, Stephanie Haas started as GWAAR's new Medicare Outreach Coordinator, the role formerly held by Alyssa Kulpa. Stephanie has been with GWAAR for nearly three years as the Community Health Worker for Monroe County. In addition to prior customer service experience, Stephanie also brings 15 years of experience working as a Certified Nursing Assistant.

Stephanie works from her home office in Sparta, where she lives with her husband, their two boys, and two lazy cats. In her spare time, Stephanie enjoys quilting, camping, biking, and taking her boys on new adventures. She can be reached at stephanie.haas@gwaar.org. Congratulations on your new role, Stephanie!



Wisconsin SHIP fact sheet updated to highlight program importance

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides Medicare counseling, outreach, and education to all people with Medicare.

The [Wisconsin SHIP Fact Sheet \(P-00166\)](#) has been updated to illustrate the Wisconsin SHIP program's enormous impact. This publication is publicly available in the Department of Health Services



[Publications Library](#) and can be shared. Questions? Contact michelle.grochocinski@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

View the fact sheet: <https://bit.ly/3Gvk5fr> | **Visit the Publications Library:** <https://bit.ly/4350RGh>

Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

NOURISH Step: Watch the TV segment, check out the resources

Chef Lori Fernandez and Pam VanKampen from the GWAAR Nutrition Team recently appeared on Channel 5's TV Spot in Green Bay to share delicious NOURISH Step recipes—the Spring Salad and Sunrise Muffins—spreading the joy of healthy eating in just under five minutes.

Watch the segment:

<https://www.wearegreenbay.com/video/chef-lori-4-16-25/10633243/>



Visit NOURISH Step on our website for newsletter, resources and more: <https://gwaar.org/nourishstep>

We've freshened up the NOURISH Step website, your go-to hub for nutrition education, featuring monthly newsletters through July—including a Teddy Bear Picnic celebration on July 10! Start planning your festivities now with the attached ideas. As Winnie the Pooh wisely said, "Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart." We believe sharing food, laughter, and togetherness at local sites is one of those small, heart-filled things. Keep an eye out for our upcoming TV segment all about the Teddy Bear Picnic—and remember, we NOURISH ourselves with more than food.