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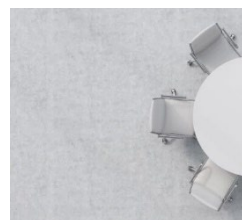
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

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>



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

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

Reminder: 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:**

Additional links to review and comment on the plan are available in the April 29 issue of the GWAAR newsletter <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008547> and on the GWAAR SharePoint site (registered users) <https://bit.ly/4jETj2R>

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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.

Nice to Know

Elder Abuse Hotline celebrates five years of service across Wisconsin

The Elder Abuse Hotline offers a comprehensive approach to assisting victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation with local and state resources. In collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, this project is a statewide resource for victims, family members, and other concerned members of the public who suspect cases of elder abuse.



Through the hotline, incoming calls are taken, individual stories documented, and resources provided enabling a warm-hand off to appropriate local and state agencies across Wisconsin's 72 counties.

Congratulation to the award winning Elder Abuse Hotline and its coordinator Joanna Reinstein.

Reminder: Celebrate Older Americans Month 2025: Flip the Script on Aging

#OlderAmericansMonth

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.



ACL has provided logos, a social media toolkit and posters, As you share messaging related to Older Americans Month use #OlderAmericansMonth to join the nationwide conversation!

FLIP THE SCRIPT ON AGING: MAY 2025

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

Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

Reminder: 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:

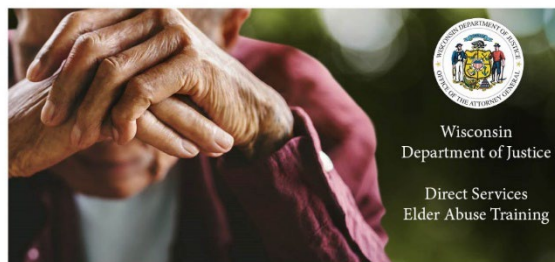
<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008483>

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

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

Need to Know

Medicaid markup pushed to week of May 12th

Late last week, the House Energy and Commerce committee (with responsibility for Medicaid) and the Agriculture committee (responsible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP [FoodShare program in Wis.]) announced they would not hold a markup on May 7th (to show what Medicaid cut ideas they are proposing) as initially planned. Disagreement about how deep and what cuts to make to Medicaid and SNAP are cited as the main reason for delay. This is good news, as it gives us one more week to connect with U.S. Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin and your U.S. Representative about the importance of Medicaid and SNAP to the people you serve and what impact cuts to Medicaid will have on older adults and people with disabilities, low income families, family caregivers, Medicaid provider agencies and workers, and your community. See Wisconsin Members of Congress for contact information for Senators Johnson and Baldwin and your U.S. Representative. To find out who your Representative is, see <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>.

Last week, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) released a model that calculated the impact of three different potential ways Congress is considering cutting Medicaid —per capita caps, increasing paperwork to prove work status, and reducing the amount of federal Medicaid administrative match. Congress could also propose different Medicaid cut ideas that are not in DHS's model that would also impact Wisconsin Medicaid programs.

The Energy & Commerce and Agriculture Committees are now planning to hold their markups the week of May 12th. If the House completes their final markups next week, it could still be in position to do a full House vote the week of the 19th.

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Additional Medicaid Resources

- ***Government Watchdog Expects Medicaid Work Requirement Analysis by Fall:*** <https://bit.ly/42L2nNW>
- ***Medicaid Work Requirements Could Put 36 Million People at Risk of Losing Health Coverage:*** <https://bit.ly/4m1ChxC>
- ***How National Medicaid Work Requirements Would Lead to Large-Scale Job Losses, Harm State Economies, and Strain Budgets:*** <https://bit.ly/4IYSWlz>
- ***The Public, Including Most Republicans, Oppose Medicaid Cuts:*** <https://bit.ly/3RSUXlw>
- ***Who's Affected by Medicaid Work Requirements? It's Not Who You Think:*** <https://bit.ly/3RQwn4B>

President's Budget Calls for Major Eliminations

The Trump Administration released several budget documents late last week as part of the President's "skinny" budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. A skinny budget is typically used in a President's first year, as they need more time to develop a budget that reflects their priorities but want to begin signaling to Congress what these priorities are by releasing high-level documents.

The full budget is not expected to be released until later this month, leaving us to assume that the proposed cuts to and reorganization of Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging programs referred to in this Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) [Action Alert](#) are still in place.

WAAN Action Alert: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008538>

The President is proposing a **22.7 percent overall cut to non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding** in FY 2026, while raising defense spending by 13 percent. NDD funding includes OAA, State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and a host of other government efforts that support older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers outside of the mandatory funding programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

While details by program are not yet available, the cover letter on the President's skinny budget claims that the NDD cuts "still protect [...] funding for homeland security, *veterans*, *seniors*, law enforcement, and infrastructure." (Emphasis added.) At this time, all we have is the leaked U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) budget which eliminated OAA Title III D, OAA Title VII LTC Ombudsman program, SHIPs and several other key programs formerly under ACL (including State Developmental Disability Councils, Disability Protection and Advocacy agencies, and the Lifespan Respite Care program)—so the accuracy of this statement can't yet be challenged. The skinny budget does not speak to any of those proposed cuts, nor does it refer to any programs currently administered by ACL. The skinny budget does contain details on the following agencies or programs, however, so here's what IS in the budget.

What We Know About the President's FY 2026 Budget

- The **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** is slated for elimination in the budget, with the Trump Administration claiming it is rife with fraud and abuse.
- The **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)** has also been slated for elimination in the Trump budget, claiming "these grants [to Community Action Agencies] are laden with equity-building and green energy initiatives."
- The **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** is also proposed for elimination in the budget, asserting that "CDBG is poorly targeted, and the program has been used for a variety of projects that the Federal Government should not be funding."
- **Section 202 Housing for the Elderly** has been merged into a block grant with other targeted housing programs. The budget states: "The Budget empowers States by transforming the current Federal dysfunctional rental assistance programs into a State-based formula grant which would allow States to

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- design their own rental assistance programs based on their unique needs and preferences. The Budget would also newly institute a two-year cap on rental assistance for able bodied adults, and would ensure a majority of rental assistance funding through States would go to the elderly and disabled.”
- The **Corporation for National and Community Service**, which operates the AmeriCorps Seniors programs (this includes the **RSVP, Foster Grandparent Program [FGP], and Senior Companion Program [SCP]**), is slated for elimination in the President’s budget.
- **OAA Title V Senior Community Services Employment Program** is slated for elimination, with the Administration claiming, “seniors would be better served by programs operated by State and local governments, with proven track records of increasing wages.”
- The budget on the **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)**: “To further improve the health of seniors consistent with the President’s Make America Healthy Aging (MAHA) initiative, the Budget ends CSFP and replaces it with MAHA food boxes. The MAHA food boxes remove administrative middlemen to provide higher-quality food directly to seniors. Unlike the current approach using food banks, which provide those in need with shelf-stable foods that are high in sodium and other harmful ingredients, MAHA boxes would be filled with commodities sourced from domestic farmers and given directly to American households. This approach of boxing commodities was highly successful at the end of the first Trump administration as a COVID pandemic response.”

Next Steps

It is important to remember that the President’s budget is just a blueprint, not an actual appropriations bill. Congress must agree to implement these funding levels (including zeroing out programs) through their appropriations process, which is just getting started.

Our national partners will keep us updated as the full details of the President’s budget become available. While we wait for the final budget to be released, advocates need to continue to take action to protect the integrity of OAA programs and services. If you have not yet done so, please use WAAN’s [Action Alert](#) to **take action today and ask others to do the same!**

WAAN Action Alert: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008538>

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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>

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:

05/22/25 - 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

Time for Living and Caring (TLC) Webinar

A fresh approach to planning respite time that truly benefits caregivers!

Thursday, May 8 | 1:00 p.m.

Webinar Registration:

<https://bit.ly/3EFVkwP>

🎧 Featuring Dr. Rebecca Utz and her University of Utah team

📱 Learn about a FREE, public respite planning app designed just for caregivers!

Join us to explore findings from a 5-year NIA-funded study and walk away with a tool that helps caregivers use their time off more meaningfully.



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

Reminder: 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

Two free SNAP webinars available

Expanding SNAP Time Limits: How Proposed Cuts Harm Vulnerable Communities and Create Administrative Barriers

Monday, May 12 | 2:00 p.m. | Virtual on Zoom

Registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QwOZ_USdTT2k6oHv-rpLDg#/registration

Proposals to cut \$230 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are advancing, with significant changes that could deeply impact food security for vulnerable communities. Among the most concerning is the proposal to expand time limits, meaning individuals who cannot meet work hour requirements would only be eligible for SNAP benefits for three months in a three-year period. This would disproportionately affect individuals with disabilities, caregivers, and those in unstable or low-wage jobs who struggle to consistently meet these rigid requirements.

The Cost of Cuts: The Economic Fallout of SNAP Reductions

Wednesday, May 14 | 2:00 p.m. | Virtual on Zoom

Registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YDViqzF-TMqnC_v-E8m2Mg?eType#/registration

Join this webinar for a timely and urgent conversation exploring the far-reaching consequences of proposed federal cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—and what these cuts mean not only for families and children, but for local economies, and state and municipal budgets. This webinar brings together a distinguished panel of experts in economic policy, municipal finance, and public sector equity. These leaders—including former city controllers, auditors, and budget consultants—bring deep experience in fiscal management and a firsthand understanding of how federal policy decisions cascade down to state and local budgets. Their insight is critical as we assess how proposed SNAP cuts would undermine economic stability and long-term financial health at every level of government.



Reminder NOURISH Step: Updated resources

Don't forget to visit the NOURISH Step website, your go-to hub for nutrition education, featuring monthly newsletters through July—including a Teddy Bear Picnic celebration on July 10th! 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.

Visit NOURISH Step for newsletter, resources and more:

<https://gwaar.org/nourishstep>

In case you missed it: 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/>



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

May Scam Spotlight: Durable Medical Equipment

This month's Scam Spotlight focuses on durable medical equipment (DME) scams. This is a tried-and-true scam for the fraudsters, so it is important to share this information with Medicare beneficiaries so that they aren't impacted by this scheme!

View the May Scam Spotlight: <https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/05-May-DME-Fraud-1.pdf>

