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Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974
info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org



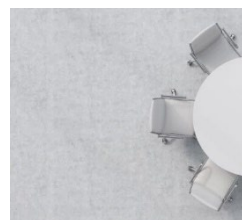
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: 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>

Nice to Know

FCC Older Americans Month Webinar

Thursday, May 22 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

In recognition of Older Americans Month, the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) will host a webinar highlighting how staying connected can empower Older Americans.

During the webinar, attendees will learn about:

- Connectivity as a tool to prevent social isolation
- Telehealth resources
- Virtual volunteer opportunities
- Hearing aid compatibility for wireline telephones and wireless handsets
- Captioning information and resources

Persons interested in attending can register in advance using the link below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Register here: <https://fccgov.webex.com/weblink/register/re2fefa77ba52760fc1d3e250bfa99245>

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Requesters of such accommodations may contact the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at fcc504@fcc.gov or (202) 418-0530. Such requests should include a detailed description of the accommodation needed and how the requester can be contacted. Requests should be made as early as possible.

More information: <https://bit.ly/43sUbSE>



Reminder: 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.

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

Visit the Wisconsin Elder Abuse Hotline site: <https://reportelderabusewi.org/>



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

#OlderAmericansMonth

Each May, ACL has led 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!

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:

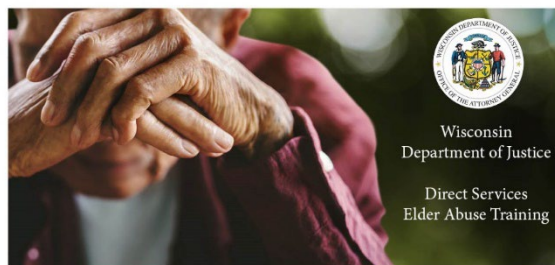
<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008483>

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

2025-27 State Budget Update

The Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) held their first executive session of the 2025-27 budget process on Thursday, May 8. In the executive session, JFC voted to remove non-fiscal policy items, as well as budgetary policy items, from the budget and return to a base budget. For a complete list of what was removed, see State Budget Motion #4.

View the document: <https://bit.ly/3F8l2cf>

Among the over 600 items removed that JFC indicated will not be discussed during the budget process were the following aging network priorities (bolded) and other items impacting older adults and family caregivers:

- Homelessness Prevention Initiatives
- Affordable Housing and Workforce Development Grant Program
- **Board on Aging and Long Term Care – Ombudsman and administrative staff**
- **Automatic Voter Registration**
- Voter Bill of Rights
- Full Medicaid expansion
- **Home-delivered meals**
- Health Care Provider Innovation Grants (previously ARPA funded)
- Home and Community Based Services (previously ARPA funded)
- **Falls Prevention Grants**
- **Respite Care Grant**
- **Guardianship Grant**
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Peer-Run Respite Centers
- Peer-Run Warmline Grant
- Insulin Safety Net Programs
- Insulin Copayment Cap
- **Regional Transit Authorities**
- Transit Capital Assistance Grants
- **Family and Medical Leave Expansion**
- **Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits**

While some of these proposals could be revived in the budget, this has not historically happened, requiring us to shift our focus to stand-alone bills for some of our priority issues.

The JFC will now begin the process of putting together the 2025-27 budget piece by piece and building off of a base budget. The budget is not final until the full Assembly and Senate agree on an identical version of the budget and the Governor signs it into law (which could include items he wishes to change using his partial veto authority).

Please watch for State Budget Action Alerts as additional budget motions are introduced in the future.

Nice to Know

Webinar: Federal Funding Fallout2025: Info and Action Steps

Friday, May 16 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds516>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan516>

Cuts to federal Medicaid spending continue to be a top concern, however other programs important to people with disabilities may cut through the reconciliation bill process, and the administration is making changes at several federal agencies including the Dept. of Health and Human Services, Social Security, and Education that directly impact people with disabilities.



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.

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.

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.

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 – Access Data Management Files.

Upcoming registration deadlines:

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 (registration closed)	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843	5/5/2025
Holiday Inn Eau Claire South I-94 (registration closed)	4751 Owen Ayres Ct, Eau Claire, WI 54701	5/8/2025
Walworth County Health and Human Services (registration closed)	1910 County Rd NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121	5/16/2025
Comfort Suites Appleton Airport **NEW** (registration closed)	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

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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.

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 – Access Fiscal Files.

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 (registration closed)	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843	5/6/2025
Holiday Inn Eau Claire South I-94 (registration closed)	4751 Owen Ayres Ct, Eau Claire, WI 54701	5/7/2025
Antigo NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center (registration closed)	400 Prosser Pl, Antigo, WI 54409	5/20/2025
Fox Valley Tech (registration closed)	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 – Tribal Fiscal Training

June 17-18/ Wausau

The upcoming Tribal Fiscal Training will be held June 17-18 in Wausau. This training is tribal-specific, meaning it will cover Titles III & VI. GLITC would also like to highlight the opportunity to schedule a one-on-one training with a member of the GWAAR Fiscal Staff. Please check that out and schedule your appointment if you're interested. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Ryan Bunker. Thanks, and we hope to see you there!

Please fill out the Registration Form: <https://bit.ly/3GSI75u>

Hotel Information: Jefferson Street Inn, 201 Jefferson Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Vivo Virtual Information Session

Friday, May 23 | 10:00 a.m. | Virtual on Zoom

Meeting link: <https://bit.ly/4kgqQ3x>

Vivo is the newest addition to the list of high-level evidence-based health promotion programs that Aging Units are able to utilize their OAA Title III-D funding on. Join us on Friday, May 23rd at 10 a.m. to learn how you can be a part of this pilot project in Wisconsin.

Vivo is delivered as an interactive experience through small group, 2-way live training, and designed to meet participants at their functional level. Exercises focus on strength, balance, and cognitive function.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4870264322?pwd=czBwZE9lYW5aeVh2QnU5ZnJ5bGN4QT09>



Balancing Act: Stay Safe with Your Furry Friend Free Webinar

Wednesday, May 21 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Virtual on Zoom

Join the Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition for an engaging and informative webinar that's all about staying steady - at any age! We're thrilled to welcome Dr. Kristen Pickett, Associate Professor in the Occupational Therapy Program at UW-Madison and Sean Dumais, Founder of Central Wisconsin K-9, for a dynamic session that brings together science, movement, and man's best friend.

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008556>

Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/42E3BZN>



Join the Falls Free® Wisconsin Coalition for an engaging and informative webinar that's all about staying steady—at any age! We're thrilled to welcome Dr. Kristen Pickett, Associate Professor in the Occupational Therapy Program at UW-Madison, and Sean Dumais, Founder of Central Wisconsin K-9, for a dynamic session that brings together science, movement, and man's best friend.

While falls may be common, they're not an inevitable part of aging. With the right strategies, tools, and even a little help from your four-legged companions, you can stay independent, confident, and on your feet.

Wednesday, May 21, 2025
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Virtual on Zoom



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.



Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

NOURISH Step Monthly Handouts

The August NOURISH Step handout is now posted on our NOURISH Step [website](#). In addition, we've created brief summaries of the NOURISH Step handouts that you can easily include in your newsletters. You can view the document at [this link](#). (Registered GWAAR SharePoint users)

Nourish Step website: <https://gwaar.org/nourishstep>



FREE Food Safety and Emergency Preparedness Resources from Becky Dorner for training

<https://www.beckydorner.com/tips-resources/food-safety/>

Food Safety Spotlight: Temperature Control & Emergency Preparedness

Accurate temperature control is critical for food safety! Learn how to select and calibrate thermometers, properly record food temps, and follow USDA guidelines for minimum cooking, holding, and reheating temperatures.

Access *free temperature chart* and *sample documentation forms* to make

compliance easier. Also featured: tips for interpreting product date labels to reduce food waste, and essential guidance for keeping food safe during emergencies like power outages and natural disasters. Be prepared—download resources to save time and ensure safety!



National Farmers Market Week (August 3-9, 2025)

National Farmers Market Week (NFMW) is August 3-9, 2025! Now in its 26th year, this annual celebration highlights the vital role farmers markets play in our nation's food system. With fun events, programs, contests, activities, and more, the week helps to boost market attendance and visibility as well as showcase the value markets bring to their communities.

Visit <https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/national-farmers-market-week/> to download toolkit. Also check out the excellent resources from the WI Farmers Market Association at <https://www.wifarmersmarkets.org/>



Your Help is Needed – Are You Using “The Right Meal for You” Process?

To ensure proper training and use of the required forms, it's important that we know who is currently using the *Right Meal for You* Meal Prioritization process. We also need an accurate list of users so we can begin analyzing the data effectively.

Please complete this [short form](#) to notify the GWAAR Nutrition Team if you are currently using the process or plan to start implementing Meal Prioritization and/or have a Waitlist.

Complete the form: <https://bit.ly/3VQBqn1>

You are required to use the Right Meal for You process and form created by GWAAR to determine level of need so we are utilizing a consistent, standardized process throughout the GWAAR service area.

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These materials are located on the Nutrition EXT SharePoint site in the [Meal Prioritization folder](#). In addition, email your nutrition team representative so they can set up a call to further discuss the situation and offer technical assistance.

Meal Prioritization Folder (registered GWAAR SharePoint users) <https://bit.ly/43inmqn>

Thank you in advance for your assistance, the GWAAR Nutrition Team

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week June 2 - 8, 2025.

Please join the Senior Medicare Patrol in recognizing Medicare Fraud Prevention Week June 2 - 8, 2025. Medicare Fraud Prevention Week (MFPW) focuses on the actions everyone can take to prevent Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse. MFPW runs the week of June 5, or 6/5, because most people become eligible for Medicare when they turn 65.

Please consider following the Wisconsin SMP Facebook page and sharing our posts during this important week!

Wisconsin SMP Facebook page:

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



Reminder: 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>

