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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

GWAAR closed Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day

We honor Memorial Day as a meaningful remembrance to those who died in service to our country. We'll be back on Tuesday, May 27.



Now hiring: Nutrition Program Specialist

Are you enthusiastic about supporting older adults through high-quality nutrition services? Do you have experience with aging programs, nutrition, and food safety? If so, we invite you to apply for the Nutrition Program Specialist position.

As the Nutrition Program Specialist, you will provide technical assistance, training, and guidance to County Aging Units, Tribal Aging Units and Aging and Disability Resource Centers across Wisconsin. You will help ensure that senior nutrition programs meet policy requirements and food safety standards, and you will support innovation and continuous improvement efforts to enhance service delivery for older adults.

This full-time, remote position operates during standard business hours and includes travel within Wisconsin, including occasional overnight stays.

View the full job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008561>

Nice to Know

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's 9th annual Aging Advocacy Day was a great success!

So many individuals shared their support and personal stories to help legislators understand how specific policy issues and proposals impact individuals, families, and older constituents. These efforts helped make this day a big success!

We have seen some great pictures from that day in Madison (keep them coming)! The energy, passion, and bright yellow colors from this event lit up the State Capitol and were definitely noticed!

We were also delighted by the wonderful media coverage we received from WTMJ Channel 4 out of Milwaukee.



<https://www.tmj4.com/news/state-capitol/advocates-urge-wisconsin-lawmakers-to-invest-in-elder-care>

Watch the Aging Advocacy Day page for more photos, updates on local events, and additional advocacy resources and opportunities.

<https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2025> #WIAgingAdvocacyDay #WIAAD25



DHS Campaign Increases Awareness of Wisconsin's Aging and Disability Resource Centers

New toll-free phone hotline and resource directory make finding resources and services easier statewide

This Aging and Disability Resource Month and Older Americans Month, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is highlighting a statewide campaign to increase awareness of and improve access to ADRCs (aging and disability resource centers) and Tribal partner agencies. The campaign directs customers to new and improved ways to contact local ADRCs, including a searchable online resource at [FindMyADRC.org](https://www.findmyadrc.org), and toll-free phone service at 1-844-WIS-ADRC.



"ADRCs play a critical role for Wisconsinites and serve as a bridge to support for Wisconsinites who are aging or experience a disability," said Gov. Tony Evers. "I hear from Wisconsinites across the state about the valuable guidance and support ADRCs provide to folks and communities across our state."

View the entire news release: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/051525.htm>

Reminder: 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



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

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available by request. Contact fcc504@fcc.gov or (202) 418-0530 with 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>

Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

Reminder: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training

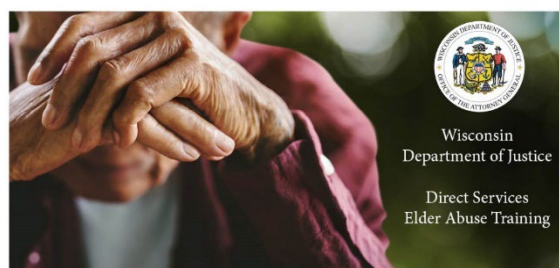
This training is open to state-based organizations and agencies that work with adult protective services, victim services, system-based advocates, and aging network professionals.

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

Update: U.S. House of Representatives could vote on cuts to Medicaid and SNAP this week

Late Sunday evening, the House Budget Committee passed the budget reconciliation package that includes more than **\$700 billion in cuts to Medicaid** and **\$300 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**. **If enacted, this will be the largest cut to Medicaid and SNAP in our history.** The House Rules Committee, which decides what bills are sent to the full House for a vote, is now set to begin their markup at 1:00 a.m. (ET) on Wednesday 5/21. Some federal legislators are calling for additional changes to the reconciliation bill as they **do not feel the Medicaid cuts are deep enough to pay for the tax cuts in the bill**. The Rules Committee could amend the reconciliation bill to include additional cuts or to speed up when some of the changes take place. The bill could also be amended on the House floor. A full House vote could happen by Thurs. (5/22/25)!

There is still time for us to impact what this bill looks like before it becomes a law. If the U.S. House passes a bill with these cuts, the U.S. Senate must also pass an identical bill before it can be sent to the President and signed into law. **It is important for U.S. Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin and your U.S. Representative to hear from you about how Medicaid and SNAP (FoodShare in Wisconsin) are critical to you, your family and/or those you serve in your community.** Two-thirds of Wisconsinites who use FoodShare are also Medicaid participants.

The proposed federal cuts shift additional Medicaid and SNAP costs onto states to fill in the gaps, resulting in potentially reduced support for older adults, people living with disabilities, and community-based programs.

Take Action: Advocates need to weigh in NOW to push back against these harmful cuts! Please take a few minutes to contact your federal legislators to let them know the negative impact of the proposed cuts. See [Wisconsin Members of Congress](#) for contact information for Senators Johnson and Baldwin and your U.S. Representative. <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>

To find out who your U.S. Representative is, see <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>.

Proposed Recommendations from Key House Committees Will Harm Older Adults, People Living with Disabilities, and Family Caregivers

Last week key committees in the House of Representatives released recommendations for legislative language that meets their federal savings and spending targets as established in the fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget resolution passed last month.

On Wednesday May 14, the U.S. House Energy and Commerce committee completed its markup proposal which **contains more than a dozen provisions that would reduce federal health care spending by \$715 billion, with the funding reductions mostly focused on Medicaid** (this would amount to the largest cut to Medicaid in history). A preliminary analysis by the Congressional Budget Office projects **these provisions would reduce the federal share of Medicaid spending and lead to 13.7 million people losing their health insurance**. Some of the provisions included in the proposal are (this is not a complete list):

- Adding mandatory work and community engagement requirements for individuals ages 19–64 without dependents (with some exceptions that do not appear to include unpaid caregivers),

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- Pausing implementation of several final rules published during the Biden Administration, including: the final rule published September 21, 2023, “Streamlining Medicaid; Medicare Savings Program Eligibility Determination and Enrollment” and the May 10, 2024, final rule, “Minimum Staffing Standards for Long Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting”,
- Increasing the frequency of eligibility redeterminations for certain individuals and adding enrollee address verification policies, and
- Revising policies governing the use of Medicaid provider taxes

The proposed cuts will put increased pressure on state budgets, including Wisconsin’s, and make it more difficult for older adults to obtain and retain health and long-term care services needed.

On Wednesday May 14, the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means passed and advanced its markup of their portion of the FY 2025 reconciliation bill. Their proposal **includes several changes that would affect private insurance coverage and Medicare.** Some of the provisions in the proposal include:

- Changes to Medicare and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace premium tax credit (PTC) eligibility requirements related to immigration status,
- Changes to the ACA PTC eligibility verification checks, and
- Changes to Health Savings Account flexibilities

The U.S. House Agriculture committee also voted to advance their markup proposal on their portion of the FY 2025 reconciliation bill. **Their proposal would create the largest overhaul in decades to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or FoodShare in Wisconsin) and cut as much as \$300 billion in food aid spending. The proposal shifts some of the program costs to states by establishing a cost-sharing approach for states requiring a baseline of 5% of SNAP benefit costs** and using a sliding scale [based on their payment error rates](#) (note: Wisconsin has one of the lowest payment error rates).

View the document:

<https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-fy23-qc-payment-error-rate.pdf>

Beginning in fiscal year 2028, states with payment error rates over 6% would begin paying an even higher percent of SNAP costs; the higher the error rate, the higher the percentage of state spending for SNAP benefits ranging from 8 – 25% of the benefit cost.

With the work of these committees now done, the U.S. House Budget Committee is scheduled to begin work on their reconciliation markup Fri., May 16. The release of text and committee markups are key steps in Congress’s budget reconciliation process; however, the proposed changes are not yet final, and proposals may change during Senate proceedings.

Nice to Know

Webinar update: Federal Funding Fallout2025: Info and Action Steps

Thursday, May 22 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds522>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds522Span>

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.



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This webinar is limited to the first 500 people who log on. BPDD is committed to making its resources as accessible as possible. If interpretation is needed to participate, please indicate that when registering. All people who register will get a follow up email 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:

05/30/25 - Comfort Suites Appleton Airport – **RESCHEDULED** from 5/22/25

06/13/25 – Walworth County Health and Human Services - **RESCHEDULED** from 05/16/25

| 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 |
| Antigo NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center (TRIBAL ONLY) **NEW** (registration closed) | 400 Prosser Pl, Antigo, WI 54409 | 5/28/2025 |
| Antigo NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center **NEW** (registration closed) | 400 Prosser Pl, Antigo, WI 54409 | 5/29/2025 |
| Comfort Suites Appleton Airport - RESCHEDULED!!!! | 3809 W Wisconsin Ave, Appleton, WI 54914 | 5/30/2025 |
| Walworth County Health and Human Services - RESCHEDULED!!! | 1910 County Rd NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121 | 6/13/2025 |

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

Wisconsin Caregiver Support Community Statewide Webinar

Tuesday, May 27 | 10:00 –11:00 a.m.

🔊 Join us for updates on caregiver training in Advocacy, the 2024 Caregiver Needs Assessment, Evaluation, survey results, and new Trualta features.

Find the virtual link and agenda here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008557>

Wisconsin's
FamilyCaregiver
Support Programs

Nice to Know

Virtual support group for caregivers of those with dementia

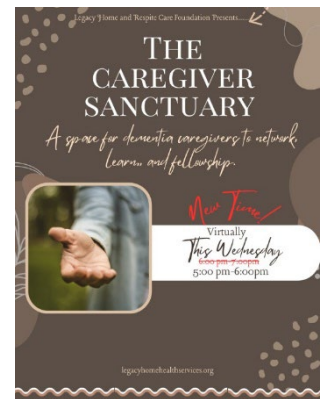
Wednesdays | 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Need a Virtual Caregiver Support Group for a Caregiver You're Working With?

The Legacy Home and Respite Care Foundation has launched a virtual space just for caregivers of those with dementia. This is a place for caregivers to network, mingle, share, learn, and recharge 🗨️

Join Legacy Home and Respite Care Foundation every Wednesday 🕒 5:00–6:00 p.m. Open to ALL dementia caregivers — no matter where you live! This is more than a meeting — it's a community of compassion, connection, and care. Whether you pop in for support or to share your story, you are welcome here.

🔗 Share this link, click here to learn more, and register: <https://bit.ly/4do50Zw>



Time for Living and Caring (TLC) resources and webinar replay available

💡 Caregiver Support Professionals & Family Caregivers – Did you know that purposeful respite can offer more lasting relief and fulfillment? 📺 Missed the recent ARCH webinar? You can now watch Time for Living and Caring: An Approach to Planning Respite Time to Maximize Caregiver Benefit on-demand!

- Learn about the Time for Living and Caring (TLC) intervention and app, developed through a 5-year National Institute on Aging (NIA) study.
- Research shows that caregivers who intentionally plan meaningful respite time experience more lasting benefits.
- A free, public version of the TLC app is now available to help caregivers make the most of their respite time!

📱 Access the webinar recording, slides, app, and resources here:

👉 **TLC website, video overview, and calendar:** <https://www.tlc-respite.com/>

👉 **Webinar:** <https://youtu.be/L8vIkZWs6hU>

👉 **Flyer:** <https://archrespite.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/TLC-ARCH-Flyer.pdf>



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

Reminder: 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>



Reminder: 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>



Medicare Outreach and Assistance

[Stephanie Haas](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

May Idea of the Month: Partnering with your local Nutrition Program

GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator, Stephanie Haas, shared this MIPPA outreach idea. May's Idea of the Month is "Partnering with your local Nutrition Program."

Idea of Month resources are an ideal model for your organization to use to meet your outreach goals, educate Medicare beneficiaries, and encourage participants to become advocates for their own health care.

Download the May Idea of the Month: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008549>

View past ideas: <https://gwaar.org/idea-of-the-month>



SHIP

State Health Insurance
Assistance Program

Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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>



Reminder: 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.

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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!

Reminder: National Farmers Market Week (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 the toolkit. Excellent resources are available from the WI Farmers Market Association at <https://www.wifarmersmarkets.org/>

Reminder: 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. 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. Kunderling](#), Senior Medicare Patrol Program Director

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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, <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol/> and sharing our posts during this important week!

