



Volume 7, No. 21 May 27, 2025
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Save the date: 3rd quarter ACE meeting

Wednesday, July 9 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

In person – UW-Stevens Point

Watch for more information coming soon!



Nice to Know

Governor's Interagency Council on Mental Health seeks public input

The [Governor's Interagency Council on Mental Health](#) is asking Wisconsinites to provide input on how the State of Wisconsin can continue working to improve the mental health of our residents. You can make recommendations using [the survey](#) which is open until June 30. The council connects the dots across 10 state agencies to create a statewide action plan to address Wisconsin's mental health crisis. The plan will include recommendations to expand prevention efforts and increase access to mental health services when and where people need them.

Take/share the survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7829863/Mental-Health-Public-Input-Survey>

Learn more about the council: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/icmh/index.htm>

View the May 13 news release: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/051325.htm>

Reminder: 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.

To apply, send cover letter and resume to Jean Lynch, Program Specialist Manager, Jean.Lynch@gwaar.org

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

Reminder: 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.



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

Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

Reminder: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training

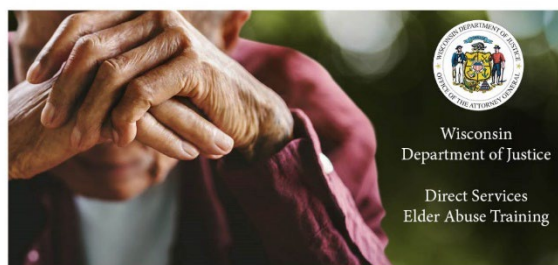
This training is open to state-based organizations and agencies that work with adult protective services, victim services, system-based advocates, and aging network professionals.

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

House Passes Reconciliation Bill with Major Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP

In the early hours of May 22, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed their reconciliation bill, titled the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," by a vote of 215-214, with only Republican votes. **The final bill passed by the House makes the deepest cuts (over the next decade) to Medicaid (nearly \$800 billion - with 8 million people projected to lose Medicaid coverage) and SNAP (\$300 billion- nearly 30% of the total funding) in the history of both programs.** Because Congress is bound by the statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) Act which requires any spending to be offset by automatic cuts to avoid deficit spending (anyone remember "sequestration?"), unless Congress takes some action to lower the deficit, **the bill could also trigger an estimated \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare** (reductions are currently capped at 4% of the annual Medicare budget) over the next decade.

The final House reconciliation bill included several last-minute amendments, including:

- **The timeline for implementing new work requirements for Medicaid recipients has been moved up** from early 2029 to renewals scheduled on or after Dec. 31, 2026. The work requirements involve the participation of individuals aged 19-64 in 80 hours of work or specified work-related

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activities for one or more months preceding application for the program and one or more months between eligibility redeterminations, with some exceptions (pregnancy or a disability that keeps them from working).

- **Repeal of Medicaid's three-month retroactive coverage period. Retroactive Medicaid coverage under the bill is limited to one month prior to application for coverage.** Under current law, states are required to provide Medicaid coverage for qualified medical expenses incurred for up to 90 days prior to the date of application for coverage.
- **Medicaid expansion would be disincentivized** by capping the total Medicaid payment rate for inpatient hospital and nursing facility services for non-expansion states (like Wis.) at a higher rate (110% vs. 100% of the total published Medicare payment rate) than expansion states. Should non-expansion states ever choose to expand, their ability to pay doctors and hospitals more would be lost.
- **States would be required to pay at least 5% of SNAP (FoodShare in Wis.) benefit costs** starting in 2028. That 5% would increase based on a state's error payment rate based on a sliding scale (up to 25% of the benefit cost). Currently, the federal government pays 100% of SNAP benefits and 50% of the administrative costs (states pay the other 50% of costs to administer the program). In addition to shifting a portion of benefit costs to states, **the bill also increases the state administrative cost-share to 75%. The bill also expands work requirements by providing new paperwork to prove that participants are working, this includes increasing the requirement to include adults aged 54 to 65 years old. The Wis. Department of Health Services calculates that these changes to SNAP will have a fiscal impact for Wisconsin of \$314 million.** For more detail see, "Proposed Changes to SNAP Will Drive Wisconsinites into Hunger and Harm Our Local Economy"- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/snap-reform-2025.pdf>.

Wisconsin's Medicaid programs support 1.2 million Wisconsinites who rely on Medicaid for physical health, mental health, prenatal, and long-term care, including:

- 4 in 10 births in Wisconsin,
- 1 in 3 Wisconsin children,
- 1 in 3 Wisconsin residents with disabilities,
- 1 in 6 Medicare beneficiaries in Wisconsin, and
- 4 in 7 Wisconsin nursing home residents

Two-thirds of the people who use SNAP/Foodshare in Wisconsin are also Medicaid participants.

The bill now heads to the Senate. Their goal is to have the final bill to the President by July 4th. The bill only requires a majority vote (51 votes instead of 60 votes due to the reconciliation process rules). The next few weeks are critical as Senate Republicans work to amend the bill in order to gain the needed votes for the bill to pass. The identical bill must pass in both the House and Senate before it can be sent to the President.

Take Action: Senators Baldwin and Johnson need to hear from Wisconsinites about how these cuts and changes will impact you, your family, and/or your community members. See [Wisconsin Members of Congress](#) for contact information. Look for opportunities to connect with them when they are back in Wisconsin (holiday celebrations, parades, listening sessions or town halls) or invite them to your agency for a site visit and to hear from board members and other constituents. See the budget reconciliation bill timeline below:

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- **May 23-Jun 2: House and Senate Memorial Day recess**
- June 14-22: House recess
- **June 19-22: Senate recess**
- **June 28-July 6: House and Senate recess**
- July 28-Sept 1: House recess
- August 4: Senate self-imposed deadline
- August: Debt ceiling, requires bipartisan negotiations if not passed on partisan lines through current budget reconciliation legislation with cuts to Medicaid.
- August 4-Sept 1: Senate recess

Webinar update: Federal Funding Fallout2025: Info and Action Steps

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

English reg: <https://bit.ly/FederalFunds530>

Spanish Reg: <https://bit.ly/FederalFundsSpan530>

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 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 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

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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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Virtual support group for caregivers of those with dementia

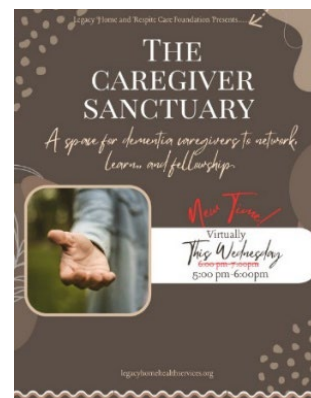
Wednesdays | 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

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 can 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>




Reminder: 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.



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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

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

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 the 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.



SHIP

State Health Insurance
Assistance Program

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>