



Volume 7, No. 24 June 17, 2025
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

July 9 in-person ACE Meeting – registration deadline extended!

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

Registration by or before Friday, June 20 is required:

<https://gwaar.wufoo.com/forms/z3nf0qy0movilk/>

Contact Rosanna Mazzara for event details. (Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org)

Lee Sherman Dreyfus University Center
1015 Reserve Street, 3rd Floor, Alumni Room
Stevens Point, WI 54481

View the draft agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008572>

Join us for the third quarter ACE meeting in Stevens Point on July 9.

Meeting highlights include: 1. Equability accessible clothing 2. AFCSP reporting 3. GWAAR and BADR Updates 4. Breakout sessions around specific topics.

Please note: Parking passes will be sent to event registrants the first week of July. Participants are responsible for securing hotel accommodations if needed.



Nice to Know

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

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

Welcome Steve Ahlgren!

Our newest board member joined the board in April.

<https://gwaar.org/meet-our-board>

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>



Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

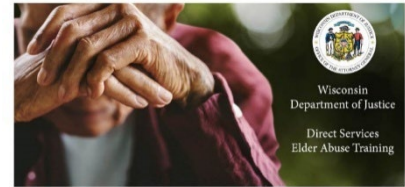
Reminder: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training

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

“Grants for Protection of Elders” Action Alert

View the full Action Alert here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008585>

The state legislature’s Joint Finance Committee (JFC) is scheduled to take action on the Dept. of Justice (DOJ) budget on Thursday (6/19) afternoon! Now is the time to contact your state Senator or Assembly Representative!

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) is recommending an annual increase of \$350,000 in the 2025-2027 state budget for “Grants for Protection of Elders” to support current programs that no longer have federal funding options. In the past, these grants were used to successfully provide training for professionals to help them detect and prevent elder abuse, hold offenders accountable for abuse and exploitation, and support victims of abuse. Without state funding to continue these grants, this work cannot continue. Funding for grants was not included in the Governor’s budget and therefore the Legislative Fiscal Bureau has not created a budget paper for this program. **This does NOT mean JFC can’t increase the funding without a budget paper.**

Call to Action: Your voice is needed now! Ask your State Senator & State Assembly Representative to support an annual increase of \$350,000 in the 2025-2027 state budget for “Grants for Protection of Elders.”

WAAN Elder Abuse & Fraud Prevention Issue Brief: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008442>

Don’t Delay: Use our Action Alert Campaign link - [Support Grants for Protection of Elders](#) to contact your State Senator and Assembly Representative today!

Use the Action Alert campaign to contact your representatives: <https://bit.ly/4l4bqzE>

If your legislator(s) is a member of the [Joint Finance Committee](#) ask him/her to support these priorities when they vote on Thursday. If your legislator(s) is not a member of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) ask him/her to ask their colleague/budget buddy on the JFC to support this essential funding. (*Any paid staff concerned about lobbying restrictions – you may still contact your own representatives, as well as legislators who represent constituents in the area you serve, to discuss these important priorities and how they impact your community and those you serve without violating lobby laws [avoid asking for support or opposition of the specific budget proposals] and of course you may contact your own legislators about anything when you are off duty and only representing yourself.

Joint Finance Committee: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/committees/joint/2920>






Nice to Know

State Budget 2025-2027 Update

The State Legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) has now met five times in executive session to take action on state budget items since completing the round of public hearings in April. They are scheduled to meet again on 6/17/25. To date, the committee has not yet taken up the Departments of Health Services, Justice, or Transportation; these are the department budgets in which the remaining Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) budget priorities would be addressed. In addition to the transportation budget paper links shared last week, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau has now also released budget papers for the Department of Health Services.

Below are links to the budget papers specific to "Services for the Elderly and People with Disabilities":

Health Services -- Services for the Elderly and People with Disabilities – <https://bit.ly/43M9ndP>

- [375 - Complex Patient Pilot](https://bit.ly/3Hly42l) : <https://bit.ly/3Hly42l>
- [376 - Adult Protective Services](https://bit.ly/45t7gNo) : <https://bit.ly/45t7gNo>
- [377 - WisCaregiver Careers](https://bit.ly/4ldxJ65) : <https://bit.ly/4ldxJ65>
- [378 - Aging and Disability Resource Centers](https://bit.ly/3SUvOHu) : <https://bit.ly/3SUvOHu>
- [379 - Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program and Alzheimer's Training and Information Grants](https://bit.ly/3HYLmaQ) : <https://bit.ly/3HYLmaQ>
- [380 - Wisconsin Assistive Technology Program, Independent Living Center Grants, and Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Fund](https://bit.ly/4kL4QhX): <https://bit.ly/4kL4QhX>

All of the budget papers released to-date can be found here: Budget Papers -

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/budget/2025_27_biennial_budget/302_budget_papers
<https://bit.ly/4kNru9n>

Stay tuned for additional state budget information, executive sessions, and action alerts. For details and talking points on WAAN's budget priorities see: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008488>.

Federal

Impact of the House Reconciliation Bill on Wisconsinites' Health Care Coverage

Last week, the Wis. Department of Health Services (DHS) released a detailed analysis providing additional information regarding the impact the house-passed reconciliation budget would have on the health care coverage of Wisconsinites if it were passed into law.

Using data from the federal Joint Economic Committee (JEC), DHS determined that provisions in the bill, such as work reporting requirements, would put approximately 63,000 Wisconsinites at high risk of losing health insurance and cost the state's taxpayers more than \$74 million annually.

For additional information regarding the local impact of red-tape work reporting requirements, see <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/medicaid-reconciliation-2025.pdf>

The DHS analysis also identifies additional impacts of the Medicaid and Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions in the budget reconciliation bill which would significantly and negatively impact Wisconsinites, including:

- Making health insurance unaffordable to more than 110,000 Wisconsin families who access coverage through the health insurance marketplace,
- Increasing medical debt and uncompensated care,

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- Preventing Wisconsin from drawing down more federal Medicaid funding to innovate its Medicaid programs, and
- Limiting Wisconsin's ability to support hospital and provider pay

Senate leadership is working to amend the House reconciliation bill and rush it to the Senate floor before the end of the month! Congress would like the bill to be completed by July 4, 2025. Given the speed at which the Senate may take action on the bill, contact with Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson is needed NOW.

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. Urge them to reject the bill's cuts to Medicaid and SNAP that would see millions lose health and nutrition coverage.

Senator Baldwin

Washington, D.C.: 202-224-5653 | Milwaukee: 414-297-4451

Email: [click here](#) | <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact/contact-tammy>

Senator Johnson

Washington, D.C.: 202-224-5323 | Milwaukee: 414-276-7282

Email: [click here](#) | <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/email-the-senator>

Listening Session & Community Conversation

Thursday, June 19 | 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Iowa County Social Services Building - Community Room /
303 W. Chapel St, Dodgeville, WI 53533

View the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008582>

Join community members for a Listening Session & follow up discussion to understand why Congress's proposed cuts are a threat to the VITAL support family caregivers provide & what action steps YOU can take!

- Hear directly from a panel of speakers with professional experience supporting unpaid caregivers and/or those with lived caregiving experience.
- Join in discussions to better understand your personal situation and what action steps you can take to implore Congress and state legislators to keep, "Hands Off Medicaid!"

Unpaid family caregivers are stretched to the limit, filling care gaps when there are no paid workers to hire, or no one shows up. Currently, 50% of these care partners leave their jobs or reduce their hours to provide care to aging adults, spouses/siblings with chronic illnesses, or family members with disabilities.

This event is being organized by the Wisconsin Medicaid Coalition. The Coalition has approximately 300 participants from more than 150 entities, all concerned about the impact of major changes to Medicaid being considered at the federal level.

CUTS TO MEDICAID HURT UNPAID CAREGIVERS



Join community members for a Listening Session & follow up discussion to understand why Congress's proposed cuts are a threat to the VITAL support family caregivers provide & what action steps YOU can take!

Listening Session & Community Conversation

Thursday, June 19th from 10:30-12:00 PM
Iowa County Social Services Building - Community Room
303 W. Chapel St, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Contacts: Janet Zander janet.zander@gwaar.org Tammy Jackson Tammya.Jackson@wisconsin.gov

Medicaid in Wisconsin provides health care coverage for more than 1.2 million children and adults, including those with low incomes and many living in rural areas. **Cutting Medicaid will NOT stop people from getting sick, having chronic conditions, or developing increased medical complications from disabilities. Instead EVEN MORE of this care will be shifted to families and loved ones.**

The current legislative bill moving through Congress RIGHT NOW creates SIGNIFICANT hurdles for people on Medicaid and those who support them. What are these hurdles? How will it impact your care recipient/loved one? How might it hurt you as an unpaid caregiver who is on Medicaid yourself?

- Hear directly from a panel of speakers with professional experience supporting unpaid caregivers and/or those with lived caregiving experience.
- Join in discussions to better understand your personal situation and what action steps you can take to implore Congress and state legislators to keep, "Hands Off Medicaid!"

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This event is being organized by the Wisconsin Medicaid Coalition. The Coalition has approximately 300 participants from more than 150 entities, all concerned about the impact of major changes to Medicaid being considered at the federal level. For more information or to register please reach out to Tammya.Jackson@wisconsin.gov and/or Janet.Zander@gwaar.org

Webinar update: Federal Funding Fallout 2025: Info and Action Steps

Friday, June 20 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Registration (English): <https://bit.ly/FederalFunds620>

(Spanish) <https://bit.ly/FederalFundsSpan620>

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.



Data Management

[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

Upcoming webinars

Now that all in-person trainings have been completed, we will start hosting in early July webinars that are program/service focused, as well as holding General Q&A sessions. More information on dates/times will be forthcoming.

Elder Abuse Programs

[Donna Rosner](#), Elder Abuse Program Specialist

Nice to Know

Governor Evers' Proclamation for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Each year, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is recognized on June 15th.

View the proclamation from Governor Evers: <https://bit.ly/4mYazSN>

Help us prevent elder abuse and build strong supports for our communities as we age.

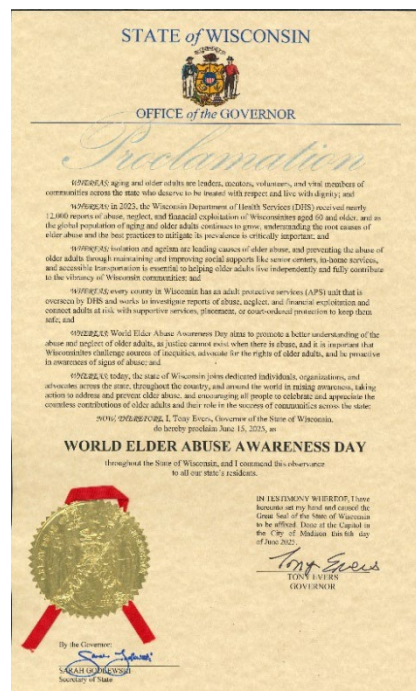
It is estimated that 5 million Americans, or 1 in 10 older adults in the community experience abuse every year. Let's work to keep everyone safe as we age. If you have seen concerning changes in behaviors in an older adult and suspect they may be experiencing abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation you can call your County Adult Protective Services (APS) Unit.

Warning signs could include:

- Isolation from family and friends
- Changes in banking patterns or financial management
- Lack of medical follow up or unsanitary hygiene or home condition

Reports are confidential and APS professionals will follow up with linking older adults with services or protection to help them remain safe and supported.

For additional information on elder abuse, please contact your local lead elder abuse agency or email Donna Rosner directly at donna.rosner@gwaar.org



Reminder: Webinar series available from the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging

This June, to recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, the American Bar Association Commission



on Law and Aging is putting together a series of weekly webinars to provide older adults and their families with information they need about common issues in elder abuse.

Panelists Eric Drogin and Ronald Long discuss common scams that target aging Americans and how you can fight back. **View the series:** https://maestro.abanet.org/trk/click?ref=z11aidwdq5_1-5121dx3267367x&

Family Caregiver Support

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

Nice to Know

Webinar TODAY: The State of Caregiving in the Workplace

June 17 | 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Register Now:

https://usc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5tIBQXgBRYGQZh1fU8JWFg

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008583>

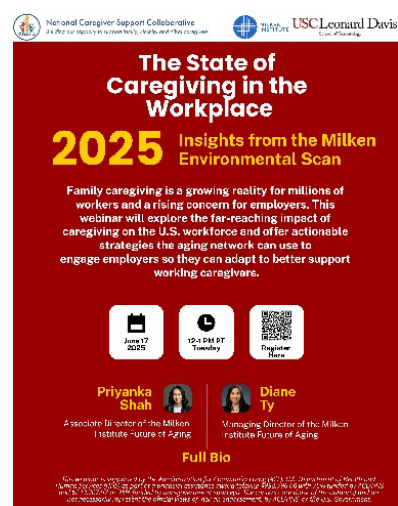
Family caregiving is transforming the American workforce—and employers are taking notice. Join us for a powerful webinar exploring key insights from the 2025 Milken Institute report, Supporting Family Caregiving: How Employers Can Lead.

Learn why AAAs and the Aging Network must partner with employers—and how doing so can uplift caregivers and boost business outcomes.

What You'll Learn:

- Data on workplace equity, caregiver stress, and financial strain
- How to engage employers using workforce data
- Real-world strategies to support working caregivers' financial security

Who Should Attend: Aging Network professionals, ACL grantees, caregiving advocates, and members of USC's learning collaborative.



Reminder: NEW Documentary Alert: Don't miss the premiere of "Caregiving" on PBS!

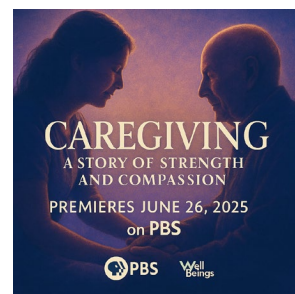
Mark your calendars: Thursday, June 26

From the award-winning filmmakers behind "The Gene" and "Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies", and Executive Produced by Bradley Cooper — "Caregiving" is a powerful new documentary that puts a face on America's caregiving crisis.

Featuring intimate stories and expert voices, this film reveals the challenges, resilience, and triumphs of caregivers across the nation. Whether you're a caregiver, know one, or want to understand this vital role, this is a must-watch.

Preview it here: <https://www.pbs.org/video/caregiving/>

Tune in and be part of the movement to recognize, respect, and support caregivers everywhere!



Fiscal

[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

Upcoming webinar: GWAAR Fiscal Follow-up Webinar Post In-Person Training

Tuesday, July 1 | 9:00 -10:00 a.m.

GWAAR Fiscal Staff will be hosting a webinar on July 1, from 9:00 to 10: a.m. The registration link to sign up is below. A reminder notice will be sent out the day prior. If you are unable to attend the webinar will be recorded and posted in the GWAAR Fiscal library.

Registration: GWAAR Fiscal Follow-up Webinar Post In-Person Training: <https://bit.ly/3SV9QEh>

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Reminder: New! High-Level Evidence-Based Program in Wisconsin

A new evidence-based health promotion program has been added to the list of OAA Title III-D eligible programs in Wisconsin. Vivo is a online strength training program for older adults.

Conducted in small, interactive Zoom classes led by certified trainers, Vivo focuses on enhancing strength, balance, and cognitive function. Each class is limited to 8-12 participants, ensuring personalized attention and real-time feedback.

The program begins with individual assessments to establish baselines, allowing for customized exercise modifications suitable for all fitness levels, including mobility challenges or recovering from injuries. Over time, participants report improvements in muscle strength, endurance, agility, and overall quality of life.

Beyond physical benefits, Vivo fosters a sense of community and accountability, which are vital for sustained behavioral change and mental well-being.

In case you missed the webinar last week, here is the recording so you can hear how you can use your III-D and ARPA D funds to support this program in your community. After viewing the webinar, if you would like to implement Vivo, contact Liz Kemp, Director of Research and Customer Outcomes liz@teamvivo.com

Zoom recording: <https://bit.ly/4jloBFi> | **Passcode:** M.\$X6GPz



Nice to Know

UW Madison Extension Virtual StrongBodies Series (OAA Title III-D eligible)

Offered via Zoom

Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. weekly for 11-12 weeks

- Aging Units and ADRCs can reserve spots here: <https://bit.ly/4jHSy8o>
- After Extension receives your request to purchase spots, you will be mailed an invoice for payment, flyer for upcoming virtual series (customizable for you to add local information) and link to online registration for the virtual class so you can register local participants.

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- Participant demographic information will be sent to your Peer Place data entry after the registration deadline for each series. Participants will self-record attendance and return to the Aging Unit/ADRC upon completion of the class.
- Find out more about StrongBodies here: (see link below) Remaining 2025 Series: Summer Session: July 8 - September 25 (deadline: Friday, August 1st) Fall Session: October 7 - December 18 (deadline: Friday, October 31st) *Purchased "spots" do not expire. For more information contact: Jenn Whitty, Health Promotion Programs Manager, University of Wisconsin - Madison Extension jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu

Reserve Spots link: <https://bit.ly/4jHSy8o>

Learn more about StrongBodies: <https://health.extension.wisc.edu/strongbodies/>

Reminder: Webinar: Join or Die - A Conversation on Rebuilding Community in Wisconsin and Beyond

Wednesday, June 18 | 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. | Zoom

Webinar registration: <https://bit.ly/4jJJ64z>

Learn more: <https://www.joinordiefilm.com/>

Co-director Pete Davis will discuss the film's message, the legacy of social scientist Robert Putnam and the vital importance of social capital and building community in an age of isolation. Miranda Spindt, a policy associate with the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, will join the conversation to provide a Wisconsin perspective based on her 2024 report [*Fraying Connections: Exploring Social Capital and its Societal Implications*](#). **Read the report:** <https://bit.ly/3ZpA59C>



Nutrition

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

Need to Know

Reminder: Upcoming Nutrition Calls and Meetings

- **Summer Nutrition Director Meeting** June 18 in Racine. RSVP to Jean Lynch, Jean.lynch@gwaar.org. This is the first of 4 that will be held around the state. The other dates are:
 - July 10 in Adams
 - July 17 in LDF
 - July 30 in Medford
- **Dietitian and Diet Tech Peer Sharing Virtual Teams Call.** Date Change. June 19 at 2 p.m.
- **HDM Assessor Peer Sharing Virtual Teams Call.** June 24 at 2 p.m.
- **Cooks Training (In-Person).** Adams, WI. July 25th 9 to 2:30. Contact Lori Fernandez for more information and to register. Lori.fernandez@gwaar.org
- **Stepping Up Your Nutrition Leader Virtual Teams Call.** July 31 at 2 p.m.