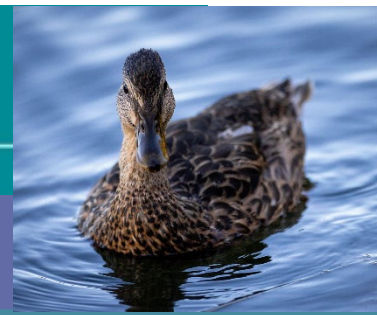




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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Third quarter ACE Meeting

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

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

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

Meeting highlights include: 1. Equability accessible clothing 2. AFCSP reporting 3. GWAAR, BADR, and WIHA updates 4. Breakout sessions around specific topics. Lunch included.

Contact Rosanna Mazzara for event details: Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org

Please note: Registration has closed. 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

GWAAR staff updates

Best wishes to Special Projects Manager Sky Van Rossum

Sky has been a valuable team member at GWAAR for several years. Some of his many accomplishments while at GWAAR included introducing the aging network to the concept of business acumen and overseeing a program that introduced community health workers to the aging network. He will be leaving GWAAR at the end of June and will be missed.

Congratulations to Amanda Grady

Please join us in congratulating Attorney Amanda Grady who has been promoted to EBS Support Attorney Program Manager.

Congratulations to Ingrid Kunding

Congratulations also to Ingrid Kunding who has been promoted to Fraud and Abuse Programs Manager. She will be overseeing the staff for the Elder Abuse Hotline and Elder Abuse Later in Life grant in addition to her current role of manager of the Senior Medicare Patrol Program.

An updated staff list can be viewed here: <https://gwaar.org/gwaar-staff>

Advocacy in the news:

Medicaid cutbacks will affect unpaid family caregivers, experts warn

“(Tami) Jackson and Janet Zander of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources met with Iowa County social workers in Dodgeville Thursday to explain the likely effect of Medicaid cuts that are part of the budget reconciliation bill that has passed the U.S. House and is now in the Senate.”

Read the Wisconsin Examiner article: <https://bit.ly/3HTPk4l>



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

State Legislation

Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) Update

Senate Passes Senate Bill 152 and Assembly Scheduled to Vote on June 24!

Last week, the full Senate passed Senate Bill 152 (SB 152) on a voice vote. Senate Bill 152/Assembly Bill (AB) 176 removes income requirements for the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) to align with the federal National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). Removing income-based eligibility requirements from AFCSP will protect \$3.5 million in annual federal NFCSP funding and ensure support remains accessible to all families. The Assembly's Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee held a public hearing on the companion bill (AB 176) in mid-May and unanimously (15-0) recommended the bill for passage on June 4. **Since its passage, SB 152 has been messaged to the Assembly. This legislation is scheduled for a vote of the full Assembly on Tues., June 24! If passed in the Assembly, the legislation would be advanced to the Governor to be signed into law!**

There are currently 13 state Senators and 26 state Representatives signed onto this legislation as a sponsor/cosponsor; that is 39 bipartisan legislators and 30% of the state legislature!

State Budget 2025-2027 Update

After six executive Committee meetings to take action on parts of the state budget, the state legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) is now at a standstill. The committee's meeting on June 19, at which they planned to take action on the Department of Justice budget and other portions of the state budget, was cancelled shortly before it was scheduled to start.

Over the past several weeks, Assembly and Senate Republican leadership have been meeting with Gov. Evers to negotiate budget priorities. Unfortunately, the negotiations reached an impasse with Senate Republicans expressing concern that budget discussions were heading in a direction they could not support. Senate Republicans are pushing for tougher spending decisions.

It is unclear when budget negotiations or JFC action on budget items will resume. The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) has budget priorities remaining in the departments of Health Services, Justice, and Transportation, none of which have yet come before the JFC. The state fiscal year ends on June 30, 2025. If the 2025-2027 budget is not passed by the end of June, state operations and funded programs will continue at prior year funding levels. Stay tuned for additional state budget updates and actions alerts.

Federal: Senate Releases Reconciliation Bill, Moves Quickly to Pass Medicaid and SNAP

Last week, the Senate Agriculture and Finance Committees released details of their draft budget reconciliation bill. **The Senate Agriculture Committee's SNAP (FoodShare in Wis.) provisions mostly mirror**

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the House-passed bill (HR 1) and so still pose serious threats to millions. The Senate Finance Committee's Medicaid proposal, which was expected to lessen the risk of losing coverage, instead poses even harsher Medicaid provisions than the House bill.

Several changes have been identified in the Senate Medicaid reconciliation provisions, including lowering the maximum provider tax rate allowed (in Medicaid expansion states [Wis. is not an expansion state]) and implementing stricter Medicaid work requirements. **The Senate Finance committee's proposal extends Medicaid work requirements to adults with children ages 14 and older** (the House proposal exempted all parents and caretakers from work requirements) requiring them to work or volunteer at least 80 hours a month to qualify for Medicaid.

The Senate reconciliation bill also Blocks Medicaid coverage for certain documented immigrants who have been granted humanitarian protection in the United States. This provision would prevent lawfully residing and documented immigrants from receiving health care coverage. **Like the House bill, the Senate bill also prohibits federal implementation of CMS' final rule that reduces barriers for Medicare beneficiaries in Medicare Savings Programs.**

Like the House version, **the Senate proposal would result in the largest cuts to Medicaid in the history of the program, higher premium costs for ACA marketplace enrollees, significant coverage losses, more uncompensated care for health care providers, and strains on state budgets.**

With the Senate text now available, committees can begin the "Byrd Bath" process where the Senate parliamentarian reviews and assesses whether various provisions of the bill are compliant with the purpose of reconciliation and a committee's directive, and if not, remove any noncompliant provisions from the reconciliation bill. The Parliamentarian's rulings are expected to be released by the middle of this week.

Senate leadership is hoping to rush their reconciliation bill to the Senate floor before the end of the month! Congress would like the bill to be completed by July 4, 2025. This leaves only a few days to advocate and prevent these dangerous proposals from becoming law. **Engaging with Wisconsin's U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson this week is critical to ensure they understand the harmful cuts in the reconciliation bill and how they will impact the communities you serve.**

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>

Webinar update: Federal Funding Fallout2025: Info and Action Steps

Friday, June 27 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Registration: (English) <https://bit.ly/FedFunds627> (Spanish) <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan627>

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 webinar: GWAAR PeerPlace Follow-up Webinar Post In-Person Training

Thursday, July 3 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

GWAAR staff will be hosting a webinar on July 3, from 9:00 to 10:00 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 Data Management library.

Registration: GWAAR PeerPlace Follow-up Webinar Post In-Person Training: <https://bit.ly/4eaXrpg>

Emergency Preparedness

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

Nice to Know

Emergency Preparedness resources at readywisconsin.wi.gov/

Did you know that Wisconsin also provides resources to equip residents with the tools and knowledge to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters?

Some of their many community resources for summer include guides to help prepare for extreme heat and thunderstorms.

June 24 is Wisconsin Lightning Safety Awareness Day, and ReadyWisconsin encourages everyone to learn how to stay safe and be prepared before storms occur.

<https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Extreme-Heat.pdf>

<https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Thunderstorm-safety.pdf>

Learn more: <https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/>



Family Caregiver Support

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

Nice to Know

🌲 ✨ **Memory Camp 2025: Experience the Joy of Connection** ✨ 🌲












📅 August 18–21, 2025 | 📍 Moon Beach | St. Germain, WI

Registration: <https://ucci.org/>


Memory Camp is a stigma-free, joy-filled retreat designed for individuals with mild to moderate dementia, their family caregivers, and extended loved ones.

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Held at the beautiful Moon Beach Camp, Memory Camp offers:

-  Pontoon rides
-  Accessible hiking trails
-  Kayaking
-  Music and singing
-  Seated beach yoga
-  S'mores by the campfire
-  Enjoy a welcoming and inclusive community! Each family is matched with a trained respite volunteer and stays in modern cabins with private bathrooms—plus, enjoy delicious meals throughout your stay.
-  Cost: \$480 (Ages 12+) | \$305 (Ages 4–11) | \$85 (Ages 2–3)
No deposit required!
-  Scholarships are available! 
-  Register today at ucci.org or call 715-479-8255.

Let's leave dementia stigma behind and create lasting memories together! 



**Leave Dementia at the Hilltop
Embrace the Magic of Memory Camp!**
August 18-21, 2025

Memory Camp is a stigma-free, joy-filled retreat designed for people with mild to moderate dementia, their family caregivers, and extended families and friends. Camp highlights include singing by the fire, creating poetry, and savoring s'mores. Participants can glide across Moon Lake on a pontoon, stretch with seated yoga, hike accessible trails, and enjoy kayaking, swimming, the music garden, or peaceful lakeside relaxation.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE.

Contact Rachel @ [respitecarewi.org](mailto:rwatkins@respitecarewi.org) for more information.

Each family is matched with a trained respite care volunteer. Guests stay in modern cabins with private baths, enjoy delicious meals, and experience the warmth of a truly welcoming and inclusive community. Register at ucci.org

Moon Beach | 1487 Moon Beach Road St. Germain, WI 54558
Hosted and directed by:
Carrie Esselman, Fox Valley Memory Project
Rachel Watkins-Peterson, RCAW

This program etc. is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$1,000,000 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS and 0 percent funding by State of Wisconsin. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.


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

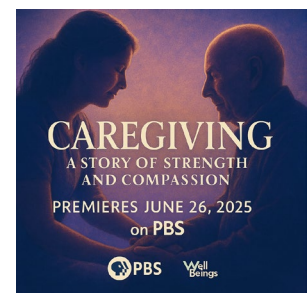
Mark your calendars: Thursday, June 26

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 10:00 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

Nice to Know

Spread the Reach - Submit Your Falls Prevention Events

Last September, the Falls Free® Wisconsin Coalition launched its Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM) events calendar - and it was a hit! It gave [FallsFreeWI.org](https://fallsfreewi.org) visitors an easy way to find and participate in local falls prevention events happening all month long. But here's the thing: falls don't only happen in September. That's why the Falls Free® Wisconsin Coalition now has a year-round Falls Prevent Events Calendar live on their website!



Accessible 24/7/365, this calendar is your go-to hub for promoting and discovering falls prevention activities, programs, and events happening across Wisconsin. Let's fill it up! Whether you're hosting a workshop, exercise class, screening or educational session, add your events so older adults and caregivers in every corner of the state can find tools and support to stay steady and safe.

See the calendar: <https://fallsfreewi.org/events/>

Submit your events: <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/w1nmsmt80eji96y/>

Falls Free® Wisconsin (FFWI) Magnet/Sticker Contest - Submit Your Design Today!

The Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition's Awareness Workgroup is excited to announce another design contest for Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM) this September!

We're looking for bold, eye-catching, and informative magnet or sticker designs that our statewide partners can proudly distribute to consumers during FPAM. The top designs will be selected by Coalition members, and cash prizes will be awarded to the organizations that take 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

Ready to jump in? Click the link for submission guidelines, an example magnet, and everything you need to inspire your winning design. <https://bit.ly/43WDJUH>

We're excited to see your ideas to come to life and invite you to be an active part of making this contest a success. Feel free to spread the word within your networks and encourage other organizations to join in. The more voices and creativity, the stronger our message for Falls Prevention Awareness Month! **Submit your design by Friday, July 25.**

