



Volume 7, No. 28 July 15, 2025  
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## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

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### ***Nice to Know***

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#### **Older Americans Act turns 60**

Last week the following organizations issued a joint statement about the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older Americans Act: ADvancing States, National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP), National Council on Aging (NCOA), Meals on Wheels America, and USAging.

**Read the full statement:** <https://bit.ly/451HyyD>

"Thanks to the OAA, millions of older adults have access to in-home care, transportation, healthy aging activities in senior centers, nutritious meals, help connecting to other services, job training, and more. Older caregivers and caregivers of older adults are also served by the OAA with respite care, training, support and access to other resources. OAA programs and services are delivered through a nationwide network of state and local agencies and service providers that are deeply rooted in their communities, equipping them to meet the unique needs of local older adults and caregivers, particularly those most in need of assistance to age well and remain in their homes and communities."

#### **ACE meeting updates and survey available**

Thank you to everybody who attended our July 9 ACE Meeting in Stevens Point. Please take a moment to complete our short [ACE MEETING SURVEY](https://bit.ly/3TzlunG):  
<https://bit.ly/3TzlunG>

We value your input as it assists us with the planning process.

If you wish to view the ACE meeting supporting documents and presentations, they can be found on our GWAAR Partners Resource-External site -- ACE MEETINGS.

*(Please see additional related ACE meeting information in the Family Caregiver Support section of this newsletter.)*

The GWAAR SharePoint was designed to provide a secure and convenient location for GWAAR Aging Units and others to access the information you need to support your clients and staff, including upcoming GWAAR news and events, informational and training documents and recordings, as well as other important resources.

Partner Users must register to access this site: You should receive access information within 3-5 business days. **Information about registration:** <https://gwaar.org/gpr-ext>

If you have any questions about the registration process, you may contact [Carrie.Kroetz@gwaar.org](mailto:Carrie.Kroetz@gwaar.org).



### ACE presentation: Adaptive Clothing and Independence

Thank you to Hilary Pham for her presentation on adaptive clothing at the ACE meeting last week.

If you missed the presentation, the slides can be viewed here:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008601>

**Additional information can be found on the Equability website:** <https://equability.co/>



### Reminder: GWAAR Job Opportunities

We're hiring! Check out the open positions below or on our website:

<https://gwaar.org/jobs>

**Benefit Specialist Supervising Attorney/Public Interest Elder Law Attorney**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008588>

**Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) Care Consultant**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008591>



### Reminder: Use Your Leadership Skills to Support Older People in Wisconsin

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 leadership team of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), Inc. Our mission is to provide aging offices with training, technical assistance, and support to improve the well-being of older people in Wisconsin.

GWAAR is looking for thoughtful, civic-minded, energetic individuals to serve on its 11-member board and 9-member Advisory Council. Members play a critical role in guiding and overseeing the agency's actions and initiatives.

Candidates for these roles must live outside Dane and Milwaukee Counties and be able to devote time and energy to the GWAAR's governance. Learn more about the roles and responsibilities of each group.

**GWAAR Board of Directors Application:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629>

**GWAAR Advisory Council Application:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005628>

### Reminder: National Center to Reframe Aging Fundamentals Training (In Person)

Tuesday, July 29 | 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

ADRC of Portage County, Lincoln Senior Center, 1519 Water Street,  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

This 4-hour interactive workshop led by the Hannah Albers from the National Center team and trained facilitator, Rajean Moone is designed to help participants garner an understanding for the need to change the way our society communicates about aging and begin to practice effective framing.

Space is limited to the first 100 registrants! Please register only if you are able to attend.

**Registration:** <http://bit.ly/3TlcvHI>



## Abuse in Later Life Grant

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### Need to Know

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#### 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>

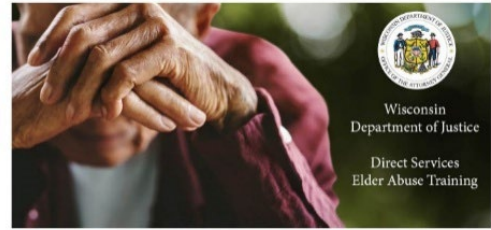
**View the flyer:**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008524>

*New date! Thursday, August 14 | 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Polk County*

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/3I98IL4>

**View the flyer:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008596>



## Advocacy

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

### Nice to Know

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#### Federal Budget Reconciliation Act

The information below was shared in an email from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) on 7/11/25. A release has also been posted on 7/15/25.

**Read the release:** <https://bit.ly/4kIMP31>



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES**

#### Federal Budget: Changes to Medicaid and FoodShare

On July 4, President Trump signed the federal budget reconciliation act into law. This legislation includes a number of changes to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, known as FoodShare in Wisconsin). Many of these changes were in flux right up to the final passage of the bill.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is looking at this recently passed budget and working with our federal partners to understand the details of how the legislation will affect our [Medicaid](#) and [FoodShare](#) members. We are also working on a plan for implementation that will span the next few years. We have no immediate changes to announce, but changes are coming.

As we learn more about these required changes, DHS will notify affected members by sending notices, texts, and emails. The best way for members to stay connected is through the [ACCESS.wi.gov](https://ACCESS.wi.gov) website or the [MyACCESS smartphone app](#). We will also announce some of the changes broadly, as appropriate, using channels like the DHS website, social media, press releases, and email listservs.

When you talk to members who may have concerns right now, please encourage them to keep their contact information up to date with FoodShare and Medicaid. Then, they should watch for mail and other messages from the State of Wisconsin, read them, and take any actions that are asked for. Some key things that you can tell members:

-continued-

- Keep information current.
  - Make sure Medicaid and FoodShare have the correct address, email, and phone number on file.
  - Give us a cell phone number and/or email address to get text messages and/or emails.
  - Use [ACCESS.wi.gov](https://ACCESS.wi.gov) and the [MYACCESS smartphone app](#) to update contact information 24/7.
- Stay connected.
  - Watch the mailbox. Medicaid and FoodShare send letters with important information in the mail.
  - Watch for texts or emails from “WIDHS.”
- Call for help if needed.
  - Find numbers and operating hours for agencies online at [dhs.wi.gov/im-agency](https://dhs.wi.gov/im-agency).
- Find news on the DHS website.
  - Medicaid news is posted at [dhs.wi.gov/medicaid/news.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/medicaid/news.htm). (Or search the internet for “Medicaid News Wisconsin.”)
  - FoodShare news is posted at [dhs.wi.gov/foodshare/news.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/foodshare/news.htm). (Or search the internet for “FoodShare News Wisconsin.”)
  - FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) Program information is available at [dhs.wisconsin.gov/fset](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/fset). (Or search the internet for “FSET Wisconsin.”) The FSET program is free for all FoodShare members and counts toward any work requirements.
- Watch for information from DHS on social media. DHS shares important updates and reminders for members on Facebook, Instagram, and NextDoor.

We appreciate your assistance in communicating with members about what they can do right now to be ready when changes begin to be announced. Thank you for your partnership!

## In the news:

### ***Patients, advocates brace for the consequences of cuts to Medicaid***

Wisconsin Medicaid Coalition’s press event was held on Thurs., July 10 at the State Capitol and covered by News from the States.

“Janet Zander of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources paraphrased promises from members of Congress who publicly defended the bill.

“‘It’s really easy to listen to what we’re hearing about — ‘This isn’t going to harm us here in Wisconsin. We’re not doing anything that’s going to hurt older adults, people with disabilities, low-income families,’” Zander said. ‘Those of us who are working in these programs know that’s not the case at all.’”

**Read the full article:** <https://bit.ly/4kH6Pmv>



## Webinar update: Federal Funding Fallout2025: Info and Action Steps

Friday, July 18 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsWebinar718>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan718>

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.



## Reminder: 2025 Civic Health Challenge Sign-Up

The Civic Health Challenge will take place during Civic Health Month -- August 2025. Those who sign up for the challenge will receive weekly challenges to choose from, oriented around four main areas of civic health: Political Participation, Community Connectedness, Social Connectedness, and Media & Information. This year's challenges will include fun and educational opportunities to connect with others through virtual meet-ups, webinars, and other activities.

The goal of the Civic Health challenge is to raise awareness of the Civic Health Initiative and Steering Committee organizations, educate Wisconsinites on how they can contribute to civic health in their communities, and encourage habits and actions that contribute to local civic health. The Civic Health Challenge is great for those who want to explore and expand how they take action to contribute to civic health in Wisconsin.

Learn more: <https://commnsknowledge.wisc.edu/civic-health-of-wisconsin/>

Sign up for the 2025 Civic Health Challenge: <https://bit.ly/4m30jrt>

## CIVIC HEALTH CHALLENGE

AUGUST 2025

Sign up to learn new ways to support civic health in your community and connect with others along the way!



## Data Management

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

### Need to Know

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#### Reminder: Upcoming webinar

#### GWAAR PeerPlace Webinar - Topic: General Reports and View Builders

Tuesday, July 15 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (TODAY)

GWAAR Data Staff will be hosting a webinar on July 15 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., with the focus area being Reports and View Builders. This webinar will cover the general main reports and view builders recommended by GWAAR, how to set them up and what to look for. Following is the registration link to sign up – a reminder notice will be sent out prior. If you are unable to attend the webinar will be recorded and posted in the GWAAR Data Management library.

Registration: GWAAR PeerPlace Webinar - Topic: General Reports and View Builders:  
<https://bit.ly/4koPMVZ>





## Family Caregiver Support

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

### Need to Know

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#### Reminder: Caregiver Coordinator Statewide meeting July 15

Tuesday, July 15 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The agenda is available for the upcoming Caregiver Coordinator Statewide meeting. The replay will be posted later this week.

**View the agenda:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008598>

Wisconsin's  
**FamilyCaregiver**  
Support Programs

#### ACE Meeting Follow-Up: Resources Now Available!

As a follow-up to our A Commitment to Excellence (ACE) meeting held on Wednesday, July 9, we're excited to share a helpful resource to support your ongoing work with Wisconsin's caregiver grant programs. 🙌

During our breakout sessions, we explored four key topics:

1. Participant Contributions to the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)
2. Caregiver Program Policy & Procedure Examples
3. Requests for Program Overview Training for existing staff and supervisors
4. Standardized Tracking Tools for comparing "authorized" vs. "paid" caregiver services



This document <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008609> provides:

- ✓ Answers
- 📖 Guidance and
- 🔧 Tools for each topic discussed.

If you have any questions or need further support, please reach out to Bryn Ceman at [bryn.ceman@gwaar.org](mailto:bryn.ceman@gwaar.org).

Thanks again for attending our July ACE meeting. Your energy and insights continue to strengthen our caregiver network across the state! 🙌

### Nice to Know

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#### Family caregivers deserve support—body, mind & soul! 🧘 🙌

The Healthy Meals, Healthy Minds Grant is here to help! ❤️

This grant provides funding for:

- 🍲 Nutritious meals as respite
- 💡 Mental health & wellness services like counseling, yoga, gym memberships & more!

💡 Most family caregivers are eligible! A professional (like an ADRC staff member, Tribal ADRC, or case manager) needs to verify that your loved one meets one of the eligibility conditions.

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### 📦 What's covered?

- ✓ Meal delivery kits (no groceries or fast food)
- ✓ Mental health counseling (in-person or telehealth)
- ✓ Yoga, meditation & other wellness classes
- ✓ Gym memberships, self-help books, weighted blankets & more!

💡 Have questions before applying or making a purchase? 📧 Contact us at [info@respitcarewi.org](mailto:info@respitcarewi.org)

🔗 Learn more & apply here: 🖱️ <https://bit.ly/4eQZXkZ>

### Reminder: Now Available! Wisconsin Caregiving Infographic!

A powerful new tool is available for professional Caregiver Coordinators to use in outreach, education, and community engagement efforts. 🌱 Highlighting key facts about caregiving across the state, this resource is perfect for presentations, newsletters, lobby displays, and social media posts.

💡 Brought to you by our incredible partners at The UW Extension, helping raise awareness and support for the caregivers who keep Wisconsin strong.



**View the infographic:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007917>

## Fiscal

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

### **Need to Know**

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- Contract amendments will be sent out shortly.
- An updated June claim will be posted, once contract amendments are verified, amounts updated, and additional modifications are completed.
- Final 2025 Budget to be posted, once contract amendments are verified and amounts updated.
- Notices will be sent out once the June claim and the Final Budget have been posted, and webinars will be conducted to review the changes.

## Health Promotion

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

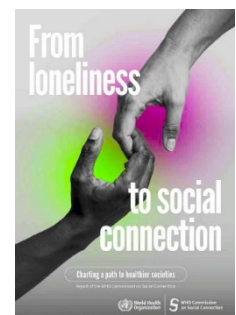
### **Nice to Know**

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#### Reminder: New Report! WHO Commission on Social Connection

This landmark report - From Loneliness to Social Connection: Charting a Path to Healthier Societies - from the World Health Organization (WHO) Commission on Social Connection highlights that social isolation and loneliness are widespread, with serious but under-recognized impacts on health, well-being, and society. Drawing on the latest evidence, the report makes a compelling case for urgent action. It outlines practical, scalable solutions to strengthen social connection - and calls on policy-makers, researchers and all sectors to treat social health with the same urgency as physical and mental health.

The Commissioners envision a future where stronger social bonds improve well-being, reduce preventable deaths, boost education and economic resilience, and ease the social and financial burden of disconnection. This report is a call to act - and an invitation to build a more connected, healthier world.



**Learn more:** <https://www.who.int/groups/commission-on-social-connection/report>

## Nutrition


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


### Nice to Know

#### 2025 In-Person Nutrition Director Orientation & Refresher

Wednesday, August 27 | 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The **GWAAR Nutrition Team** is excited to invite all Nutrition Directors—new and seasoned—to our **2025 In-Person Orientation/Refresher**. This event is a great opportunity to learn, reconnect, and strengthen your leadership in Wisconsin's Elder Nutrition Programs.

 **Date:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025

 **Location:** Lake View Conference Center – Wisconsin Room  
1000 Lakeview Drive, Wausau, WI

#### Agenda:

- Registration: 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.
- Presentation: 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Lunch (provided): 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

 **Cost:** Free to attend

 **Registration Deadline:** August 13, 2025

 **To register:** Please return your completed registration form via email to: [ori.fernandez@gwaar.org](mailto:ori.fernandez@gwaar.org)

Download the registration form: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008612>

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

### Nice to Know

#### Reminder: The July Scam Spotlight focuses on Medical Identity Theft

Similar to regular identity theft, medical identity theft is when someone steals personal medical information, such as a Medicare number, and uses it to receive medical treatments or products in that person's name. The consequences of medical identity theft are frightening, both to the person's wallet and health.

#### Read the July Scam Spotlight:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/07-July-Medical-Identity-Theft.pdf>

