



Volume 7, No. 29 July 22, 2025
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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.



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, or someone you know, would 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. 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 or complete an application to join!

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



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>

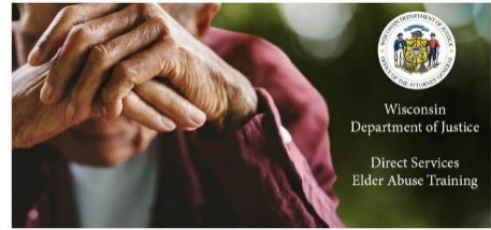
View the flyer:

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

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

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

Nice to Know

2025-2027 State Budget Summary of WAAN priorities

View the latest here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008630>

HHS Finalizes Mass Layoffs: ACL Experiences Deep Cuts

Back in late March of this year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a reorganization (see <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/hhs-restructuring-doge-fact-sheet.html>)

The downsizing and restructuring of the department included eliminating the Administration for Community Living (ACL) which oversees many programs and services for older adults and people living with disabilities. HHS' plan was to reduce its workforce by 10,000 full-time employees, consolidate the Department's divisions from 28 to 15, and close five regional offices. On April 1, many federal workers (including about 40% of ACL's employees) in HHS learned they had been let go. A lower court ruling in May temporarily blocked the layoffs from taking effect, but on July 8, the Supreme Court lifted the lower court ruling and allowed the Trump administration to proceed with its restructuring efforts.

On July 14, HHS finalized its mass terminations, including many ACL staff members representing the entire **budget and grants team, policy and evaluation teams, regional staff, office of public engagement, and front office.** The terminations were effective at the close of business on July 14. Including earlier layoffs and those who accepted early retirements, the HHS workforce is projected to shrink from 82,000 to 62,000 employees.

Aging advocates are expressing serious concerns about the potential negative impact of government staff reductions and reorganization on essential services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Fortunately, Older Americans Act (OAA) allocations for fiscal year (FY) 2025 have previously been released. Unfortunately, some programs and federal departments are experiencing delays and cancellations of funding.

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OAA Funding - What can you do? Members of Congress are scheduled to be back in their states and home districts for the entire month of August. As House and Senate appropriations committees prepare to begin their work on FY 2026 budgets, August is a perfect time to engage your U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and your U.S. Representative when they are home in their district to stress the importance of funding for OAA programs for the communities you serve! Reach out to schedule a meeting or invite your members of Congress to visit your programs. For contact information see Wisconsin Members of the 119th Congress: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>

To identify who your U.S. Representative is go to: <https://www.house.gov/representatives> and enter your ZIP code at the top righthand side of the page next to "LOOK UP." Federal Budget Reconciliation Act

Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) - Aging Advocacy Events 2026

For 2026, in lieu of hosting Aging Advocacy Day in May at the State Capitol, the WAAN will be working with its core members to host a series of in-district events, virtual sessions to prepare constituents for legislative visits and discussions on priority aging issues, and a call-in/email campaign targeting state legislators.



Historically, WAAN held an in-person advocacy day each year in May (Older Americans Month), in Madison. **In odd-numbered years**, the state legislature is actively working on legislation, including the biennial state budget, so this is a great time to bring advocates into the State Capitol to meet with their legislators and staff.

In even-numbered years, by May, the state legislature is focused on committee work and legislators are spending the bulk of their time back home in their district. In 2026, the legislature's last general session Floorperiod is scheduled for March 17-19.

To expand on our efforts to build and strengthen relationships between constituents and their elected officials, WAAN's focus will be on in-district meetings for 2026 to provide opportunities for citizens to connect with their state legislators in their local communities.

WAAN members will offer training, templates, and other support for in-district meeting hosts. In celebration of Older Americans Month, an online advocacy campaign connecting advocates with their state legislators, will also be scheduled in May.

Data Management

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

Nice to Know

Watch for upcoming webinars

Additional information will be shared in the newsletter, by email, and on SharePoint. Stay tuned!

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Upcoming Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting – Save the Date!

Tuesday, September 23 – IN-PERSON Meeting | 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Wilson Senior Center (2601 W Howard Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53221)

Lunch provided; bring your own if you have dietary restrictions

Attendees are responsible for hotel reservations. Nearby options include:

- Holiday Inn & Suites Milwaukee Airport
- Courtyard Milwaukee Airport
- Best Western Plus Milwaukee Airport Hotel

Wisconsin's
FamilyCaregiver
Support Programs

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



As a follow-up to our A Commitment to Excellence (ACE) meeting held on Wednesday, July 9th, 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, contact Bryn Ceman at 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

Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting – July 2025 Recap!


Missed the July 15 statewide call? No worries! Catch up on all the key updates, tools, and resources to support your work with caregivers.

-  Quick References:
-  July 2025 Agenda
-  Advocacy Update: Caregiver Support Statewide
-  Caregiver Grant Programs Overview, Best Practices & FAQs
-  Trualta Updates
-  Meeting Notes
-  Recording



 Access everything here: <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>



 Wisconsin Caregiver Support Community Monthly Calls


Thank you for being part of our caregiver support network! 

Reminder: 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 ADRS, or case manager) needs to verify that your loved one meets one of the eligibility conditions.

 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@respitecarewi.org

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



🔧 Tualta: A FREE Tool for Wisconsin Caregiver Coordinators! 🔧

Tualta is an evidence-informed, online education platform available at no cost to all Wisconsin caregivers—and it's not just for families!

👥 Caregiver Coordinators can use Tualta to:

- Enhance caregiver support groups with ready-to-use training modules
- Incorporate topics like Caregiver Burnout, Injury Prevention, and Chronic Conditions into workshops
- Offer caregivers a trusted, self-paced learning tool to extend support beyond the office



💡 What caregivers will find on Tualta:

- ✓ Practical strategies to manage burnout and stress
- ✓ Training on injury prevention and mobility
- ✓ Education on chronic health conditions and mental health
- ✓ Access to live expert discussions, support groups, and blogs

🔗 Share this link with families and explore it for your own work:

<https://wisconsincaregiver.tualta.com/>

Let's help caregivers thrive—not just survive. Together, we can lighten their load.

Reminder: Now Available! Wisconsin Caregiving Infographic!

A powerful new tool 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

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

Need to Know

- 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

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

Need to Know

Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar - All are welcome!

Tuesday, August 5 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Webinar, 10:30 - 11:00 (Optional - Open Discussion)

Join us for the upcoming Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar on Tuesday, August 5 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. with an optional discussion from 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend. Please see agenda below.

- GWAAR Updates - Angie Sullivan, OAA Health Promotion & Supportive Services Specialist
- WIHA Updates - Jill Renken, Executive Director WIHA
- Stepping Up Your Nutrition - Pam VanKampen, GWAAR Nutrition Specialist
- Men's Shed Presentations & Panel Discussion - Barron & Juneau Counties

Nice to Know

Brain Health Project Funding

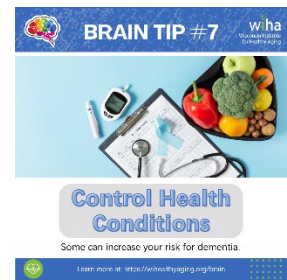
WIHA is launching an exciting new initiative to promote brain health across Wisconsin. They are seeking five communities to partner with them in spreading important brain health information to local residents. Each selected partner will receive \$1,500 in compensation for their time and efforts, along with up to \$500 in printed materials to support outreach.

While the brain health resources are freely available for anyone to use - and WIHA encourages broad sharing - the five selected partners will commit to actively and widely distributing the materials in their communities between August 4 and September 30, 2025. This project aims to raise awareness about brain health and dementia prevention through targeted community engagement, making healthy aging information more accessible to people where they live.

See the resources below and apply to become a partner. Applications are due by Friday, August 1, 2025.

Link to resources: <https://wihealthyaging.org/for-professionals/brain-health/>

Apply to be a partner: <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/wbn227e1g4xdii/>



Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

New NOURISH Step social media posts and videos now available!

We're excited to share fresh content created by our summer dietetic intern from UW-Stout, Maddy Stafford! Check out the latest NOURISH Step posts and short videos on the GWAAR Facebook page and our website: <https://gwaar.org/nourishstep>. Help us spread the word—please repost and share with your networks!



Reminder: 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: lori.fernandez@gwaar.org

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

We look forward to seeing you there!

