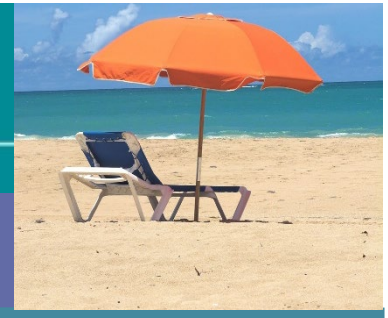




Volume 7, No. 30 July 29, 2025  
Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974  
info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org



## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

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### ***Need to Know***

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#### **Legal Services Contract Request for Proposals**

The Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), is pleased to announce the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-B Legal Services Contract - Request for Proposal (RFP). **Proposals are due by September 12, 2025.** The contract runs from January 1 - December 31, 2026 with option for four, one-year extensions.

**View the RFP and apply:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008635>

For questions regarding the legal services RFP, please contact Angie Sullivan, OAA Specialist Health Promotion & Supportive Services at [angela.sullivan@gwaar.org](mailto:angela.sullivan@gwaar.org).

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

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#### **Welcome new Advisory Council members**

We are pleased to welcome Sheila Check-Moe from Stevens Point and Tony Omernik from Wausau to the GWAAR Advisory Council. You can learn more about them on the GWAAR website:

<https://gwaar.org/advisory-council>

#### **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

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### Need to Know

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#### Reminder: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training

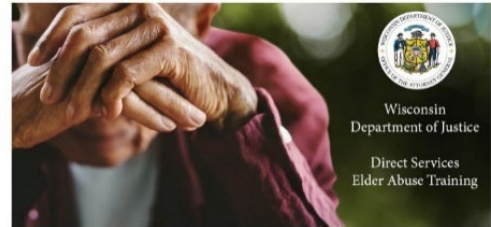
This training is open to state-based organizations and agencies that work with adult protective services, victim services, system-based advocates, and aging network professionals.

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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#### Celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** was signed into law **35 years ago on July 26, 1990**. To honor the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) suggests taking steps to ensure our documents, emails, social media posts, etc. meet ADA standards. To learn more about creating accessible content go to WisTech's Information and Communication Technology webpage on the DHS website at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wistech/information-communication-technology.htm>.



#### How-To Guide: Planning and Hosting an In-District Legislative Meeting

**La Crosse County Human Services** (thanks to Carissa Pagel-Smith, Aging and Disability Resource Center Manager of La Crosse County) developed a how-to-guide to support Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), aging unit staff, and community partners in planning and facilitating in-district legislative meetings. The guide is based on the 2025 experience of the ADRC of La Crosse County but is intended to be adaptable for use across the state. The guide “provides step-by-step instructions, real-life tips, and adaptable tools to support local professionals, including Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and aging unit staff, in coordinating and facilitating effective in-district meetings with legislators.” You can find the how-to-guide on GWAAR’s website under the Advocacy Toolkit tab under “How To: Effective Advocacy” –

**View the guide:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008648>

**Find the Advocacy Toolkit tab:** <https://gwaar.org/advocacy-toolkit>

## New Survival Coalition Survey

The Survival Coalition of state disability organizations is conducting a survey of people with disabilities and older adults who use Medicaid, their caregivers, and their providers. The purpose of the survey is to find out how much time and effort currently goes into Medicaid eligibility, how much unpaid care already is provided, and what people are most concerned about with the more than \$900-990 billion in Medicaid cuts that were signed into law July 4, 2025.

**Survey link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBLJQYN>

Please share this survey with people with disabilities and older adults who use Medicaid, their caregivers, and their providers.

## 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.



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

*Friday, August 1 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.*

*English registration:* <https://bit.ly/46sTKd2>

*Spanish registration:* <https://bit.ly/40EWpN3>

Medicaid. Social Security. Disability Programs. Education. Federal Budget.

Join BPDD this Friday to get the latest on Federal funding cuts and federal agency changes that 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. When you register, you will receive another e-mail with the zoom link.



*-continued-*

***The format for these webinars in August has changed:***

- Tami will hold Federal Funding Updates & Q&A Friday @ 9-10 a.m.
- 15-20 minutes of the latest updates and 45 minutes of discussion where you can ask questions, talk about what you are hearing in your area and from lawmakers, and give us feedback about events, surveys, and other items being planned to keep people engaged on disability issues.
- The presentation will not be recorded. All people who register will get a follow up email after the webinar with a link to the presentation slides.

## **Data Management**

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

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

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#### **Upcoming webinar**

- [GWAAR PeerPlace - Reports: Served Client Summary and Title III All Services](#)  
Wednesday, August 6 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
**Webinar Registration:** <https://bit.ly/44Sl1EB>
- A webinar reminder notice will be sent out prior to the meeting – if unable to attend the recording it will be posted to the Data Management library.

## **Family Caregiver Support**

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

### ***Need to Know***


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#### **Caregiving in the U.S. 2025: 63 Million and Counting**

The latest Caregiving in the U.S. 2025 report reveals a staggering rise in unpaid caregiving—63 million Americans, or 1 in 4 adults, are now caring for someone with complex medical needs or a disability. That's a 20 million increase since 2015.




These family caregivers are managing medical tasks, holding full-time jobs, and sacrificing their well-being—often without training, compensation, or support.

 Explore and share the findings:

 Access the full 2025 report: <https://www.caregivingintheus.org/>

 Download the Partner Toolkit: <https://www.caregiving.org/caregiving-in-the-us-2025-toolkit/>

 Watch the Partner Briefing Webinar: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZ0yl\\_law14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZ0yl_law14)

 View the Webinar Slides: <https://bit.ly/3HajuRa>

Let's work together to elevate the visibility of caregivers and advocate for the support they urgently need.

## Reminder: 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

## Nice to Know

### Know an Employer Who Supports Family Caregivers? Nominate them!

The Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) is celebrating employers who go the extra mile to support their team members with family caregiving responsibilities. Whether it's flexible schedules, caregiver resources, or understanding leadership, we want to hear about it! 🗣️

- ☀️ Help us spotlight businesses that:
  - ✅ Foster a caregiver-friendly workplace culture
  - ✅ Support employee wellbeing & work-life balance
  - ✅ Connect caregivers to community resources
- 👥 Nominate an employer today!
- 📧 It only takes a few minutes:
- 👉 <https://bit.ly/WFACSAemployernomination>



Let's uplift the employers who are getting it right! 💪 ❤️

### Reminder: 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

Let's help caregivers thrive—not just survive. Together, we can lighten their load. 🔗 Share this link with families and explore it for your own work: <https://wisconsincaregiver.tualta.com/>

## Fiscal

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

### ***Need to Know***

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#### **\*Upcoming\***

The updated June claim will be posted by the end of this week.

- Notice will be sent out once posted.
- [GWAAR Fiscal Webinar - Updated June Claim](#) – Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/45pRQJc>
- A webinar reminder notice will be sent out prior to the meeting – if unable to attend the recording will be posted to the Fiscal Resources library.

The Final 2025 Budget to be posted shortly.

- Notice will be sent out once posted.
- Webinar Registration - TBD

## Health Promotion

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

### ***Need to Know***

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#### **Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar - All are welcome!**

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

**Meeting link:** <https://bit.ly/4maMIOK> | Meeting ID: 253 288 303 954 4 | Passcode: G7Az7rg9

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



#### **Legal Services Contract Request for Proposals**

As noted earlier in this newsletter, we have posted a Request for Proposal Application – Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-B Legal Services Contract.

**View the RFP and apply:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008635>

For questions regarding the legal services RFP, please contact Angie Sullivan, OAA Specialist Health Promotion & Supportive Services at [angela.sullivan@gwaar.org](mailto:angela.sullivan@gwaar.org).



## Falls Free Wisconsin (FFWI) - Mini-Grant Request for Proposals

Localizing Efforts to Address Falls (LEAF) - As part of a statewide strategy to reduce falls among older adults, the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA), convener of the Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition, is excited to announce a new mini-grant funding opportunity to support local falls prevention efforts across Wisconsin!

Through the LEAF initiative, WIHA will provide funding to empower communities in developing or enhancing impactful falls prevention programs or projects.

Whether you're looking to launch a new initiative or strengthen an existing one, this is your chance to make a difference in the lives of older adults in your community.

WIHA will fund a maximum of 6 projects in the amount of up to \$5,000 each.

Key Dates:

- \* Q & A Session August 5 @ 2 p.m. (register here)/Session will be recorded
- \* Proposals Due: September 23 by 11:59 p.m.
- \* Project period: October 1, 2025- April 30, 2026
- \* Final Report Due: June 30, 2026

**Link to register for the Q & A Session** - <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/QXe-iM2NRq2VWek0Kaallg#/registration>

**View the Request for Proposal Here:** - <https://files.constantcontact.com/cba79bee701/e2bb314f-1639-43be-8ff6-292bdfcaf59f.pdf?rdr=true>



## Resources Now Available for Falls Prevention Awareness Month

It's almost here - Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM) is just around the corner! This September let's shine a spotlight on staying safe, strong, and independent as we age. If you haven't started planning, now's the perfect time to dive in and see how you can use these resources in your community.

The FFWI Coalition has been busy behind the scenes creating fresh, ready-to-use materials to support your local efforts.

- \* Press Release (English & Spanish)
- \* Newsletter article (English & Spanish)
- \* Radio Talking Points (English & Spanish) - a great way to reach older adults!
- \* Social media graphics & suggested text (General, Tribal & Spanish)
- \* Handouts (English & Spanish) - consider posting in transportation vehicles, distributing with Home Delivered Meals, share in newsletters and events

This year, our theme is Falls Prevention is a Team Effort. We ALL have a role to play to prevent falls. Let's make FPAM 2025 the most impactful one yet - together!

**View the FPAM Promotional Resources** - <https://fallsfreewi.org/for-professionals/promotional-resources/>

Falls Prevention is a Team Effort

September is  
Falls Prevention  
Awareness  
Month!



## Nice to Know

### Reminder: Brain Health Project Funding

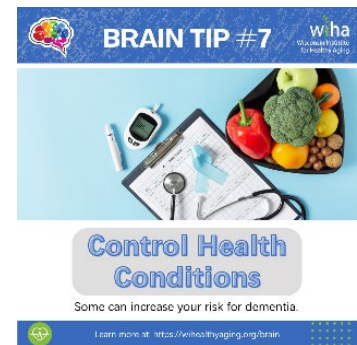
WIHA is launching an exciting new initiative to promote brain health across Wisconsin. They are seeking five communities to partner with them in spreading important brain health information to local residents. Each selected partner will receive \$1,500 in compensation for their time and efforts, along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



## Guardian Support Center

[Polly Shoemaker](#), WI Guardianship Support Center Attorney

### Nice to Know

#### July 2025 issue of the The Guardian available

The Guardian is a quarterly newsletter published by the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources' (GWAAR) Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center (GSC)

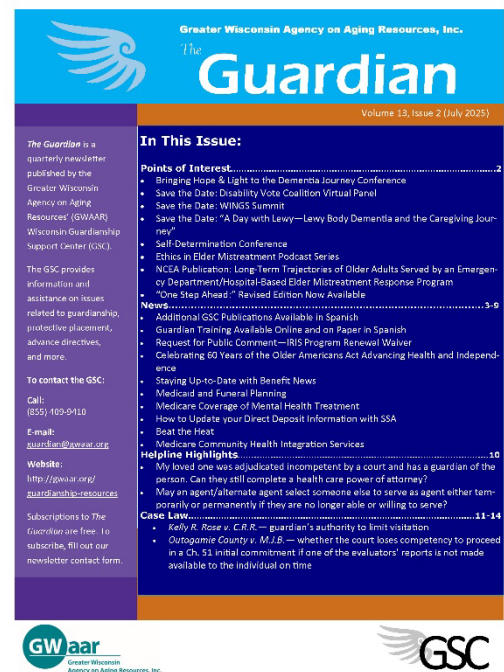
The GSC provides information and assistance on issues related to guardianship, protective placement, advance directives, and more.

#### Read the July issue of The Guardian:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008642>

#### Subscribe or view past issues:

<https://gwaar.org/guardianship-resources>





## 2025 WINGS Wisconsin Summit: Beyond the Order: Centering Lives, Choices, and Change

Monday, September 29, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

### University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point

From Legal Authority to Lasting Impact — Advancing Rights, Relationships, and Self-Determination in Guardianship. This statewide summit brings together legal, health, and advocacy professionals to explore guardianship practices in Wisconsin with a focus on advancing self-determination, relationships, and alternatives to court orders. The event includes expert panels, legislative updates, and breakout discussions on guardianship reform, self-advocacy, and complex decision-making for individuals under guardianship.

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/4m2DsfG>

**View the flyer:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008643>



## Nutrition

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

### Nice to Know

#### Help Spread the Word for Malnutrition Awareness Week (Sept. 8-11, 2025)

GWAAR is once again a proud ambassador for MAW.

Please visit the [Spread the Word page](#) for downloadable press releases, social media posts, graphics, handouts, and much more to help you plan and promote Malnutrition Awareness Week.

**Spread the Word page:** <https://www.nutritioncare.org/spreadtheword>

If you would like to participate in the MAW25 webinars for free, please use this discount code when registering: MAW-GWAAR. Note, it is case sensitive.

For information on registering for the webinars and claiming CE credit, follow these instructions: <https://bit.ly/3HbAl65>

In addition, the NOURISH Step September Newsletter is dedicated to this topic. You can access the Portrait and Landscape versions on our NOURISH Step website under the Monthly Handouts link.

<https://gwaar.org/nourishstep>



### Where's Chef Justin Johnson?

Check out the videos created by Sustainable Kitchens highlighting the incredible Cooking Kitchens in the GWAAR Service Area that he worked with over the years as part of the projects funded by GWAAR.

Thank you for the amazing cooking staff, Nutrition directors, and Justin for sharing his expertise, recipes, and passion for back-to-scratch cooking!!

Week 1: WASHARA <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1Dq6imvBL/>

Week 2: CRAWFORD <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/19jPzDnP6N/>

Week 3: EAU CLAIRE <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/16BfgK6ntR/>

Week 4: BARRON <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1Z6B8Ps56q/>

Week 5: PORTAGE <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1AW8e9MDh9/>



### Reminder: 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!

