



Volume 7, No. 33 August 19, 2025  
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## Leadership Opportunity

Openings available on our Board of Directors

✓ Applications welcome! **Learn more:** [gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board](https://gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board)



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

### Nice to Know

#### Reminder: Do something Grand for Grandparents Day

Generations United is inviting others to **#DoSomethingGrand** and celebrate Grandparents Day (Sunday, September 7) throughout the month of September! This year, they are celebrating **Stories From the Table:** <https://nonnas.1community.com/>. (close the pop-up chat window to view the page).



Inspired by the hit Netflix film *NONNAS*, this social impact campaign is a celebration of food, family, and the wisdom passed down through generations, and offers a way to promote intergenerational exchange in your community. **Learn more:** <https://grandparentsday.org/>.

Interested in being a Grand Partner for Grandparents Day? Email Generations United's **Project Specialist Adina Wambua** at [awambua@gu.org](mailto:awambua@gu.org) to become a partner today!

## Abuse in Later Life Grant

### Need to Know

#### New date announced: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training

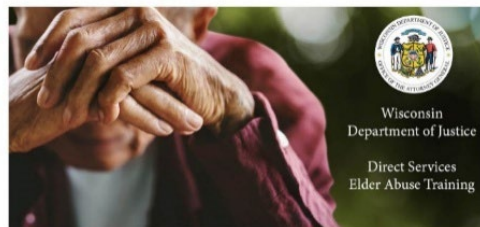
Thursday, October 23 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Elkhorn

**Registration:** <https://wisdoj.cventevents.com/event/directservices102325/summary>

**View the flyer:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008663>

#### Who should attend?

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



## Advocacy

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

### Nice to Know

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#### Take Action Today!

Social Security is one of the most successful anti-poverty programs in our country, providing 74 million Americans with roughly \$1.4 trillion in benefits throughout the year.

Contact Your Members of Congress and tell them to preserve and strengthen Social Security for current and future generations: <https://www.congress.gov/contact-us>

#### #ProtectSocialSecurity

**AARP Sign the Pledge:** <https://action.aarp.org/social-security-pledge-hold>

**Download WAAN graphics (zip folder) here:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/200865>

*If you have any trouble with the download, contact [communications@gwaar.org](mailto:communications@gwaar.org).*

#### Reminder: Social Security's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary awareness: Social media toolkit available

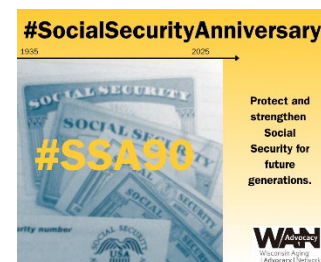
To recognize and celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Act, the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN), created a social media toolkit as a resource to help WAAN members, aging advocates, and partner organizations:

- **Share** the vital role Social Security plays in reducing poverty among older persons, people with disabilities and survivors,
- **Educate** community members and policymakers regarding the relationship between Social Security and retirement Security. For many, Social Security is the largest source of retirement income, and for a significant portion, it provides at least half or more of their income, and
- **Advocate** for the protection of Social Security benefits which serves as a critical safety net. Without Social Security benefits, nearly 4 in 10 adults aged 65 and older would have incomes below the official poverty line.



#### In this toolkit, you'll find:

- Sample social media posts and graphics
- Key talking points on Social Security's role
- Resources and reports with credible data to help tell the story of impact



Together, we can strengthen the voices of older people and family caregivers across the U.S. to ensure policymakers understand the critical role Social Security plays in the lives of millions of Americans, providing economic security and a foundation for retirement planning.

**View the toolkit:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008656>

**Download the images:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008655>

## **Reminder: 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 2026.

## **Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) SCSEP funding 2025 & 2026**

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a federal initiative designed to help low-income older adults find employment and community service opportunities. Funding for SCSEP comes from the Older Americans Act Title V program and is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Though funding for SCSEP was approved and signed into law for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025, in July, the U.S. DOL paused the release of over \$300 million in funds for national SCSEP grantees, impacting thousands of older persons across the country.

### **Take Action**

**Congress has the power to fix this problem!**

**Contact U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and your U.S. Representative and ask them to protect the people who depend on training and jobs provided by the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Ask them to direct the U.S. Department of Labor to release the previously approved SCSEP funding and to support the continuation of funding in FY 2026** (link to NCOA campaign <https://act.ncoa.org/a/scsep/>).

Funding delays caused national grantees to furlough current program participants, leaving thousands of low-income participants without the additional income needed to cover housing, food, and medication expenses and host agencies without needed workers. There is growing concern that as funding delays drag on some older persons may face eviction and become unhoused.

Late last month, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor/HHS) spending bill, which included \$395 million for SCSEP. Though the funding approved is a decrease of \$10 million from the approved FY 2025 amount, it is seen as a positive step, as the administration had proposed eliminating the program entirely in its FY 2026 budget request.

*-continued-*

**Your advocacy is needed to address the SCSEP funding delays and advocate for continued support for the program.** The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is hosting a campaign to help you educate your Senators and Representative about the importance of SCSEP and to help participants share their stories about their need to work and the impact the funding delay is having on their lives. **Use the NCOA campaign <https://act.ncoa.org/a/scsep/> to contact your federal elected officials today!**

### **Federal Funding Fallout2025: Updates and Q&A**

Friday, August 22 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds822>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan822>

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**

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

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

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

- More upcoming webinars will be posted to assist with End-of-Year reviews – stay tuned!

## **Family Caregiver Support**

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

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

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#### **Upcoming Meeting – Save the Date!**

Tuesday, September 23 | 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

IN-PERSON Meeting

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






## **Good News for Wisconsin Caregiver Support Programs!**


Governor Tony Evers signed 2025 Wisconsin Act 21 into law on August 8th, eliminating all income eligibility requirements for the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP). 

What This Means: Agencies can now:

- Enroll more families caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or other irreversible dementia 
- Use AFCSP as a federal match source for NFCSP 

 Program coordinators may begin enrolling families under the new guidelines immediately. 

 A new AFCSP Enrollment Form is now available on the GWAAR website and the DHS Forms Library.

 The new Enrollment Form replaces both the Financial Eligibility Screen – Worksheet 1 and the General Information Worksheet.



Spanish version is also be available.



 Access the form here: <https://bit.ly/4oiNhRO>



## **UPDATED Virtual & Telephonic Support Options for Caregivers!**


Caregiver Coordinators — looking for meaningful ways to support the family caregivers you serve?

The Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) has updated its website to include expanded virtual and phone-based offerings to make support more accessible than ever!  

- ◆ Telephonic support groups for those without internet access
- ◆ Virtual support groups with flexible scheduling
- ◆ Virtual Strong Bodies programs to build strength and confidence from home  

These FREE opportunities are perfect for caregivers facing time, transportation, or technology barriers. Be sure to share and refer caregivers to this one-stop hub:

[Ongoing Virtual Support Groups | Wisconsin Family Caregiver Support Program](#)

Let's make support easier to access, wherever caregivers are. 



## **Reminder: Calling All Caregiver Coordinators!**

Please help the Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) celebrate National Family Caregivers Month this November by sharing powerful caregiver stories from across Wisconsin!

We're looking for heartfelt stories that highlight the strength, compassion, and resilience of Wisconsin's family caregivers, especially those who've:



*-continued-*

- ☀️ Found relief through respite
- ☀️ Prioritized self-care
- ☀️ Spent meaningful time with family and friends

Let's uplift the voices of caregivers who found balance, connection, and rest. Their stories will be shared on Facebook and in newsletters to ✨ inspire ✨ others and shine a light on caregiving across our state.

🎯 What we need:

- ✓ A brief caregiver story 📄
- ✓ A photo (optional but encouraged) 📷
- ✓ Caregiver's permission to share their story/image ✅

**Please send stories to:**

Bryn Ceman, Caregiver Programs Specialist

[bryn.ceman@gwaar.org](mailto:bryn.ceman@gwaar.org)

👉 Let's honor those who give so much, one story at a time. 🌟

## Fiscal

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

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

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

- The ARPA B, D and E Re-obligation Request and De-obligation Submission form links have been posted to the Fiscal Resources library.
  - Re-obligation requests are due August 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - De-obligation submissions are due September 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - We have been informed that **all** Aging Units can request additional funding from the remaining ARPA grants.
- The Final 2025 Budget to be posted shortly.
  - Once posted the 2025 Transfer Request will be posted as well. This request must match what is on your Final Budget.
  - All Aging Units must complete the online Transfer Request form, even if no transfers are being requested.
  - The Final Budget and Transfer Request are due August 22.



## Health Promotion

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

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

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#### **Newly added! Two StrongBodies Leader Trainings**

The UW-Division of Extension has added two new StrongBodies leader trainings this fall. This is a great opportunity to utilize any remaining ARPA-D funds and implement, expand or sustain a high-level evidence-based strength, balance and flexibility program in your community.

Registration fee is \$350 for a new leader or \$50 for a previously trained leader to attend as a refresher.

- September 8: LaCrosse, WI | **Register here:** <https://bit.ly/3Jmh0ju>
- September 24: Janesville, WI | **Register here:** <https://bit.ly/4IKLQjm>

Contact Jenn Whitty, Health Promotion Program Coordinator, University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension.  
[jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu](mailto:jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu)

#### **Reminder: August 5 Quarterly Health Promotion webinar replay available**

*In case you missed it.* The August 5 Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar replay is available, featuring Stepping Up Your Nutrition by Pam VanKampen, GWAAR Nutrition Specialist and Men's Shed Presentations. Plus, updates from GWAAR and Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA).

**View the replay:** <https://youtu.be/BXuuJnI7aiw>



#### **Reminder: 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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### Reminder: Planning AHEAD, 7-session series

Thursdays September 11 - October 23, 2025

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Zoom

Register here: <https://go.wisc.edu/plu9h7>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008661>

Registration is required and space is limited.

Registration is \$30 (includes program materials)

Planning AHEAD - Advance directives, Handling financial changes, Estate planning, and Arriving at Decisions for the end of this life 7-Session virtual program to help participants understand how to prepare for the end of life for themselves or a loved one. For questions, contact Life Span Program Manager, Sara Richie, at [sara.richie@wisc.edu](mailto:sara.richie@wisc.edu)



**Planning AHEAD**  
Advance directives, Handling financial changes, Estate planning, and Arriving at Decisions for the end of this life

Join us for a 7-session virtual program to help participants understand how to prepare for the end of life for themselves or a loved one.

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Registration is required and space is limited.  
Registration is \$30 (includes program materials)

Scan for more information

For questions, contact Life Span Program Manager, Sara Richie, at [sara.richie@wisc.edu](mailto:sara.richie@wisc.edu)

Human Development & Relationships Institute  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Guardianship Support Center

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

### Nice to Know

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#### Reminder: 2025 WGA Fall Educational Conference

Tuesday, September 23 | 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

7:30 a.m. open for registration

The Wisconsin Guardianship Association is hosting its 2025 Fall Educational Conference at the Jensen Community Center in Amherst, WI on September 23, 2025. This conference is designed for corporate guardians, volunteer and family guardians, and other professionals who work closely with individuals under guardianship in the state of Wisconsin.

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008660>

Download the registration form: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008659>

WISCONSIN  
GUARDIANSHIP  
ASSOCIATION  
STRIVING TO IMPROVE GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES

## Nutrition

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

### Nice to Know

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#### October NOURISH Step Newsletter Posted!

Here is a glance at what the newsletter features this month. I also updated the Word document that has information that can be easily posted in your newsletters and on social media. This is all available in our GWAAR Nutrition SharePoint site for registered users [2025 Monthly Nutrition Ed Handouts](#). Or, you can view on the GWAAR website <https://gwaar.org/nourishstep>



## Celebrate Fall with Food, Family & Stories

October is the perfect time to gather around the table! Celebrate Eat Better, Eat Together Month, Intergenerational Month, and Cookbook Month by sharing meals, swapping recipes, and passing down food traditions. Check out the [Eat Well, Age Well Cookbook](#) and [NOURISH Step](#) for recipes, cooking videos, and October Fun Days with baked apple ideas, apple water and tea tips, and ways to use leftover pumpkin purée.

Seasonal Favorites: Pumpkin supports eye health and immunity, corn boosts digestion and energy, and apples provide fiber and vitamin C for heart and gut health.

Fall Baking Tips: Swap applesauce or pumpkin purée for half or all of the fat in baked goods for moisture, fiber, and vitamin A.

Ways to Use Leftover Pumpkin Purée: Add to baked goods, smoothies, soups, oatmeal, sauces, dips, or frozen treats.

With National Storytelling Weekend on October 3–5, it's the perfect time to mix good food with great stories and create lasting memories!

## Seventh Annual Conference on Native American Nutrition

Consider attending the September 14–16, 2025 at the Mystic Lake Center in Prior Lake, Minnesota for the Seventh Annual Conference on Native American Nutrition: Cultivating Seeds of Joy and Justice. This inspiring event brings together tribal leaders, health professionals, and community members to explore culturally grounded approaches to nutrition, health, and wellness in Native communities.

Learn from expert speakers, participate in interactive sessions, and connect with others dedicated to promoting food sovereignty, health equity, and community well-being.

For more information and registration, visit [nativenutrition.umn.edu/2025-conference](https://nativenutrition.umn.edu/2025-conference). Please share with your dietitians.

- The In-person cost is \$615.41 if registered by 9/1/25.
- Virtual Attendance cost is \$268.61 if registered by 9/5/25.

This year, if you are unable to attend in person, you can attend virtually. We wanted to make sure to offer a secondary option. All the plenary sessions will be available online in real-time, although this option does not include the pre-conference workshops, the vendor fair, the meals, and networking opportunities.

## 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!

<https://www.facebook.com/SustainableKitchens15>

Spotlight on CRAWFORD <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/19jPzDnP6N/>



## Supportive Services

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

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

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#### **Fresh Resources for OAA Title III-B Services**

Two new technical assistance documents are available on GWAAR's External SharePoint site for registered users. (to request access or to learn more go to: <https://gwaar.org/gpr-ext> )

1. OAA Title III-B Supportive Services Overview - learn about the purpose, target population, eligibility, funding, special considerations and examples of service categories and a description of services.  
<https://bit.ly/4oGCmlo>
2. OAA Title III-B Supportive Services (Transportation) Fact Sheet - learn about the key guidelines of utilizing III-B funding for Transportation.  
<https://bit.ly/47ALPuz>

## Transportation

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[Nick Musson](#), Older Americans Act Consultant – Transportation

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


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#### **Reminder: WisDOT Seeks Public Input on 2025 ADA Transition Plan — Your Voice Matters!**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has released its 2025 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan, and they're inviting the public — including aging units and advocates — to provide feedback. This is an important opportunity to help shape transportation accessibility for older adults and individuals with disabilities across Wisconsin.

Public comment is open now through Sunday, August 31 at 11:59 p.m.

We encourage all aging units to review the plan and share their insights. Your feedback can help ensure the transportation system is inclusive and accessible for all Wisconsinites.

 To access the ADA Transition Plan, watch an overview video, and submit your comments, visit:  
[www.wisconsindot.gov/ada](http://www.wisconsindot.gov/ada)



## Volunteerism

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[Nick Musson](#), Older Americans Act Consultant – Transportation

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

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#### **Reminder: Webinar: Volunteering for a Better You**

Wednesday, August 27 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Join the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA), Peggy Kurth, and Tony Omernik, GWAAR's newest Advisory Council member, to learn about the impact of volunteering on health and well-being.

Not able to make the event? Register and a recording will be sent after to all registered participants.

**View the flyer:** <https://bit.ly/45tScNJ>

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

