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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

GWAAR closed for Labor Day holiday

We will be closed on Monday, September 1 for the Labor Day holiday. We'll be back on September 2. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable three-day weekend!

GWAAR newsletter on break next week; next issue Wed. Sept. 10

There won't be a Weekly Digest newsletter on September 2, as your newsletter editor will be on break. Watch your inboxes the following week, on **Wednesday, September 10** for the next newsletter.

View past issues here: <https://gwaar.org/newsletters>

Sign up for email delivery here: <https://gwaar.org/newsletter-sign-up>



GWAAR ED registrations resume September 10

If you are interested in signing up for GWAAR ED, please submit your registration by Thursday, August 28. Registrations received after Thursday will be processed on September 10.

Learn more about GWAAR ED: <https://gwaar.org/gwaar-ed>

Register for GWAAR ED:

<https://gwaar.wufoo.com/forms/z95v3sv0qqhoha/>



GWAAR News also available on the GWAAR SharePoint site

In addition to document access for professionals, registered users can view the latest news and events on our GWAAR Partner Resources SharePoint site.

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources>

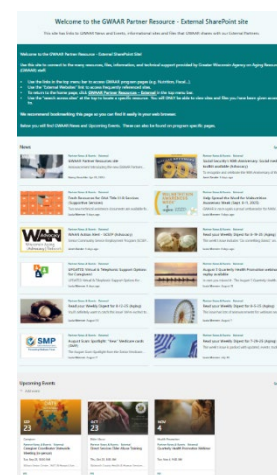
If you do not have access and qualify, we encourage you to sign up!

Learn more about accessing GWAAR SharePoint:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008294>

Information and registration links can be found on the GWAAR website:

<https://gwaar.org/gpr-ext>



Nice to Know

GWAAR Nutrition Team Member-Chef Lori Fernandez is Retiring

Please join us in recognizing and thanking Lori as she prepares for her next chapter of life. Her last day with GWAAR will be September 5.

For the past five years, Lori has been a vital part of GWAAR, bringing energy, creativity, and unmatched expertise to our nutrition programs. Prior to her time with us, she served as a local Nutrition Director with ADVOCAP in Winnebago County—and has truly spent her entire life immersed in all things food.

Lori's passion is contagious. Whether she's creating practical training tools for cooks, volunteers, and directors or inspiring others with her bubbly personality and warm heart, she has left a lasting impact. Lori is a connector, a problem-solver, and a fierce advocate for the needs of our programs and the people we serve. Her leadership has helped shape our work and strengthened the entire aging network.

We're so grateful for all she's shared with us—her vision, talent, and friendship. We'll miss her greatly but are excited to cheer her on in her next adventures. You might even catch her on Green Bay's News Channel 5 or sharing her delicious, healthy recipes on www.lorifernandez.com or via her [Facebook page](#). (<https://bit.ly/41o0IN5>). Or drop her a note at lori.fernandez@gwaar.org before she leaves.



Welcome Kristi Cooley, RD, Nutrition Program Specialist

Please help us welcome Kristi Cooley, who recently joined GWAAR as a Nutrition Program Specialist. Kristi is a registered and certified dietitian with more than 30 years of experience. She has worked in school nutrition and WIC programs, with a focus on translating regulations into practical approaches.

For the past eight years Kristi has led the senior nutrition program at the ADRC of Portage County as its Nutrition Program Manager. In this role she interpreted policy, ensured compliance, and supported the delivery of quality services for older adults.

She lives in the Stevens Point area with her husband Rich, goldendoodle Decker and calico cat Smudge. She also has two adult children, Sam and Jensen.

Kristi brings both hands-on experience and a strong understanding of program standards to GWAAR. She can be reached at kristi.cooley@gwaar.org. Welcome Kristi!



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. | Lunch is on your own

Walworth County Health and Human Services Building, 1910 County Road NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121

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

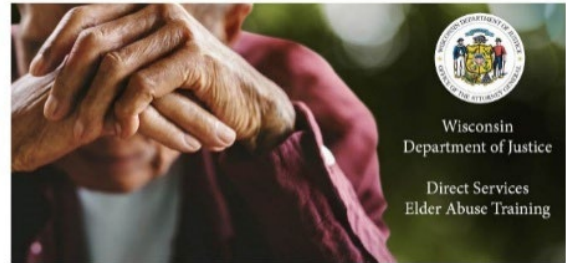
View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008663>

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The purpose of this training is to enhance older victims' safety and quality of life by strengthening collaboration among direct service providers.

Topics include:

- Types of Abuse in Later Life
- Understanding types of abuse in later life and abuser tactics
- Collaborating to create a victim-centered response
- Planning for victim safety
- Existing services for older victims



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

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

Nice to Know

In-District Meetings build and strengthen relationships

In-district meetings with state and/or federal legislators are a great way to build and strengthen relationships between constituents and their elected officials. These meetings, site visits, tours, and listening sessions provide opportunities for citizens to connect with their state legislators in their own local communities.

In-District Meeting resources available

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) has agreed to offer training, collect and create templates, and provide other resources to support in-district meeting hosts.

To date, La Crosse and Brown Counties have graciously shared some of their resources to serve as examples/samples for others to use as templates for creating their own in-district materials. **WAAN encourages others to share their resources too!** A broad variety of materials will help others to find materials that can be personalized to best fit their community needs.

To view the existing resources, go to: <https://gwaar.org/advocacy-toolkit> - In-District Meeting Resources.

To share materials your agency/group has created, please email them to Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator, GWAAR at janet.zander@gwaar.org, along with your permission for us to post the resources to the Toolkit.

If you are looking for a particular resource and can't find it, or have a suggestion, please email Janet and let her know what would be helpful to you.

Together, we can create a robust collection of in-district meeting resources. Thank you.



Reminder: 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.

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!**

Download/print this Action Alert: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008675>

Federal Funding Fallout2025: Updates and Q&A

Friday, August 29 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

English Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds829>

Spanish Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan829>

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

Nice to Know

****Upcoming Webinars****

PeerPlace – End-of-Year Webinar Series:

- [GWAAR PeerPlace EOY Series - General Errors to Review \(Registration\)](https://bit.ly/4IK0fvO): <https://bit.ly/4IK0fvO>

Topics to be covered:

- Under age 60 clients receiving a Title III service (where they must be age 60+)
- Service dates entered into the future
- Aggregate/Group services entered in error
- Individual services entered in error
- Title VI entries reported by Counties
- Title III Caregiver entries reported by Tribes

More to come!

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Reminder: 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



Reminder: 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 📄

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👉 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 available.

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

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:

- ☀️ 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

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



Nice to Know

Join the Caregiver Action Network Live! ☀️

Friday, August 28 | 12:00 p.m.

📺 Free Webinar hosted by Caregiver Action Network: From Isolation to Connection: Rural Alzheimer's Care & Behavioral Support
Caring for someone with Alzheimer's? Learn how to manage challenging behaviors like agitation, aggression, and delusions — with real-world tips, expert insight, and the power of peer support.

👉 **Register Now:**

<https://www.caregiveraction.org/rural-alzheimers-care/>

#Alzheimers #FamilyCaregivers #CaregiverSupport



Upcoming Webinar: Improving Food Security in Kinship/Grandfamilies

Wednesday, September 10 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Virtual – Free to attend

Registration: <https://www.gksnetwork.org/events/improving-food-security-in-kinship-grandfamilies/>

Join us for an informative session led by the Food Research & Action Center that explores how federal nutrition programs can support kinship and grandfamilies.

Attendees will:

- Learn about the range of federal nutrition programs available.
- Gain practical strategies and resources to help families access nutritious food.
- Leave with tools to support better grandparents and relatives raising children.



2025 Wisconsin Respite Summit ☀️

Tuesday, September 16 | 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | 📍 Madison Concourse Hotel

Registration: <https://respitcarewi.org/2025-wi-respit-summit/>

FREE to attend! Join caregivers, care recipients, professionals & community partners from across Wisconsin for a powerful day of connection, learning and action. 💜

💡 Theme: Listening to Caregivers: Data & Stories Driving Supportive Change

- ➡ Hear real caregiver stories 🗣️
- ➡ Learn how to use data for advocacy 📊
- ➡ Get the latest policy updates 🏛️
- ➡ Build new connections & partnerships 🤝

👂 Your voice matters. Your experience matters. Together, we can strengthen respite care in Wisconsin.



Join us in Celebrating Grandparents Day!

Sunday, September 7 🧓 🧓 ❤️

Generations United invites YOU to #DoSomethingGrand this Grandparents Day, Sunday, September 7, and all month long!

This year's theme, Stories From the Table, is inspired by the hit Netflix film NONNAS and celebrates the food, love, and life lessons shared across generations. 🎬

👨👩 Whether it's a favorite family recipe or a cherished memory, it's the perfect time to honor the wisdom of our grandparents and strengthen intergenerational bonds.

💬 Learn more & join the movement: <https://nonnas.1community.com/> or <https://grandparentsday.org/>

Want to be a Grand Partner for Grandparents Day? Email Adina Wambua, awambua@gu.org to get involved!

#GrandparentsDay #Intergenerational #FamilyTraditions #NONNAS #DoSomethingGrand 💛



Fiscal

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

Need to Know

****Upcoming****

- The July/August Claim to be posted shortly. The availability to use AFCSP as Match for NFCSP has not been added as GWAAR waits for further direction from the state regarding how to report in PeerPlace if used. Once this has been provided, the claim form will be updated and a webinar will be held to inform providers how to report on the claim and within PeerPlace to align properly.
- 2024 Carryover funds have not been added to the claim form yet. Once the contract is received from the state, amounts will be updated on the claim form and amended contracts will be sent out. These funds must be spent by Sept 30th. Your agency may be contacted regarding unspent funds and whether to de-obligate them.
- Title IIIC1 additional funds, which were applied for, will be updated on the claim form and amended contracts will be sent out once GWAAR has the contract from the state.
- Title IIIC2 additional funds, which should be distributed to all Aging Units, will be updated on the claim form and amended contracts will be sent out once GWAAR has the contract from the state.

****Reminders****

- Title III amended contracts have been sent out – updated amounts are already on the June claim form.
 - Most agencies witnessed a slight decrease in IIIB, C1, C2 and D and IIIE had a slight increase.
- The Final 2025 Budget has been posted.
 - The 2025 Transfer Request is 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 were due August 22nd. If you have not submitted your budget yet, please contact us at fiscal@gwaar.org.
- 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 26th.
 - De-obligation submissions are due September 30th.
 - We have been informed that all Aging Units can request additional funding from the remaining ARPA grants.
- The 2024 Unspent Carryover 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 26th.
 - De-obligation submissions are due September 30th.

Fiscal Dollars and Sense

We have been allocating non-work (vacation) time to 3E for our Caregiver Coordinator. We learned from the Spring training that salary for non-work time should be coded to 3B Admin line. How should other contract staff time be coded.

- Title III-B does have an Admin line and it may be used for staff time not associated with a specific direct service – this would include all costs (benefits/fringe) as applicable to their time cost applied there
- Title III-C may be used to pay for all expenses associated with C1 and C2 programming...to include non-work expenses of nutrition staff.
- Title III-D may only be used for any expense providing evidence-based programming.
- Title III-E does not have an Admin option. All Title III-E claims must be for direct services – which for staff may include Case Management, Counseling, Training, Support Groups, Public Information and I&A. Very rarely would we see Aging staff time allocated to the other direct services (e.g., Respite) not listed here.
- AFCSP has an Admin line that may capture up to 10% of AFCSP expenses – all other staff time would have to be providing a direct service or allocated elsewhere.
- Elder Abuse may only be used for direct services – no staff time can be included.



Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Reminder: 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

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.



Nice to Know

Register for the 2025 National Summit to Increase Social Connections

Tuesday, September 9 | Wednesday, September 10, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Registration: <https://committoconnect.org/virtual-summit/>

Join Commit to Connect for the 2025 National Summit to Increase Social Connections, a two-day virtual event focused on this year's theme: "Scaling and Replicating Effective Social Connection Programs."

The event will bring together local, state, and national leaders from across sectors to grow the social connections of older adults and people with disabilities. Participants will gain insights into innovative programs, promising practices, and resources that promote social connection, as well as strategies and mechanisms to grow, replicate, and scale social connection programs nationwide.

Visit the event page to view full agenda. Two Wisconsin programs will be highlighted! This event will include CART captioning and ASL interpretation. Registration is FREE but required. Contact info@committoconnect.org with any questions.



Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM) is almost here!

Many older adults rely on newsletters and radio for important information. You can play a key role in raising awareness this Falls Prevention Awareness Month by sharing Falls Free® Wisconsin's newsletter articles (customizable template links below) in your community publications.

Another great way to reach older adults is through local radio. Consider reaching out to your local station to share a few tips, highlight available resources, and talk about the importance of preventing falls. A short conversation on the radio or newspaper blurb can go a long way in keeping you community informed and safe.

Radio talking points: [English \(https://bit.ly/4oTUE2t\)](https://bit.ly/4oTUE2t) | [Spanish \(https://bit.ly/4mSjYex\)](https://bit.ly/4mSjYex)

Newsletter article: [English https://bit.ly/4mSm5Pv](https://bit.ly/4mSm5Pv) | [Spanish \(https://bit.ly/4mWzSUt\)](https://bit.ly/4mWzSUt)

Reach out to Suzanne Morley, Health Promotion Program Coordinator at suzanne.morley@wihealthyaging.org.



Nutrition

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

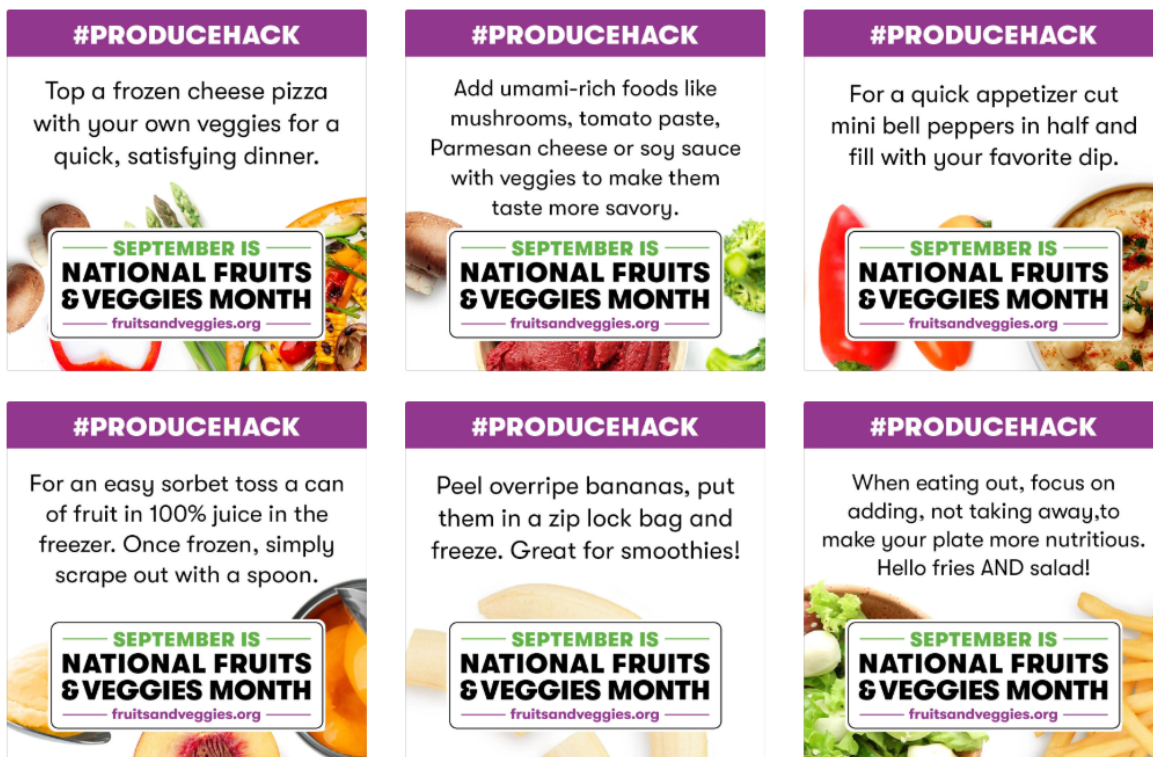
Nice to Know

National Fruits & Veggies Month (September)

National Fruits & Veggies Month is just around the corner. This celebratory month takes place in September and is hosted by the Foundation for Fresh Produce! This year's theme is *Every Time You Eat, Have A Plant®*. This is the perfect time to promote fresh produce. Check out the toolkit for ideas, ready-to-use messaging, and more. [Learn More At: https://fruitsandveggies.org/nfvmtoolkit/](https://fruitsandveggies.org/nfvmtoolkit/)

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Be sure to check out <https://fruitsandveggies.org/nfvmtoolkit/point-of-inspiration/>. I love the Social Media #Produce Hacks. It would be cool to print off some of these and use them as table tents or print a few to a page as a handout for Senior Diners or HDM folks. Here is an example of what they look like. You can download them all from the link above.



Reminder: 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!

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

Spotlight on EAU CLAIRE <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/16BfgK6ntR/>



Supportive Services

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

Need to Know

Reminder: 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

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


Nice to Know

Final 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

