



Volume 7, No. 35 September 10, 2025
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Next ACE meeting – October 8

Wednesday, October 8, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars! Invitations were sent out earlier this week for the next ACE meeting. Watch future issues of the newsletter and the GWAAR SharePoint site for more information, including the agenda and meeting link.

GWAAR SharePoint site ACE Meeting section (available to registered users):

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/GWAARAgging-External/SitePages/ACE-Meetings.aspx>



Final 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.



Virtual Briefing: Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act

Monday, September 22 | 1:00 p.m.

Join a nonpartisan virtual briefing, sponsored by The John A. Hartford Foundation, on the Older Americans Act (OAA) and what's at stake for older adults and family caregivers. The OAA supports meals, transportation, caregiver programs, elder justice, and more—serving 1 in 6 older adults nationwide and delivering nearly double the return on every taxpayer dollar.



The
John A. Hartford
Foundation

👉 **Register here:**

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_O7MNMYYJtTimUByGiWDJQGg#/registration

Leadership Opportunities Starting January 2026!

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 the 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 10-member board. Board Members play a critical role in guiding and overseeing the agency's actions and initiatives.

Candidates must live outside Dane and Milwaukee Counties and be able to devote time and energy to the GWAAR's governance. Learn more: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629>

Questions? Contact GWAAR Executive Director John Schnabl.



Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

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>

New date and location announced! October 31 in LaCrosse County

Friday, October 31 | 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Lunch is on your own

DASH Center - Sunset Room, 515 Quincy Street, Onalaska, WI 54650

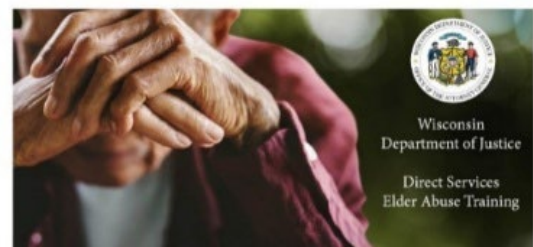
Registration: <https://wisdoj.cventevents.com/event/directservices103125/summary>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008693>

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

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

Reminder: 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.

Federal Funding Fallout2025: Updates and Q&A

Friday, September 12 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

- English Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds912>
- Spanish Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan912>

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: More to come! Stay tuned.
- GWAAR - AFCSP Match Update

Thursday, September 18th from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

We will be hosting a webinar to inform you of the changes to AFCSP and how to report them both on the claim form and in PeerPlace.

Webinar Registration: <https://bit.ly/3JXtKNE>

****Reminders****

- The first of many End-of-Year review reports have been posted to the GWAAR SP site under Aging Programs/Data Management library. Please check this out and address any issues I have indicated for your Aging Unit (also, please review the 09-04-25 GWAAR PeerPlace EOY Series - General Errors to Review). If you have questions, please let me know.

****Deadline Dates to know****

- PeerPlace services entered and errors corrected – October 31st
- September Claim – November 5th
- 2026 Budget (yet to be posted) – November 7th
- FFY Variance Report – December 12th

Elder Benefit Services

[Amanda Grady](#), EBS Support Attorney Program Manager

Nice to Know

Welcome Renee Pasciak, new EBS Support Program attorney

Please help us welcome Renee Pasciak, our new EBS Support Program attorney! Renee is a 2023 graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School. After graduation, she became an Equal Justice Works Fellow at Legal Action of Wisconsin and was a Victims' Rights attorney for the duration of her fellowship.

Prior to law school, Renee had a successful career working in development and fundraising for several Milwaukee nonprofits. She has a Master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management, as well as a BA in Communication Arts. Renee recently joined the Board of Directors for Donna Lexa Art Center, a Waukesha- and West Milwaukee-based nonprofit providing open art studios for veterans, people who are elderly, and people with disabilities.



Emergency Preparedness

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

Nice to Know

September is National Preparedness Month

Did you know that most older adults lack an emergency plan? Being prepared for a disaster is important at every age. According to Jeff Jackson, a deputy administrator of federal insurance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, "... this is especially true for older adults who may rely on the availability of health care services, accessible transportation, special diets, medications, mobility devices, access to power, communications and other vital resources."

As a result, FEMA offers a Disaster Preparedness Guide for Older Adults to assess their needs, create a plan and engage their network to create a personalized plan in the event of an emergency. Please share with older adults in your county.

https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/ready-gov_disaster-preparedness-guide-for-older-adults.pdf



Family Caregiver Support


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

Need to Know

Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting happening soon!

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

 In-person: Wilson Senior Center, Milwaukee
2601 W Howard Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53221

 Virtual option: Available for those unable to travel
(meeting link can be found in the agenda)

We're excited to share the agenda for our upcoming Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2025.

Agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008692>

If you plan to attend in person and would like lunch provided, RSVP by Friday, September 12.

RSVP: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/6PaW2cbDU5>






Nice to Know

Certificate in Grandfamilies Leadership Fall 2025 Registration is still open!







The University of Maine Center on Aging is offering its popular online Certificate in Grandfamilies Leadership program this fall. This course is designed for professionals and volunteers working with grandfamily caregivers, providing core education, technical support, and leadership development.



Course Dates:

-  Begins Monday, September 8, 2025
-  Ends Sunday, December 14, 2025
-  11 modules completed over 14 weeks

Highlights:

-  New and updated content, including grandfamily stories
-  Build expertise in assessing family needs, delivering high-quality services, and sustaining programs
-  Flexible, self-paced online format designed for busy professionals
-  Taught by national experts in aging, child welfare, and kinship care
-  Join a national cohort of colleagues for online discussion and networking
-  Affordable: only \$85 for 12 continuing education contact hours

Space is limited, and registration is capped. Don't miss your chance—register today!

 Learn more and register at www.kinshipcert.org | <https://bit.ly/46h0U2r>

Reminder: 2025 Wisconsin Respite Summit ☀️

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

Registration: <https://respitecarewi.org/2025-wi-respite-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.

👉 **Registration closes September 10:**

<https://respitecarewi.org/2025-wi-respite-summit/>



Fiscal

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

Need to Know

****Upcoming****

- GWAAR Fiscal has just received the allocations for the 2024 Carryover funds, the C1 Mini Grants and the additional C2 funds. Once we have the contract from BADR we will issue amended contracts.
- We will be hosting a webinar to inform you of the changes to AFCSP and how to report them both on the claim form and in PeerPlace on Thursday, September 18th from 9am-10am - [GWAAR - AFCSP Match Update Webinar Registration](#)

****Deadline Dates to know****

- PeerPlace services entered and errors corrected – October 31st
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- FFY Variance Report – December 12th

****Reminders****

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 were due August 26th and are now closed.
- 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 – and AFCSP - Re-obligation Request and De-obligation Submission form links have been posted to the Fiscal Resources library.

- Re-obligation requests are due August 26th September 15th.
- 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.

- a. Title III-B does have an Admin expense 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.
- b. 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.
- c. Title III-D may only be used for any expense providing evidence-based programming.
- d. 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.
- e. 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 (e.g. Tax Levy or Tribal funds).
- f. Elder Abuse may only be used for direct services – no staff time can be included.



Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Nutrition Education Materials in English and Other Languages Resource Compilation

Nutrition programs serve participants from diverse backgrounds, some of whom may be most comfortable communicating in languages other than English.

Nutrition education has the most impact when it's provided to people in their preferred language and in culturally relevant formats. Check out the compilation of Nutrition Education materials available in English, Spanish, Hmong, Vietnamese, Chinese, and other languages.

<https://acl.gov/senior-nutrition/materials-other-languages>



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 BARRON <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1Z6B8Ps56g/>



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

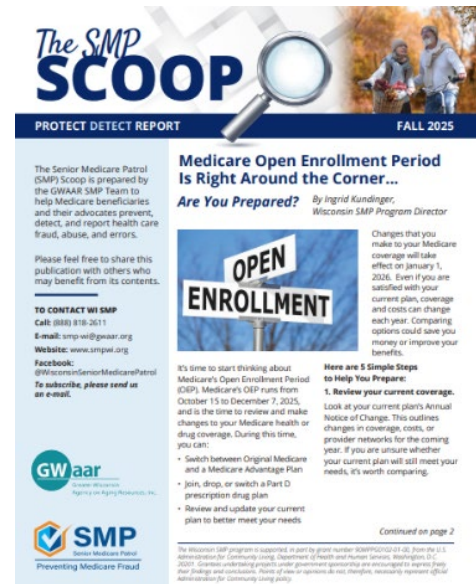
The Fall edition of the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol's quarterly newsletter, The Scoop, is now available

This issue of The Scoop features information about Medicare's Open Enrollment Period, including 5 simple steps to help you prepare. This issue also provides a reminder about flu shot season, an article about the importance of sleep in older adults, Justice Served: National Health Care Fraud Takedown, and so much more!

You are welcome (and encouraged) to share this newsletter with anyone you think might find the information useful – whether it be consumers, Medicare beneficiaries, neighbors, family and friends, those who work with older adults, etc.

Please feel free to contact the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol if you have any questions. We can be reached at our toll-free helpline, (888) 818-2611 or by email, smp-wi@gwaar.org.

Read the Fall edition of The Scoop: <https://bit.ly/465OtGk>



September Scam Spotlight now available

The September Scam Spotlight focuses on Free Money scams, including a Medicare refund scam. A reminder that if it's too good to be true, it probably is!

Read the September Scam Spotlight: <https://bit.ly/3VGYUeH>

