



Volume 7, No. 36 September 16, 2025
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✓ Save the date

Next ACE Meeting – October 8

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.



Leadership Opportunity ✓ Applications welcome!

Openings available on our Board of Directors

gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board



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 last 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/GWAARaging-External/SitePages/ACE-Meetings.aspx>



Reminder: 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

Reminder: 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, john.schnabl@gwaar.org



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>



Friday, October 31 | 8:00 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.

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

House FY 2026 Spending Bill Includes Some Small Boosts for Aging Priorities

Earlier this month, the House Appropriations Committee marked up the FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (Labor-HHS) spending bill. The bill includes:

- Small increases for Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-B Supportive Services and Title VI Native American Aging Programs,
- A \$227,000 increase for OAA Title VII Ombudsman/Elder Abuse
- A \$131,000 increase for Elder Rights Support,
- Level-funding for most of the remaining OAA programs (including Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support in which the Senate appropriations committee, back in July, had included a small increase), and
- No funding for Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), administered by the Dept. of Labor

Funding for other programs within the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) of interest to our work to support older adults, include:

- A \$20 million increase to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),
- Level funding for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP),
- A \$29 million cut for the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG), and
- A \$90 million for the AmeriCorps senior volunteer programs within the Corporation for National and Community Services (CNCS)

House and Senate leaders must negotiate final FY 2026 spending bills before the expiration of the current fiscal year on September 30 or pass a stopgap measure to keep current funding flowing. At this point, it is virtually impossible for Congress to pass all 12 bills through both chambers before the end of the federal fiscal year. The question now is will Congress (given significant differences in party opinion) agree on a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government funded (and for how long) or will they let the government shut down (if no agreement on a CR can be reached). For additional funding details see USAging's [appropriations chart](#). <https://bit.ly/3VmfZut>

Advocacy work on behalf of these programs is not done! Additional advocacy materials will be shared as soon as USAging updates their materials. Stay tuned!

Federal Funding Fallout2025: Updates and Q&A

Friday, September 19 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

English Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds919>

Spanish Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan919>

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 - AFCSP Match Update
Registration: <https://bit.ly/3JXtKNE>
Thursday, September 18 | 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.
- [GWAAR PeerPlace - Event Profile Training](#)
Registration: <https://bit.ly/4nyTHBI>
Thursday, September 25 | 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
Review of setting up and use of Event Profiles.
- [GWAAR PeerPlace EOY Series - General Missing Demographics to Review](#)
Registration: <https://bit.ly/4gugAnJ>
Friday, September 26 | 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
Review of using View Builders to locate and correct General Missing Demographics for End-of-Year Reporting.
- [GWAAR PeerPlace - Nutrition Education Training](#)
Registration: <https://bit.ly/46aiXZm>
Monday, September 29 | 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
Review of setting up Event Profiles and entering Nutrition Education Services.
- [GWAAR PeerPlace EOY Series – In-Home Services Missing Assessment Information to Review](#)
Registration: <https://bit.ly/4mfQwOR>
Monday, September 29 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Review of using View Builders to locate and correct In-Home Services Missing Assessment Information for End-of-Year Reporting
- [GWAAR PeerPlace EOY Series - Caregiver Missing Care Recipient View Builder to Review](#)
Registration: <https://bit.ly/3InPZMi>
Monday, September 29 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Review of using View Builders to locate and correct missing Care Recipients for End-of-Year Reporting.
- [GWAAR PeerPlace EOY Series – Nutrition Services Missing Assessment Information to Review](#)
Registration: <https://bit.ly/3K7ySyQ>
Tuesday, September 30, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Review of using View Builders to locate and correct Nutrition Services Missing Assessment Information for End-of-Year Reporting.

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****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 31
- September Claim – November 5
- 2026 Budget (yet to be posted) – November 7
- FFY Variance Report – December 12

Emergency Preparedness

[Angie Sullivan](#), Older Americans Act - Health Promotion Program Specialist

Need to Know

Reminder: 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.

View the guide:

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 - Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting next week - RSVP deadline extended!

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 Thursday, September 18.

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



☀️ Friendly Reminder: AFCSP Updates ☀️

With the passage of Senate Bill 152 / Assembly Bill 176, there are now no financial eligibility requirements for the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP).

We've updated all key materials, including:

- AFCSP Enrollment Form
- AFCSP vs. NFCSP Comparison Chart
- Cross-Comparison of AFCSP, NFCSP & RCAW grants
- AFCSP Fact Sheets (English, Hmong, Spanish, Tribal)
- AFCSP–NFCSP Fact Sheet

📁 These resources are available on the GWAAR website under: Technical Assistance → Family Caregiver Support: <https://gwaar.org/family-caregiver-support-for-professionals>

November is National Family Caregivers Month

As many of you know, November is National Family Caregivers Month. The Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) is excited to share that our 2025 Wisconsin Family Caregiver Month Marketing Toolkit will be available soon at www.wisconsincaregiver.org

Stay tuned for the Toolkit, which will include infographics, images, short videos, sample posts, talking points, articles, and resource links.

While designed for November, these materials can be used year-round to raise awareness, highlight challenges, and support family caregivers.



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.
- GWAAR - AFCSP Match Update
Thursday, September 18 | 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>

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

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

****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 26 and are now closed.
- De-obligation submissions are due September 30.
- 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 were due September 15.
- De-obligation submissions are due September 30.

Health Promotion

[Angie Sullivan](#), Older Americans Act - Health Promotion Program Specialist

Nice to Know

Looking for an innovative, evidence-based way to use your ARPA D or OAA Title III-D funding? Vivo is here to help.

Vivo is a turnkey, virtual strength training program designed specifically for older adults. Led by expert trainers, Vivo combines live, interactive classes with personalized support to help participants build strength, improve mobility, and reduce fall risk - all from the comfort of home or in group settings held at your organization.



By partnering with Vivo, your organization can:

- Expand access to safe, engaging physical activity for older adults
- Reduce health risks and support independence
- Deliver a proven program that aligns with evidence-based goals to improve health outcomes and strengthen community services, without increasing workload for your team.

Together, we can make movement accessible, fun, and impactful for the people you serve.

Visit Vivo: <https://teamvivo.com/>

Learn more about how Vivo can support your ARPA and OAA Title III-D initiatives, contact Liz Kemp at liz@teamvivo.com

Governor Proclaims September as Falls Prevention Awareness Month

Governor Tony Evers has officially proclaimed September as Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM) in Wisconsin, recognizing the importance of keeping older adults safe, active, and independent.

This statewide recognition shines a spotlight on proven programs, community partnerships, and resources that reduce falls and support healthy aging.

Together, we can raise awareness, share prevention strategies, and build safer communities for all.

Visit the Falls Free website for resources and much more!

View the Proclamation:

<https://fallsfreewi.org/governor-proclaims-fpam/>

Falls Prevention Awareness Month Resources:

<https://fallsfreewi.org/for-professionals/promotional-resources/>



Falls are not your fate!
Fuel your body: stay strong, steady, & safe.

Hydrate for a better gait

- ✓ Aim for 6–8 cups of fluid/day
- ✓ Include water-rich foods
 - Melons • Tomatoes
 - Apples • Cucumbers
 - Berries • Celery • Carrots

Add protein to your plate

- ✓ Aim for 20-30 grams per meal
- ✓ Include at every meal
 - Eggs • Nuts/Seeds • Fish
 - Dairy • Meat • Cheese
 - Beans • Hummus • Tofu

Falls Prevention is a Team Effort

Learn more at: <https://fallsfreewi.org/>



Monthly social media toolkits from Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection

Each month, WCSC will be sharing ready-to-use social media posts to help spread messages of belonging and community. To prepare for next month, they have provided have four graphics that can be used throughout October (and beyond!).

View/download the resources: <https://connectwi.org/for-professionals/awareness-resources/>

Post these directly on your own social media pages or share the posts from the WCSC [Facebook](#) page!

WCSC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/connectWI/>



Medicare Outreach and Assistance

[Stephanie Haas](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

Medicare Outreach Training

Thursday, September 25 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

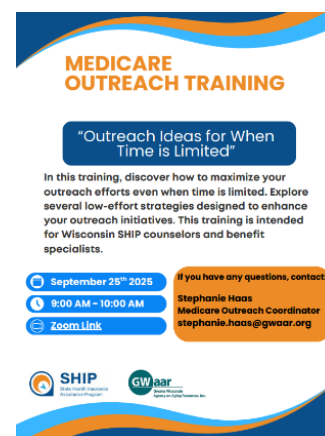
“Outreach Ideas for When Time is Limited”

In this training, discover how to maximize your outreach efforts even when time is limited. Explore several low-effort strategies designed to enhance your outreach initiatives.

This training is intended for Wisconsin SHIP counselors and benefit specialists.

Zoom meeting link: <https://bit.ly/4nvt00F>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008695>



2025 Fall Medicare Training for Wisconsin Professionals

The Wisconsin State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) offers this annual free webinar series on policy and plan updates for Medicare and related programs prior to the Medicare Open Enrollment Period.

Intended Audience: Any professionals who help people with Medicare are encouraged to attend.

The training schedule is below. You must register for each training.

- Tuesday, October 7, 10 a.m. – 12 a.m. Part D Updates
- Tuesday, October 7, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Marketing and Senior Medicare Patrol Updates
- Wednesday, October 8, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Medicare Advantage Updates
- Wednesday, October 8, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Affordable Care Act Marketplace Updates
- Thursday, October 9, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Medicare.gov Plan Finder Updates and Demonstration
- Thursday, October 9, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Federal H.R.1 Impact on Wisconsin – What We Know and Don't Know



Continuing Education Hours/Units (CEHs and CEUs) are available for live training attendance only.

Registration Instructions for the 2025 Fall Medicare Training for Wisconsin Professionals:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008680>

Nutrition

[Pam VanKampen](#), *Older Americans Act - Nutrition Program & Senior Center Specialist*

Nice to Know

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



Volunteerism

[Nick Musson](#), *Older Americans Act - Transportation & Aging Plan Specialist*

Nice to Know

Volunteering for a Better You: Purpose Connection & Growth

In case you missed it - Webinar replay available

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) recently held a webinar focusing on the impact of volunteering on health and well-being.

Peggy Kurth, and Tony Omernik, GWAAR's newest Advisory Council member, were the featured speakers.

Watch the replay: <https://bit.ly/45tScNJ>



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Read Fall edition of the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol's quarterly newsletter, The Scoop

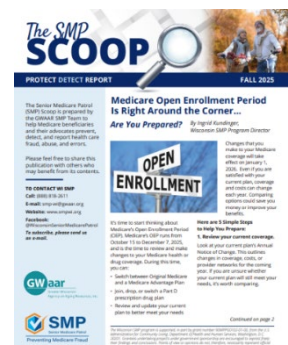
This issue of The Scoop features information about Medicare's Open Enrollment Period, including 5 simple steps to help you prepare. This issue also provides a reminder about flu shot season, an article about the importance of sleep in older adults, Justice Served: National Health Care Fraud Takedown, 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://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/SMP-Scoop-Fall-2025-Edition_Final.pdf



Reminder: 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://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/09-September-Free-Money-1.pdf>

