

Volume 7, No. 37 September 23, 2025 Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974 info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org



Leadership Opportunity

Applications welcome!

## Openings available on our Board of Directors

<u>gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board</u>







Save the date

## **Next ACE Meeting - October 8**

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.



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

## **Need to Know**

Reminder: Next ACE meeting - October 8

Wednesday, October 8, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. (virtual – Teams)

Mark your calendars! Invitations were sent out earlier this month for the next ACE meeting. Watch this 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/PartnerResources | ACE Meetings

## 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.

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



## Ageism Awareness Day resources available from American Society on Aging

October 9 is Ageism Awareness Day! Ageism pits age groups against each other and makes us feel that there is no value to aging and older adults. We are living longer lives in a multigenerational society. Ageism prevents us from working together on shared challenges. It's time to update and expand our understanding of aging.

The American Society on Aging has compiled a collection of resources and toolkits you can use to help advocate for Ageism Awareness Day.

Explore Resources & Toolkits: https://asaging.org/ageism-awareness/



## 'Tis the Season for Illness and Flu — Keep Hands Clean!

Flu season is here, making handwashing more important than ever. The CDC's Life is Better with Clean Hands campaign provides free, ready-to-use resources—including posters, social media messages, newsletter templates, and toolkits—to help remind everyone about the power of clean hands. These materials are designed to encourage people to make handwashing a daily habit.

https://www.cdc.gov/clean-hands/lifeisbetterwithcleanhands/



Did you know Global Handwashing Day is October 15? It's the perfect time to tap into these resources and spread the word! Visit www.cdc.gov/handwashing to download and share materials at home, work, online, or in your community to help keep everyone healthier this season. www.cdc.gov/handwashing

## **Abuse in Later Life Grant**

## Need to Know

**Reminder: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training** 

Thursday, October 23 | 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Lunch is on your own

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



Janet Zander, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator

## Nice to Know

## **Reframing Aging and Disability in Wisconsin**

Through the leadership of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network, we are taking steps to advance effective communication strategies about aging. Part of our activities include presentations from the National Center to Reframe Aging (NCRA).





The following free webinars will introduce the key concepts of reframing and provide proven communications strategies that will reduce the negative health and policy impacts of ageism and ableism.

View the flyer: <a href="https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008710">https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008710</a>

**General introductory sessions:** 

Tuesday, October 28 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN iNw7Tvm0Qky11NbDJI6v7Q

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN TFO4fZzFSIO81sEKhjRaeQ

Introductory session tailored for health care professionals:

Thursday, January 15, 2026 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN FzVArKUXSISUw0LZUn0HHw

**Advocacy update: State** 

## AB 410/SB 410 - grants for falls prevention awareness and initiatives (Healthy Aging Grants)

Healthy Aging Grants fund **evidence-based community programs** like *Stepping On*, which are proven to reduce falls by 31%. These programs equip older adults with practical tools to reduce fall risk, manage chronic conditions, and maintain physical activity—significantly reducing the need for emergency medical responses and hospitalizations.

Healthy Aging Grants provide training, infrastructure, and program access that community partners need to address the root causes of **preventable falls**. These grants will:

- Reduce preventable injuries that currently overburden our families and systems,
- **Support collaborative local efforts** with public health and aging services, public safety, and healthcare organizations, and
- Promote dignity, independence, and health for older adults across Wisconsin.

The number of falls emergency medical services (EMS) responds to are increasing by nearly 10,000 a year statewide and made up over 20% of all 911-related ambulance runs last year.

We need your help to get more state legislators signed on in support <u>AB 410</u> and <u>SB 410</u> and to encourage members of the state legislature's Senate <u>Health Committee</u> and Assembly <u>Health, Aging and Long-Term</u> <u>Care Committee</u> to schedule a hearing on the legislation.

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**Take Action:** Please consider taking one or both of the following actions:

1. AB 410/SB 410 has bipartisan support in the state legislature. There are currently 24 state legislators (9 Senators and 15 Assembly Representatives signed on in support of this legislation. To see if your state Senator and Assembly Representative are signed on as sponsors/cosponsors on the bill, go to: AB 410. If yes, please send them a message thanking them for their support of falls prevention funding. If not, contact them and ask them to support this legislation to help reduce preventable falls in Wisconsin. Let them



know how important falls prevention initiatives are to you, your family, and/or those you serve. Find your representatives at <a href="https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/">https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/</a>. For more information regarding Healthy Aging Grants, see the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's (WAAN) <a href="Falls Prevention Issue">Falls Prevention Issue</a> <a href="Brief">Brief</a> . <a href="https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008534">https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008534</a>

2. A letter is being sent to members of the state legislature's Assembly and Senate Health Committees (the committees where this legislation has been assigned) to request them to schedule a hearing on this legislation (AB 410/SB 410) in each of the committees. To help strengthen our advocacy efforts, please consider adding your organization to the sign on letter. To add your organization to the letter, please send your contact name, title, organization name, and organization logo to Janet Zander – janet.zander@gwaar.org or Jill Renken – jill.renken@wihealthyaging.org no later than Friday September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Fall is officially here, and national falls prevention awareness month is almost over. This is the perfect time to urge state legislators to fund Healthy Aging Grants this session and help all Wisconsinites to thrive as they age.

## **Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services**

Earlier this month, four new Speaker's Task Forces were announced, including the Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services. Representative Pat Snyder (Assembly Dist. #85) was appointed as the chair of this new task force. https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/legislators/assembly/2786

The remaining task force membership is not yet known but is expected to be announced in the coming weeks. In a meeting with Rep. Snyder last week, he indicated palliative care, aging at home, elder abuse and financial security for older adults, social isolation, and transportation were some of the issues the task force might consider, though he is interested in hearing what other task forces members might also wish to prioritize. Rep. Snyder said the plan is to hold several public hearings around the state in Oct. and Nov., with a goal of having bill drafts in Jan. 2026.

More information will be shared when the additional task force members are announced. Watch for additional information regarding the dates and locations of public hearings. It will be important for the task force to hear from older adults and aging network professionals around the state regarding the challenges older people face as they plan to stay living in their homes.

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## **Advocacy update: Federal**

## FY 2026 Budget: Continuing Resolution or Government Shutdown

Last Friday, the House voted 217-212 to advance a short-term continuing resolution (CR) funding the federal government through Nov. 21, 2025. House members are now in recess (and in their home states) through Oct. 1 (after FY 2025 funding is expected to retire – Sept. 30).

The CR mostly kept funding at the same levels as the previous fiscal year. Later Fri., following the House vote, the Senate attempted and failed to advance both the House passed CR and an alternative funding measure put forth be the Democrats (60 votes are needed to pass the CR).

Senate members are also now in recess and scheduled to return on Mon., Sept. 29 (one day before funding expires). When the Senate returns, they are expected to continue tackling the funding measure. The lack of a clear path forward increases the likelihood of a partial government shutdown on Oct. 1. The measure passed in the added \$88 million in security funding for lawmakers and members of the Supreme Court and executive branch. Democrats in the Senate are refraining from supporting the Senate bill offered in hopes of gaining support for their proposal which would extend enhanced subsidies in the Health Insurance Marketplace which are set to expire at the end of the year, and reverse Medicaid cuts that were included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act enacted earlier this year.

During a shutdown, agencies cease all "non-essential" activities, many government services are suspended, and federal employees are either furloughed or required to work without pay. The extent of service disruption depends on the length of the shutdown and which agencies are unfunded. Programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid continue because they are authorized by permanent law rather than annual appropriations. However, customer service wait times may increase and some administrative functions could be delayed.

## Webinar: Updates and Q&A - Federal Funding Fallout2025

Friday, September 26 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

English Registration: https://bit.ly/FedFunds926

Spanish Registration: <a href="https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan926">https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan926</a>

Congress is creeping closer to a government funding shutdown. 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.



Carrie Kroetz, Data Management and Technology Coordinator

## Nice to Know

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

## PeerPlace - End-of-Year Webinar Series

GWAAR PeerPlace EOY Series - General Missing Demographics to Review

Friday, September 26 | 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Registration: https://bit.ly/4gugAnJ

Review of using View Builders to locate and correct General Missing Demographics for End-of-Year Reporting.

GWAAR PeerPlace EOY Series – In-Home Services Missing Assessment Information to Review Monday, September 29 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Registration: https://bit.ly/4mfQw0R

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 Monday, September 29 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Registration: https://bit.ly/3InPZMi
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 Tuesday, September 30, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Registration: https://bit.ly/3K7ySyQ Review of using View Builders to locate and correct Nutrition Services Missing Assessment Information for End-of-Year Reporting.

## \*\*Reminders\*\*

If you are unable to attend, all webinars will be recorded and posted on the GWAAR Partners Resources site under Aging Programs/Data Management library for registered users.

https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources | Aging Programs | Data Management |

The first of many End-of-Year review reports have been posted to the GWAAR SharePoint 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 recording). If you have questions, please let <u>Carrie Kroetz</u>, know.

## PeerPlace - General Trainings

- <u>GWAAR PeerPlace Caregiver Entry of Public Information and I&A</u>
   Thursday, September 25, 2:00 3:00 p.m. Registration: <a href="https://bit.ly/4nfafPh">https://bit.ly/4nfafPh</a>
   Review of setting up Event Profiles for Public Information and using Service Tickets for I&A.
- <u>GWAAR PeerPlace Caregiver Entry of Respite Care Services</u>
   Wednesday, October 1 | 1:00 2:00 p.m. *Registration:* <a href="https://bit.ly/46vy3HB">https://bit.ly/46vy3HB</a>
   Review of entering Caregiver Respite Care Services of In-Home General Respite, Facility-Based Adult and Child Day Care and Facility-Based Overnight care.
- GWAAR PeerPlace Event Profile Training

Thursday, October 2 | 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. **Registration:** https://bit.ly/4nyTHBI Review of setting up and use of Event Profiles. (rescheduled from 9-25-25)

GWAAR PeerPlace - Caregiver Entry of Counseling, Training and Support Groups
 *Thursday, October 2 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration:* https://bit.ly/46iTNYx
 Review of entering services for Caregiver Counseling, Training and using Event Profiles for Support Group sessions.

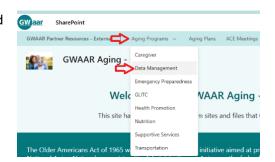
## **GWAAR PeerPlace - Nutrition Education Training**

Thursday, October 2 | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. **Registration**: <a href="https://bit.ly/46aiXZm">https://bit.ly/46aiXZm</a>
Review of setting up Event Profiles and entering Nutrition Education Services. (rescheduled from 9-29-25)

GWAAR PeerPlace - Caregiver Entry of Supplemental Services
 Friday, October 3, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Registration: https://bit.ly/46eRt4l
 Review of entering Caregiver Supplemental Services, including Personal Care, Homemaker and Chore.

## \*\*Reminders\*\*

If you are unable to attend, all webinars will be recorded and posted on the GWAAR Partners Resources site under Aging Programs/Data Management library for registered users.
 https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources | Aging Programs | Data Management |
 We held a webinar regarding using AFCSP as Match for NFCSP. The recording and PowerPoint were posted in the Fiscal Resources and Data Management libraries on



## \*\*Deadline Dates to know\*\*

- o PeerPlace services entered and errors corrected October 31
- September Claim November 5

the GWAAR Partner Resources site.

- 2026 Budget (yet to be posted) November 7
- FFY Variance Report December 12

## **Family Caregiver Support**

Bryn Ceman, Older Americans Act - Caregiver Programs Specialist

## **Need to Know**

Reminder: AFCSP updates and resources 🐥

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: <a href="https://gwaar.org/family-caregiver-support-for-professionals">https://gwaar.org/family-caregiver-support-for-professionals</a>

## Nice to Know

UWM Research Study: Older Adults' Experiences with Cancer Caregiving

## Please share this opportunity with caregivers you work with!

Are you 65+ and have cared for a loved one 65+ with cancer in the past year (for 3+ months)—and you speak English? Your story matters. ♥

- ▶ What's involved: a 1:1 interview (60–120 min, can be split!) sharing your caregiving experiences—the benefits, challenges, and needs.
- \* Why participate: help shape better supports and policies for older cancer caregivers.
- finterested? Call Taylor Meehan: 414-313-5320

Please share to help us reach eligible caregivers!

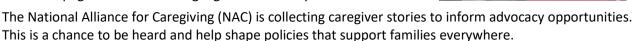
View the flyer: https://bit.ly/4myTCNj (PNG)



## Do You Know a Family Caregiver with a Story to Share?

Family caregivers have powerful stories that can inspire, educate, and drive change. Do you know a caregiver who:

- Wants to help others by sharing their experience?
- Has a passion for advocacy?
- **t** Encourage them to share! Their voice could appear on our Facebook page—and even be highlighted nationally.



\* Examples: Sally's Story: <a href="http://bit.ly/3VwvtMA">http://bit.ly/3VwvtMA</a> | Alison's Story: <a href="https://bit.ly/48uKDte">https://bit.ly/48uKDte</a> Let's lift up caregivers' voices—because every story matters.



<u>Carrie Kroetz</u>, 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. We will be issuing the amended contracts shortly.
- All transfer requests have been submitted to the BADR and we are awaiting information if GWAAR
  is within allowable limits or if adjustments must be made. For agencies to avoid overspending as
  they wait for transfers, the funds requested will be backed out from your allocations on the
  September claim form. Once we have the approved transfers, funds will then be added to the claim
  form which may not happen until after September. As this rolls out GWAAR Fiscal will host a
  webinar to discuss recommendations for drawing down re-allocated funds.

## \*\*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

## \*\*Reminders\*\*

- We held a webinar regarding using AFCSP as Match for NFCSP. The recording and PowerPoint were posted in the Fiscal Resources and Data Management libraries on the GWAAR Partner Resources site.
- The ARPA B, D and E Re-obligation Request and De-obligation Submission form links have been posted to the Fiscal Resources library.
  - o Re-obligation requests were due August 26 and are now closed.
  - De-obligation submissions are due September 30.
  - We have been informed that <u>all</u> 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.
  - o De-obligation submissions are due September 30.

#### **Fiscal Dollars and Sense**

**Q:** When do we have until to spend our ARPA funds, including if we receive re-obligated funds?

**A:** All ARPA funds must be spent on actual expenses by September 30, 2025 and reported during the month they were incurred or by the September claim form – due November 5.



Angie Sullivan, Older Americans Act - Health Promotion Program Specialist

## Need to Know

## **Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar - Save the Date!**

Tuesday, November 4 | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. (10:30 - 11 a.m. Optional Discussion) Save the date for the upcoming Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar. If you coordinate or supervise Older Americans Act Title III-D Health Promotion activities at your Aging Unit, it's essential to attend the Quarterly Health Promotion Webinars to receive updated information and learn about best practices. Contact Angie Sullivan at <a href="mailto:angela.sullivan@gwaar.org">angela.sullivan@gwaar.org</a> with any questions.



## Nice to Know

## **Upcoming Facilitator Trainings at the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA)**

WIHA has two upcoming facilitator trainings for evidence-based falls prevention programs - Stepping On and Pisando Fuerte (Spanish Version of Stepping On).

Virtual Stepping On facilitator training on: December 2-4 2025 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Stepping On Training Application: https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/s8d8tpv0cls7ng/

Virtual Pisando Fuerte training on: November 4, 5, 11 & 12, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/s1tt8e4y0m1wnk7/

## Learn more about becoming a facilitator:

https://wihealthyaging.org/for-professionals/become-a-facilitator/

Contact Suzanne.Morley@wihealthyaging.org at the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging.

# Pisando **Fuerte**

## Reminder: 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: <a href="https://teamvivo.com/">https://teamvivo.com/</a>

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



## **Medicare Outreach and Assistance**

Stephanie Haas, Medicare Outreach Coordinator

## Nice to Know

## **Reminder: 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



## "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.





## **Nutrition**

Pam VanKampen, Older Americans Act - Nutrition Program & Senior Center Specialist

## Nice to Know

## 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 ADRC-Northwest WI (Polk/Burnett): <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1EbTpLYABp/">https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1EbTpLYABp/</a>



## **Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol**

Ingrid A. Kundinger, Senior Medicare Patrol Program Director

## Nice to Know

## Reminder: Read and share The Fall edition of The Scoop

## Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol's quarterly newsletter

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!

Share this newsletter with anyone you think might find the information useful. 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/4mzA9MP



## Reminder: September Scam Spotlight: Free Money

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: <a href="https://bit.ly/4nL6Doa">https://bit.ly/4nL6Doa</a>

