



Volume 7, No. 38 September 30, 2025
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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

Reminder: 4th Quarter ACE meeting next week

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

Join us next week for the 4th Quarter ACE meeting. Featured topics include an advocacy update on volunteer drivers, an introduction of our new Elder Abuse Program Specialist, year-end fiscal reporting, and more. Invitations were sent September 8. Contact Rosanna Mazzara for invitation details at Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org.

Meeting link: <https://bit.ly/4mFSEiw>

Agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008721>



Now hiring: Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) Care Consultant

The Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) helps Veterans needing assistance choose their own caregivers, services, and supports to be able to safely and successfully remain living in their home. In conjunction with the Veteran and their family, the VSDP Care Consultant is responsible for assessing the Veteran's abilities and level of functioning, identifying areas of need and preferences for meeting those needs, developing a care plan to meet the needs; assisting the Veteran and family caregiver with setting up and purchasing goods and services within their individual budget allocation; and assisting the Veteran with monitoring service provision. This position requires a significant amount of travel within the North Chicago, Tomah, Madison, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis VAMC catchment areas.

Ideal candidate will be located in Central, South-Central, or West-Central WI.

[View the full job description: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008591](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008591)

To apply, send cover letter and resume to the following:

Lisa Drouin, VA Programs Manager: Lisa.Drouin@GWAAR.org

Nice to Know

Innovation Grant Application Now Available

It's time to apply! The Wisconsin Department of Revenue, State and Local Finance Division announced that the Innovation Grant application (Form SL-405) is now available. Wisconsin counties, municipalities, and tribes are encouraged to apply for this substantial grant.



Innovation Grant Application period – now through March 31, 2026

Applying for the grant: E-file the Innovation Grant application (Form SL-405) within MyDORGov Award funds: There is a total of \$300 million in funds available statewide – a county, municipality, or tribe may receive up to \$10 million each year.

Available Resources: Located on the Innovation Grants web page, including:

- Factsheet
- Project examples
- Common questions
- And more...

View the website: <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/SLF/COTVC-News/2025-09-17.aspx>

Questions? Contact lgs@wisconsin.gov

Reminder: 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/>



Keys to Age-Inclusion: Collaboration & Belonging Webinar

Thursday, October 9 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join the American Society on Aging for a [digital event](#) bringing together thought leaders from across sectors for a practical discussion on advancing age-inclusion through collaboration and belonging. Learn strategies to address ageism, discover resources for building inclusive systems, and explore what's next for the age-friendly movement.

Learn more and register:

<https://asaging.org/event/keys-to-age-inclusion-collaboration-belonging/>



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

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 [AB 410](#) and [SB 410](#) and to encourage members of the state legislature's Senate [Health Committee](#) and Assembly [Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee](#) to schedule a hearing on the legislation.

Take Action: Please consider taking the following action:

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 <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>. For more information regarding Healthy Aging Grants, see the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's (WAAN) [Falls Prevention Issue Brief](#). <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008534>



Advocacy update: Federal

FY 2026 Budget: Continuing Resolution or Government Shutdown

In mid-September, 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. Following the House vote, the Senate attempted and failed to advance both the House passed CR and an alternative funding measure put forth by the Democrats (60 votes are needed to pass the CR).

-continued-

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, October 3 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds103>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan103>



Data Management

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

Nice to Know

Upcoming Webinars

PeerPlace – End-of-Year Webinar Series

[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.

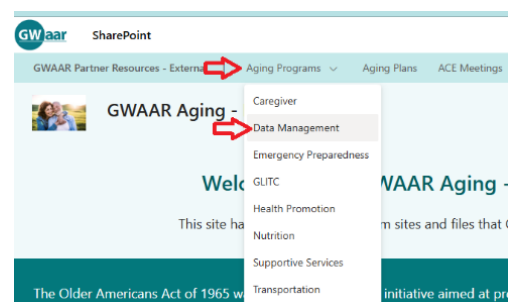
Reminders

- 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](#) | Webinars:

<https://bit.ly/4plu82V>



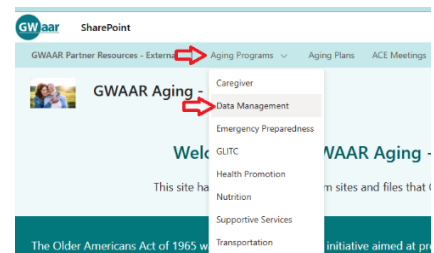
- The first of many End-of-Year review reports have been posted to the GWAAR SharePoint site under Aging Programs/Data Management library. Please review this and address any issues indicated for your Aging Unit (also, please review the 09-04-25 GWAAR PeerPlace EOY Series - General Errors to Review recording).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

PeerPlace – General Trainings

- [GWAAR PeerPlace - Caregiver Entry of Respite Care Services](#)
Wednesday, October 1 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **Registration:** <https://bit.ly/46vy3HB>
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:** <https://bit.ly/46aiXZm>
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/46eRt4I>
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](#) | Webinars:
<https://bit.ly/4plu82V>
- 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.



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

Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Older Americans Act - Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

♥ Thank You, Caregiver Coordinators & Partners! ♥

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who traveled to attend and present at our Statewide Caregiver Coordinator Meeting on September 23. 🙌 Your insights and commitment made this gathering a success!

💡 Special thanks to Kayla Steinke for hosting 🏠, managing the hybrid setup 🖥️, and assisting with notes 📝—your efforts made a huge difference!

👥 Thanks also to Leslie Thede for supporting chat discussions 💬 and feedback during the event.

📁 All links, presentations, notes, and supporting documents can be found here:

<https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>

Together, we continue to strengthen Wisconsin's caregiver support network. 💪 ♥



Nice to Know

Reminder: 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?

👉 Encourage them to share! Their voice could appear on our Facebook page—and even be highlighted nationally.

The National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) is collecting caregiver stories to inform advocacy opportunities. This is a chance to be heard and help shape policies that support families everywhere.

💡 Examples: Sally's Story: <http://bit.ly/3VwvtMA> | | Alison's Story: <https://bit.ly/48uKDte>

Let's lift up caregivers' voices—because every story matters.



Reminder: 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.

👉 **Interested? Call Taylor Meehan: 414-313-5320**

Please share to help us reach eligible caregivers!

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008712> (PDF)

<https://bit.ly/4myTCNj> (PNG)

IRB # 25.259

**Are you 65+ & a caregiver for a loved one with cancer?
We want to hear from you!**

**Seeking Participants for a Research Study on Older Adults
(age 65+) Experiences with Cancer Caregiving**

**UWM
MILWAUKEE**

Who can participate?
If you are:

- 65 years or older
- Have cared for a loved one with cancer, who is also 65 years or older, in the past year
- Have provided care for at least 3 months
- Are proficient in English

You may be eligible to participate in this important study!

What will participation involve?

- A one-on-one interview (approx. 60-120 min, can be split up!)
- Sharing your personal caregiving experiences
- Helping us understand the benefits, challenges and needs of older cancer caregivers

Why participate?

- Contribute to research that could shape better support systems and policies for caregivers
- Share your story to help others facing similar experiences

Your experience and voice MATTER!
Help us make a difference in the lives of caregivers like you!

Grab my contact info & give me a call!

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Fiscal

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

Need to Know

****Upcoming****

- GWAAR Fiscal has 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 BADR and we are awaiting information if GWAAR is within allowable limits or if adjustments must be made. In order so agencies avoid overspending as they wait for the transfers, the funds requested will be backed out from our 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 the re-allocated funds.

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

- PeerPlace services entered and errors corrected – October 31
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- 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. <https://bit.ly/3KNZiWz>
 - 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. <https://bit.ly/3KNZiWz>
 - Re-obligation requests were due September 15 and are now closed.
 - De-obligation submissions are due September 30.

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Reminder: Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar - Save the Date!

Tuesday, November 4 | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. (10:30 – 11:00 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 angela.sullivan@gwaar.org with any questions.



Social Connection Awareness Week November 9-15

Kick off webinar: Monday, November 10 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Wisconsin's Social Connection Awareness Week is coming up November 9-15, 2025. This year's theme is: From Neighbors to Networks - Connection Happens Here.

Join us as we kick off Social Connection Awareness Weeks in an inspiring webinar on Monday, November 10th, featuring speaker Richard Kyte! Don't miss this chance to start the week with fresh ideas and meaningful conversation.

More details are on the way for additional events and activities to engage in during Social Connection Awareness Week - stay tuned.

More information: <https://bit.ly/482NI3E> **Webinar registration:** <https://bit.ly/46MG6QE>



Nice to Know

Reminder: 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.*

Pisando Fuerte Training Application:

<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.

Stepping
On

Pisando
Fuerte

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 of Washburn County

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/18vaXxzKv9/>



Medicare Outreach and Assistance

[Stephanie Haas](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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>