



Volume 7, No. 40 October 14, 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

gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board



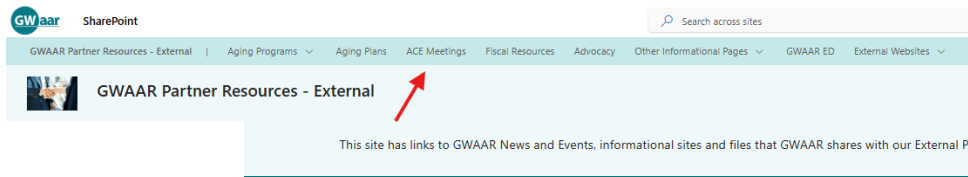
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: Save the dates for 2026 ACE meetings

- Wednesday, January 14, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 8, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 8, In-person at Stevens Point, 10:00 – 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 14, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Registered users can also find this information on the GWAAR SharePoint site: <https://bit.ly/4eHQ1K1>



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

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 Lisa Drouin, VA Programs Manager:

Lisa.Drouin@GWAAR.org



Reminder: Leadership Opportunities Starting January 2026!

Use Your Leadership Skills to Support 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

Nice to Know

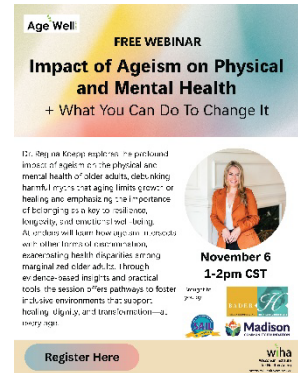
Reminder: Impact of Ageism on Physical and Mental Health free webinar

Thursday, November 6 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Regina Koepp explores the profound impact of ageism on the physical and mental health of older adults, debunking harmful myths that aging limits growth or healing and emphasizing the importance of belonging as a key to resilience, longevity, and emotional well-being.

Attendees will learn how ageism intersects with other forms of discrimination, exacerbating health disparities among marginalized older adults. Through evidence-based insights and practical tools, the session offers pathways to foster inclusive environments that support healing, dignity, and transformation—at every age.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4q0Wi9E>



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

Walworth County Health & Human Services Building
1910 County Road NN, Elkhorn

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3IUVDiM>

View the flyer:

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

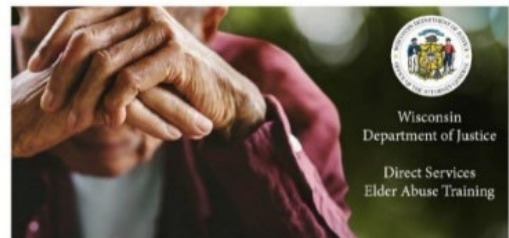
~~Friday, October 31~~ **New Date and location**

Friday, November 14 | 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Lunch is on your own

Board Room, Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI 54650

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3IY1WbL>

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



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Advocacy updates:

State (pages 3-4)

- Volunteer Driver Program/Volunteer Driver Stories Needed
- Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services
- FoodShare (SNAP) Action Alert

Federal (page 4)

- FY 2026 Budget: Continuing Resolution or Government Shutdown

Reminder: Volunteer Driver Program/Volunteer Driver Stories Needed

GWAAR and the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) are working with legislators to create **legislation to protect volunteer drivers from denial of insurance coverage or higher insurance premiums**, solely because they are volunteer drivers. **We need your help distributing a survey to collect stories.** Stories regarding the volunteer driver program or from volunteer drivers will help inform our work and will give deeper meaning to the impact policies have on the everyday lives of Wisconsinites.

Please help us collect stories from volunteer program administrators, volunteer drivers, volunteer driver program passengers, individuals with unmet transportation needs, and caregivers of people who use volunteer driver programs or need transportation services. These stories can help on many levels:

- Providing policymakers with real-life examples of challenges or benefits
- Showing where gaps exist in our current policies
- Demonstrating emerging issues
- Conveying the impact of a specific policy/policies

Specific information collected will remain private, if individuals wish. If survey respondents are willing to share their story or let us share your story, they can complete the contact information section to provide us with a way to connect with them.

Anyone with questions or who would like to speak to someone about their story can contact either:

- Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator at 608-228-7253 or janet.zander@gwaar.org
- Nick Musson, Transportation & Aging Plan Specialist at 608-228-8092 or nick.musson@gwaar.org

For more information regarding the volunteer driver insurance issue, see WAAN's [State Issue Brief](#):
<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008441>

Thank you for completing this survey and/or sharing our story collection survey link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ECJWtVa1TX>



Reminder: Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services

In September, 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. The remaining task force membership has now been announced:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| • Snyder (Chair) | • VanderMeer |
| • Doyle (Vice Chair) | • Novak |
| • Melotik | • McCarville |
| • Gundrum | • Taylor |

The task force will work to identify ways to improve the quality of life for older Wisconsinites. The task force will focus specifically on services that help older people maintain independence in their own homes, encourage social interaction and community engagement to combat isolation and loneliness, prioritize physical wellbeing and financial independence, and prevent physical and financial elder abuse.

The task force is anticipated to hold several public hearings around the state in late Oct. (last week of Oct.) and Nov., with two of the hearings likely to be held outside of the Madison area in November. Their goal is to wrap up their work by the end of the calendar year. Specific dates, times, and locations will be shared as soon as they are announced.

-continued-

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.

If your Assembly Representative is serving on the task force, please reach out and congratulate them on their appointment to the task force and let them know you/your agency are available to serve as a resource to them.

See the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's [2025-2027 State Budget Comparison](https://gwaar.org/waan-issues-and-initiatives) to see the aging network's unaddressed budget needs (most of which align well with the charge of the new Elder Services Task Force). The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's (WAAN's) 2025 issue briefs can be viewed here: <https://gwaar.org/waan-issues-and-initiatives>.

2025-2027 State Budget Comparison: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008640>

FoodShare (SNAP) Action Alert

Action is needed now to ensure that Wisconsinites continue to have access to food assistance.

Federal changes to the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), known as [FoodShare](#) in Wisconsin, will put people at risk of losing access to needed food assistance if the state doesn't take action quickly.

SNAP: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>

FoodShare: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/index.htm>

The federal reconciliation bill (([H.R.1](#)), signed into law July 4, 2025, made cuts and changes that require Wisconsin to increase its share of the financing needed to run the FoodShare program. The new law also requires states to do more work to meet the new requirements; this further increases the costs of running the program, at the same time federal funding is being reduced.

H.R.1: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1/text>

State and county budgets are insufficient to cover the increased costs and reduction in federal funding. That means the state legislature must allocate more state money so Wisconsin can keep running the FoodShare program well and in the way the federal government now requires.

See the action alert on GWAAR.org | Advocacy | Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network | WAAN Advocacy: <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-aging-advocacy-network>

FoodShare Action Alert:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008753>



Find What You Need

[Aging Network Submissions](#)
[WAAN Advocacy](#)

new WAAN Action Alert FoodShare 10-10-25
2024-07-22 Advocacy Alert Update House Commit
2024-07-22 Older Americans Act FY 2025 Funding
2024-07-23 Advocacy Update Caregiver Support
2025-01-27 WAAN Alert Medicaid

Advocacy update: Federal

FY 2026 Budget: Continuing Resolution or Government Shutdown

The federal government shutdown has now gone on for two weeks. Despite numerous votes (seven) taken by the Senate, neither the bill passed by the House or the Democrats proposal, received the required 60 votes to pass and keep the government funded (at 2025 levels).

Hundreds of thousands of workers have already been furloughed without pay and the administration indicated even deeper cuts to the federal workforce the longer the government shutdown continues.

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While Older Americans Act funds for 2025 are available to Wisconsin counties and tribes through the end of the calendar year, the layoff of workers at the Administration Community Living (ACL) is delaying required approval for aging units needing to transfer funds from Title III C1 (congregate dining sites) or Title III B Supportive Services to Title III C2 (home-delivered meals). As aging units run out of C2 funding, more older people are being added to a waiting list for home-delivered meals.

USAgings, the national association for the country's area agencies on aging, is encouraging programs to contact their Members of Congress during the shutdown to let them know the impact the shutdown is having on older people and family caregivers in their service areas. It is important to let our U.S. Senators and Representatives know how the funding delays impact program participants and to educate them on the value of your federally funded programs. Your federal legislators need to know that finalizing FY 2026 funding as soon as possible is critical to your continued service. **Find Contact information for your U.S. Representative here:** <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> and for U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>.

The stalemate over how to reopen the government will soon extend into a third week, with no resolution in sight.

Federal Funding Fallout2025 recording Friday, October 17

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds1017>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan1017>

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.



This webinar RECORDING will be taped in advance and shared with registrants on October 17 who will receive the recording and slides via email. There is NO option to attend live.

Data Management

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

Nice to Know

****Upcoming Webinars – PeerPlace****

In-Home Services Q&A – in-Chat (including Adult Day Care and Case Management)

October 14, 3:00 p.m. | Registration: <https://bit.ly/4gWxyLu>

This webinar will consist of in-Chat (muted) Q&A conversations on topic specific questions.

Health Promotion, Recreation/Socialization/Visiting and Other Services Q&A (including Public Information, Transportation, Support Groups...) – in Chat

October 15th, 3:00 p.m. | Registration: <https://bit.ly/3WtB72g>

This webinar will consist of in-Chat (muted) Q&A conversations on topic specific questions.

Nutrition Services Open Discussion Q&A

October 15, 1:00 p.m. | Registration: <https://bit.ly/3VUqPbq>

This webinar will consist of open discussion (unmuted) Q&A conversations on topic specific questions.

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In-Home Services Open Discussion Q&A (including Adult Day Care and Case Management)

October 20, 9:00 a.m. | Registration: <https://bit.ly/46YMsMO>

This webinar will consist of open discussion (unmuted) Q&A conversations on topic specific questions.

NFCSP Services in-Chat Q&A

October 20th, 1:00 p.m. | Registration: <https://bit.ly/3KFBwfp>

This webinar will consist of in-Chat (muted) Q&A conversations on topic specific questions.

Health Promotion, Recreation/Socialization/Visiting and Other Services Open Discussion Q&A (including Public Information, Transportation, Support Groups...)

October 23, 9:00 a.m. | Registration: <https://bit.ly/4h5KMpw>

This webinar will consist of open discussion (unmuted) Q&A conversations on topic specific questions.

Nutrition Services in-Chat Q&A

October 23, 1:00 p.m. | Registration: <https://bit.ly/4hafX2P>

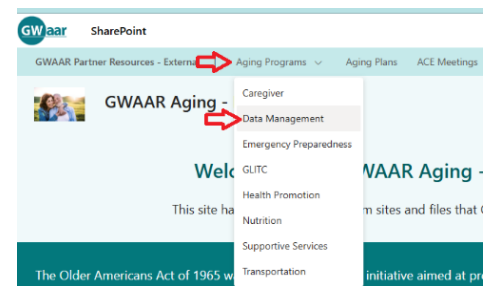
This webinar will consist of in-Chat (muted) Q&A conversations on topic specific questions.

****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 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.
- 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

Nice to Know

☀️ 2025 National Family Caregivers Month Toolkit Now Available!

The Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) is proud to celebrate National Family Caregivers Month this November with the release of the 2025 Communications & Marketing Toolkit: Working Together to Advance the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers Across Wisconsin.

The Toolkit includes ready-to-use materials to help agencies and partners recognize and support Wisconsin's family caregivers.



<https://wisconsincaregiver.org/>

📌 Access the Toolkit

The 2025 NFCM Marketing Toolkit can be found in two convenient locations:

On the GWAAR website: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008700>

On the homepage of WisconsinCaregiver: <https://wisconsincaregiver.org/>

📖 Read the full press release here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008735>

Let's make sure every Wisconsin caregiver feels seen and supported—this month and all year long! ❤️

Empower 2025 Sheboygan County Caregiver Conference

Monday, October 20 | 8:30 a.m.

Sheboygan Lutheran High School, Performing Arts Center
3323 University Dr., Sheboygan, 53081

☀️ Calling all Family Caregivers! ☀️ Learn new caregiving techniques, discover resources, and connect with others who truly understand your journey. Lunch is included!

🎤 Keynote Speaker: Jody Krainer, MSW, LCSW, MBA, Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute — "Reimagining the Family Caregiver Experience."

🕒 Conference Fees:

👉 \$8 before October 13, 2025

👉 \$12 after October 13, 2025

🔗 Register now:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-sheboygan-county-caregiver-conference-registration-1397170848619>

📞 Questions? Contact Michelle LeMahieu at 920-550-1143 or michelle.lemahieu@dementiainnovations.org



Please join us for the 2025 Sheboygan County Caregiver Conference to learn and stay updated with caregiving techniques, tools & resources.

 MONDAY OCTOBER 20, 2025 LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 3323 UNIVERSITY DRIVE SHEBOYGAN, WI 53081	CONFERENCE FEES \$8* Before or on October 13, 2025 \$12* After October 13, 2025 INCLUDES LUNCH! PRESENTED BY: dementia innovations
KEYNOTE SPEAKER <i>Reimagining the Family Caregiver Experience</i> Jody Krainer, MSW, LCSW, MBA & Dementia Diagnosis Network Manager Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute	SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER: For questions, please contact: Michelle LeMahieu 920-550-1143 michelle.lemahieu@dementiainnovations.org

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS
ADRC of Sheboygan County, Alzheimer's Association, Community Care, Compassus, Embrace, Haley's Comet Transport LLC, Harvest Home, Pine Haven Christian Communities, Preceptor Home Health & Hospice, Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice and Songbird Pond Assisted Living

Reminder: Caregiving Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion - Tomorrow

Wednesday, October 15 | 5:00-7:00 p.m. (Light refreshments at 4:30 p.m.)

Signe Skott Cooper Hall, Room 1121 – Auditorium,
701 Highland Ave, Madison, WI

🚗 **FREE Parking at Lot 60 after 4:30 p.m.**

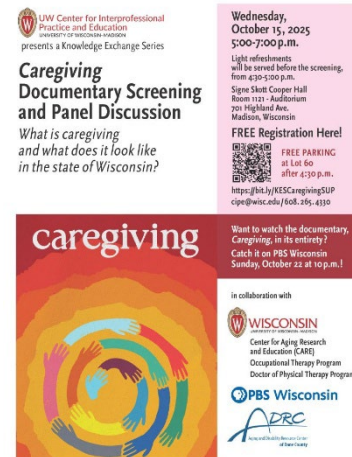
☀️ You're Invited! ☀️ Join the UW Madison Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, the Center for Aging Research and Education (CARE) Occupational Therapy Program, and the Dane County ADRC for a special Caregiving Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion 🎬

💡 Come together for an evening of insight, connection, and conversation as we explore:

- ➡️ What caregiving is and what it looks like in Wisconsin
- ➡️ Stories from the documentary Caregiving
- ➡️ A panel discussion with experts and community voices

💡 Can't make it in person? Watch the full documentary on PBS Wisconsin Sunday, October 22 at 10 p.m.

🇺🇸 **FREE registration:** <https://bit.ly/KESCaregivingSUP>



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 for agencies to 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.

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

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Now Available! Social Connection Awareness Week Promotional Materials

Promotional resources for Social Connection Awareness Week (November 9 -15, 2025) are now available!

This year's theme is: From Neighbors to Networks - Connection Happens Here. Check out the resources on our website, including:

- Letter to the editor
- Newsletter article
- Press Release
- Social media schedule & graphics
- BINGO card activity - for professionals and consumers

Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection Awareness Week Promotional Materials - <https://connectwi.org/for-professionals/events/>



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

This event is open to everyone in Wisconsin - including older adults and people with disabilities. Please share widely! (Multiple versions of the flyer are available on our website to share!)

Webinar registration and information:

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

- **Registration:** <https://bit.ly/46MG6QE>
- **View the flyer:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008728>
- **Information:** <https://connectwi.org/2025/09/25/free-webinar-november-10/>



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: October Scam Spotlight now available

This month's topic is Medicare's Open Enrollment Period, which runs from October 15th - December 7th.

The spotlight focuses on common scams that happen during Open Enrollment and also provides important questions for enrollees to consider when deciding which plan is right for them.

Read the October Scam Spotlight: <https://bit.ly/4odD1QK>

