



Volume 7, No. 41 October 21, 2025
Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974
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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

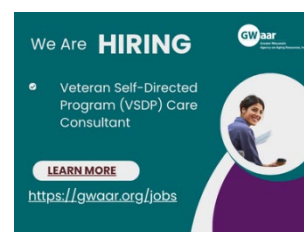
Reminder: Now hiring Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) Care Consultant

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



Nice to Know

Reminder: 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: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008710](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008710)

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

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://wisdoj.cventevents.com/event/directservices102325/summary>

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

New date and location (rescheduled from 10-31)

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

Falls Prevention Grants/Healthy Aging Grants - Public Hearing

Wednesday, October 22 | 10:00 a.m.

On Wed., Oct. 22 the Senate [Committee on Health](#) is holding a [Public Hearing](#) beginning at 10 a.m. On the agenda is [Senate Bill 410](#) - Grants for Falls Prevention Awareness and Initiatives (Healthy Aging Grants).

We encourage you (or another representative from your organization or association) to attend the hearing at the State Capitol in Rm. 330 SW and to register and testify (if possible) in support of SB 410. Feel free to use WAAN's [Falls Prevention Issue Brief](#) the [2024 EMS and Falls in Wisconsin Report](#) for talking points.

Please feel free to reach out for any assistance.

Related links from this article are also repeated here:

Senate [Committee on Health](#):

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/committees/senate/2966>

Oct. 22 Public Hearing information:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1947968>

[Senate Bill 410](#):

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/sb410>

WAAN's [Falls Prevention Issue Brief](#):

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008534>

[2024 EMS and Falls in Wisconsin Report](#):

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03493-2024.pdf>



Webinar: Federal Funding Fallout 2025 Updates and Q&A

Friday, October 31 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds1031>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpan1031>

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****

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.

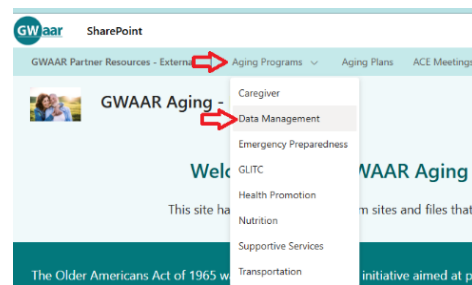
Nutrition Services in-Chat Q&A

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 (updated)****

- PeerPlace services entered and errors corrected – October 31
- September Claim – November 10 (revised date)
- 2026 Budget (yet to be posted) – due TBD
- FFY Variance Report – December 12

Elder Abuse Programs

[Donna Rosner](#), Elder Abuse Program Specialist

Nice to Know

Attention Adult Protective Services (APS) Partners

It is the time of the year for this reminder! APS lead elder abuse agencies and fiscal please reach out to me directly at Donna.Rosner@gwaar.org regarding questions on use of your remaining elder abuse allocation. I also will be reaching out individually to counties that are underspent regarding whether they are interested in de-obligating their remaining funds.

Lead agencies that have exhausted all their funds for 2025, please contact me as well on the procedure regarding applying for additional funds. **APS Leads, please share this information with your fiscal.** On a side note, indicating that you will spend your funds is not sufficient to be considered for additional funds. Continue to submit monthly expenses to GWAAR fiscal and reach out to me directly at Donna.Rosner@gwaar.org if interested in being considered for additional funds.

Thanks for the important work that you all do!

Family Caregiver Support

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

Nice to Know

💙 💎 Caring Better BRAVER 2025 💎 💙

Saturday, October 25 | 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Health Science Center, 1300 Badger St, La Crosse, WI

Are you a family caregiver seeking support, tools, and a day just for yourself? 🌸

Join us for a FREE day of self-care, learning, and connection designed to help caregivers recharge, build resilience, and feel supported on their journey. 💪 💖

🍴 Lunch is on us!

💰 No cost to attend!

🎤 Featured Speaker: Heather Quackenboss 🌈

☀️ Event Highlights:

- 💎 Compassion Resilience
- 💎 Stress & Wellbeing
- 💎 Future Planning
- 💎 Grief & Burnout
- 💎 HeartMath
- 💎 Navigating the Journey

📞 Register now by calling the ADRC of La Crosse County at 608-785-5700!

Don't miss this opportunity to focus on YOU, connect with other caregivers, and walk away refreshed and inspired! 🌻

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008778>



CARING BETTER & BRAVER

A day of self-care & learning for family caregivers

Main Speaker:
Heather Quackenboss

Event Highlights:

- Compassion Resilience
- Stress & Wellbeing
- Future Planning
- Grief and Burnout
- HeartMath
- Navigating the Journey

October 25, 2025
10:00am - 3:30pm

Health Science Center
1300 Badger St
La Crosse, WI 54601

NO COST!
Lunch Included

Register Now! Call the ADRC of La Crosse County to sign up
608-785-5700

Brought to you by:

LA CROSSE COUNTY CAREGIVER COALITION

ADRC
Aging with Health & Resilience
of La Crosse County

LA CROSSE MEDICAL HEALTH SCIENCE CONSORTIUM



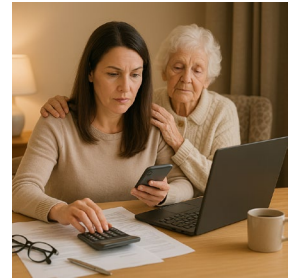
📌 Webinar: Aging with a Plan – Preparing to Care

Wednesday, November 5 | 12:00 p.m.

Join USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, Center for Advancing Family Caregiver Financial and Workplace Security on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. for a discussion with Sharona Hoffman, JD, LL.M., SJD, author of *Aging with a Plan* (2022) and Professor of Law & Bioethics at Case Western Reserve University.

This session will cover practical strategies for family caregivers managing loved ones' financial affairs, including key legal documents, when to consult an elder law attorney, and how caregivers can safeguard their own financial well-being.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4oo2RkM>



Reminder: 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.

📌 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! ❤️



Emergency Preparedness

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

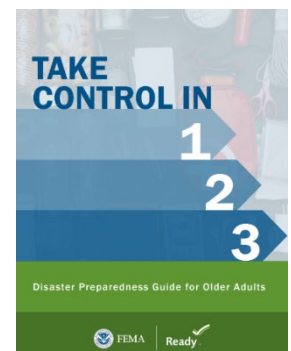
Need to Know

Disaster Preparedness Guide for Older Adults

Did you know that most older adults lack an emergency plan? 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."

FEMA's Disaster Preparedness Guide for Older Adults helps individuals 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://bit.ly/47hfW8B>



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Additional preparation resources are available on the GWAAR website to help with planning for meals or planning for emergency situations:

Emergency Food & Water Preparedness Checklist: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008719>

Emergency Preparedness Simple Meal Ideas: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008718>

They can be found by visiting <https://gwaar.org/nourishstep> and clicking to expand these menus:

- NOURISH Step Handouts
- NOURISH Step Recipe and Simple Meal Ideas

Fiscal

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

Need to Know

****Upcoming****

GWAAR Fiscal Webinar regarding Transfers

October 24, 11:00 a.m. / Registration: <https://bit.ly/4hgbTOB>

Topics to Cover:

- September Claim - due date, importance of submission, what allocations are included
- 2025 Transfers - what has been approved and what is still uncertain
- Helpful tips on how to spend due to the current complexity of the transfers
- Update on Re-obligation of ARPA funds and 2024 Carryover - September claim form deadline
- Contract Amendments
- End of Federal Fiscal Year Reminder

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- FFY Variance Report – December 12

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 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.



Nice to Know

Stepping On December Facilitator Training

December 2-4 | 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | The deadline to apply for this training is October 28

Due to high demand, WIHA has added another Stepping On facilitator training this year! Now is the time to spread the reach of your Stepping On program and train additional facilitators. WIHA is offering a virtual facilitator training.

Facilitator requirements:

- Must be a healthcare professional, aging network professional, fitness specialist or other professional that works with older adults.
- Must be employed by or volunteer for a registered program provider or license holder.
- Must hold at least one community workshop every 12 months.
- Must identify an eligible co-facilitator

Not able to attend this training? Keep an eye out for WIHA's 2026 facilitator training schedule coming soon!

Training application (due by Oct. 28): <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/s8d8tpv0cls7ng/>

Reminder: Social Connection Awareness Week (November 9 -15) promotional materials 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/>



Kickoff Webinar featuring Richard Kyte registration and information:

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

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!)

- **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/>

Supportive Services

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

Need to Know

OAA Title III-B Legal Services Notice of Award

Following a comprehensive review and scoring process, Legal Action of Wisconsin Inc. has been awarded the OAA Title III-B Legal Services funding.

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As part of their proposal, they will be coordinating with Judicare to provide services to the Northern Wisconsin counties and 11 tribes. The contract period will begin on January 1, 2026; it is a one-year contract with the option for four one-year extensions.

As a contracted OAA Title III-B legal services provider, Legal Action of Wisconsin Inc., will be expected to:

- Deliver legal assistance to individuals age 60 and older, with no income or asset test;
- Provide services that address priority legal issues affecting the economic and personal independence of older adults;
- Offer participants the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution, as required under the Older Americans Act.

The award is contingent upon successful execution of the contract and continued compliance with all federal and state guidelines, OAA provisions, and GWAAR policies.

More logistical information will be communicated prior to January 1st to the local Aging Units. For more information, contact Angie Sullivan, GWAAR OAA Program Specialist at angela.sullivan@gwaar.org.

Transportation

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

Nice to Know

Support Needed: Protect Wisconsin's Volunteer Drivers Organizational Sign-On Opportunity – LRB-4850

Volunteer drivers provide thousands of essential rides each year for older adults, people with disabilities, and others who can't drive—connecting them to medical care, groceries, and community life.

Unfortunately, many are losing insurance coverage or facing steep rate increases simply for volunteering. Some insurers classify mileage reimbursement as “commercial activity,” even when volunteers receive no pay.

We're excited to share that Senator Jesse James is preparing to introduce LRB-4850, a proposal to protect volunteer drivers from unfair auto insurance treatment. This bill ensures insurers cannot cancel, deny, or raise rates solely because someone volunteers their time to transport others.

To support LRB-4850, we're circulating a statewide sign-on letter urging Wisconsin legislators to pass common-sense protections for volunteer drivers.

LRB-4850:

- Defines “Volunteer Driver” as an individual who, without compensation other than reimbursement for actual expenses, provides transportation under the direction, sponsorship, or supervision of a qualifying entity (such as a governmental or charitable organization).
- Prohibits insurers from canceling, refusing to issue, refusing to renew, or increasing premiums for automobile insurance solely because the policyholder is a volunteer driver.

Sign-On Details

1. Review the **Volunteer Driver Sign-On Letter**: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008758>
2. Add your organization's name, contact information, and signature.
3. **Email your signed copy back to me by October 31, 2025** (nick.musson@gwaar.org)
4. Please share this letter with other organizations, volunteer driver programs, and partners who may be affected or supportive.

Together, we can protect the volunteers who keep Wisconsin's communities connected.