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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

Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

Reminder: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training

Friday, November 14 | 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Lunch is on your own

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>

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

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.

Any questions on this training, please contact Doreen Goetsch 608-219-5013 or by email at

Doreen.Goetsch@gwaar.org



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

AB 410/SB 410 - 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,—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 to schedule a vote on SB 410 and members of the Assembly Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee to schedule a hearing on AB 410.

This legislation has bipartisan support in the state legislature. There are currently 28 state legislators (over 20% of the state legislature), 9 Senators and 19 Assembly Representatives, signed on in support of this legislation.

Take Action:

- Check to see if your state Senator and Assembly Representative are signed on as sponsors/cosponsors on the bill, by going 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 your legislators know how important falls prevention initiatives are to you, your family, and/or those you serve.

View the alert here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008794>

Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services Update

Last week, the State [Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services](#) met for the first time. If you were unable to attend or watch the informational hearing live, you can view the recording at [Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services - WisconsinEye](#) (if you don't already have an account, you will have to set up a *free* account to view this and any other recordings). The first hearing focused on financial exploitation and scams targeting older people.

Rep. Snyder, the Task Force chair, indicated additional hearings will be scheduled in Wausau, La Crosse, and another one in Madison. No dates for the upcoming hearings have been announced yet. As a reminder, the Task Force Members are:

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

The task force plans to identify ways to improve the quality of life for older Wisconsinites and will focus specifically on programs, services, and policies 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 elder financial exploitation. They intend to wrap up their work by the end of the calendar year. As additional dates, times, and locations are confirmed, we will share them broadly. **It is important for the task force to hear from older people, caregivers, and aging network professionals and board members around the state regarding the programs and services that are successfully helping people to remain living at home, as well as the challenges older people face as they plan to continue living in their homes.**

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

FoodShare (SNAP) Update

As we enter the fifth week of the federal government's partial shutdown, it is possible that this shutdown will become the longest in U.S. history (the partial shutdown of late 2018 and early 2019 lasted 35 days).

Late last week, two federal judges ruled the Trump administration must use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency funds (approximately \$5.25 billion) before cutting benefits for the more than 40 million people currently enrolled in the program.

On Mon., Nov. 3, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) told a federal court that it will tap into a contingency fund to allow states to issue partial benefits (expected to be about 50% of the benefit amount) this month to SNAP participants during the government shutdown. The federal court indicated the funds must be released to states by Wednesday, November 5, 2025. It will likely take some additional time before those benefits show up on participants' cards.

Any Wisconsinite who needs additional food for their house or family can reach out to 211 for information and referrals to local services. 211 can be reached in any of the following ways:

- Dialing 211 or 877-947-2211.
- Texting their ZIP code to 898211.
- Visiting the [211 website](#) to search for services or chat with someone online who can help.

Local food pantries are likely to need additional financial support and food resources to meet the higher demand. Please help out where you can and encourage others to do the same. For the latest FoodShare news go to: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/news.htm>.

For additional information see: [Children & Families at Risk of Losing Critical Food Support - Kids Forward](#): <https://bit.ly/3WE8Hmn>

Federal Budget (Excerpted from USAging's Nov. 3rd Action Alert)

The federal government's partial shutdown continues to drag on, with no firm movement toward resolution. Our national area agency on aging partner, USAging is urging Congress to resolve their important policy differences and find a bipartisan solution to end the shutdown. "With one exception, the House and Senate appropriations bills for FY 2026 are strong, protecting Older Americans Act (OAA) and other critical aging program..." USAging would like Congress to finalize their federal FY 2026 bills, not resort to another year-long continuing resolution (CR).

When Congress eventually ends the shutdown, it will still take at least a month for funding to get through the process and reach communities, which means "that even though Congress and the media will consider the shutdown over, programs and services will still be at risk!"

Take Action Today

Contact your lawmakers today and urge them to get a bipartisan deal to reopen the government. Be sure to emphasize how the shutdown is affecting or soon will affect your delivery of OAA programs and services to older adults and caregivers. **Be clear about the difficulties of operating without federal funding or the necessary federal approvals for full funding transfers between programs.** You can find the contact information for your Members' websites at: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov or by using our contact information at [Wisconsin Members of the 119th Congress: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426)



Webinar: Federal Funding Fallout 2025 Updates and Q&A

Friday, November 7 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds117>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpan117>

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

Webinar: Missing Information in PeerPlace

Friday, November 7 | 1:00-2:00 p.m.

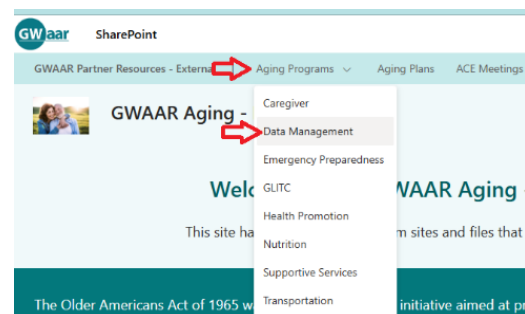
GWAAR Webinar - Missing Information in PeerPlace Registration: <https://bit.ly/47plzDg>

Topics of webinar: Review of missing demographic information - will include which agency has specific missing information, such as DOB, ADL, IADL, NSI and NSIP. All general demographics for all services will be covered. We will also review the Caregiver/Care Recipient View Builder - which is currently going through some upgrades.

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



-continued-

- 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

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

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.org:
<https://wisconsincaregiver.org/data/media/935/nfcm-2025-toolkit.pdf>

 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! 



*Toolkit to
Highlight and Support
Family Caregivers in
Wisconsin*



**Let's Honor
National Family
Caregivers Month**

November 2025

www.wisconsincaregiver.org

Nice to Know

🔔 Webinar Update! The Family Caregiver's Workplace Rights - TOMORROW

Wednesday, November 5 | 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Our Nov. 5 webinar has a new topic and guest speaker!

No one should have to choose between caring for a loved one and keeping their job. Yet, employment discrimination against family caregivers is common — and many don't know their legal rights.

Join WorkLife Law for an informative session on:

- ✔ Protections against caregiver discrimination
- ✔ Time-off rights under FMLA and state leave laws
- ✔ Free caregiver resources and legal helpline support

If you already registered for the previous webinar, you're all set — no need to re-register!

View the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008797>

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



THE FAMILY CAREGIVER'S WORKPLACE RIGHTS



Liz Morris is the co-director of WorkLife Law, which is a national advocacy and research organization that advances gender and racial equity by strengthening legal rights for family caregivers. Their work seeks to ensure all people have the freedom to build and maintain economic security through employment and educational opportunities, without having to sacrifice their health or their loved ones' care. WorkLife Law is affiliated with UC Law SF, and Liz is a nationally recognized expert on workplace legal protections for family caregivers.

The presentation will discuss:

- ▶ Protections against caregiver discrimination—when caregivers are penalized at work because of their family responsibilities
- ▶ Right to take time off, including the Family and Medical Leave Act and state paid leave laws
- ▶ Free resources and support, including WorkLife Law's know-your-rights materials and legal helpline

Join us for an overview of
workplace legal protections for
family caregivers!

Register Here!

NOV.
5TH

10am PT
12pm CST
1pm ET



Reminder: Research Opportunity for Caregivers

A research team from Vanderbilt University and the University of Virginia is recruiting caregivers (age 18+) who have advised, consulted, or collaborated on research.

The goal: to understand what helps or hinders caregivers' participation in research as partners.

Participants will complete a 1.5-hour phone or video interview and receive compensation for their time.

📄 Learn more or apply: <https://bit.ly/3JCFk0M>

💻 Questions? CaregiverCAREstudy@vumc.org |

☎ (615) 421-4210

Please share this opportunity with caregivers who may be interested—especially those in rural areas.

Are you a caregiver who has advised, consulted, or collaborated on research?



We want to interview you!

About the interview:

- One 1.5 hour video or phone interview
- You will be paid for your time



Click [here](#) or
scan code to apply

You qualify if you:

- Support or previously supported an adult with a long-term health condition
- Have advised, consulted, or collaborated on research while being a caregiver
- Are at least 18 years old and live in the U.S.A.

To learn more:
CaregiverCAREstudy@vumc.org
(615) 421-4210



☀️ Upcoming Opportunity: Caregiver Training Event!

Tuesday, November 18 | 1:00 - 2:30 pm.

Empower yourself and the caregivers you support!

We're excited to share an upcoming Caregiver Continuing Education opportunity through Geriatric Learning University (GLU). It's designed to strengthen skills, spark new ideas, and inspire both professionals and family caregivers alike.

💡 Who can attend?

Agency staff: You can use AFCSP training dollars to cover registration. If AFCSP funds aren't available, Title III-B Admin dollars can also be used for staff development.

Family caregivers: Both AFCSP and NFCSP funds can be used to support enrolled caregivers who'd like to participate.

(Just a reminder: NFCSP funds can only be used for direct caregiver services and supports, not staff training or administrative costs.)

📖 **Learn more and register here:** <https://ce.gvpub.com/Caregiver>

Let's keep learning, growing, and supporting the caregivers who make such a difference every day! 💙

EXCLUSIVE WEBINAR

***Caring for the Caregiver:
Seeing Our Own Foods
in Collaborative Care***

EARN
1.5
CEUs

PRESENTED BY
Maggie Moon, MS, RD,
& Dona Kim Murphey, MD, PhD, CHW

Tuesday, November 18, 2025
2:00-3:30 p.m. ET.



Emergency Preparedness

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

Nice to Know

Ready.gov resources help prevent cyberattacks

Cyberattacks are malicious attempts to access or damage a computer or network system. They can happen at any time, but can be especially hard to manage during the holiday shopping season. Cyberattacks can lead to the loss of money or the theft of personal, financial and medical information. These attacks can damage a person's reputation and safety.

Ready.gov has resources to help recognize, prevent and report cyberattacks. Learn more by visiting: <https://www.ready.gov/cybersecurity>

Plus, don't forget to check out the November Scam Spotlight on page 10 of this newsletter to learn more about how artificial intelligence is being used in Medicare scams.

Fiscal

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

Need to Know

Deadline Dates to know (updated)

- PeerPlace services entered, and errors corrected – October 31
- September Claim – November 10 (revised date)
- AFCSP Mid-Year Report – form and webinar notice coming soon
- 2026 Budget (yet to be posted) – due TBD
- FFY Variance Report – December 12

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

New Falls Free Wisconsin promotional materials available

Check out the new Winter Media Campaign Materials!

Explore new promotional materials on the Falls Free Wisconsin (FFWI) Website, including:

- Customizable newsletter article & press release
- Social media schedule & graphics
- Printable medication record

And join the FFWI network on December 9 for a webinar on medication management and falls prevention - open to everyone! Help spread the word: share the flyer and consider hosting a watch party in your community!

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

Webinar registration: <http://bit.ly/MedsAndFalls>



Reminder: Social Connection Awareness Week (November 9 -15, 2025) 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/>



Kick-off 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/>

Reminder: Pop-Up Falls Free® Wisconsin Coalition Webinar

Tuesday, November 18 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Falls Free® Wisconsin Coalition is hosting a pop-up webinar on November 18th from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Learn about falls prevention programs happening throughout Wisconsin and what one(s) might be a good fit for your community!

Webinar registration: <http://bit.ly/FFWIPopUp>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008791>



Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Nourishing Connections: Celebrating Food, Family, and Culture

In November we honor Diabetes Awareness Month, Native American Heritage Month, Family Stories, and Caregiver Month. It's a great time to celebrate the powerful connection between food, family, and culture. From managing diabetes to embracing Native traditions and recognizing the vital role of caregivers, each story reminds us that nourishment is more than what's on our plate—it's how we connect, support, and sustain one another.

View November NOURISH Step:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008784>

Enjoy your favorite holiday traditions while still feeling your best! See how simple it can be to balance celebration with wellness through small, practical choices. Get ready for the holidays while taking a NOURISH Step!

View December NOURISH Step: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008788>

Need additional baking tips for apples or pumpkins? There are plenty to be found in our October NOURISH Step resources!

View October NOURISH Step: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008665>

For additional information and resources, including landscape versions of these resources, visit:

<https://gwaar.org/nourishstep>

Or find the 2025 Monthly Nutrition Ed Handouts on the GWAAR SharePoint site:

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

Eat Well, Age Well Cookbook:

<https://gwaar.org/eat-well-age-well>



Tribal Technical Center

[Kassy Heard](#), TTAC Program Director

Nice to Know

Indigenous/Tribal Resources

Looking for a way to help celebrate and recognize Native American heritage month in November?

Check out this list of resources which includes everything from music and books to research topics.

View the resources:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008796>

Plus, you'll find a fun collection of recipes to share here:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007195>



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

November Scam Spotlight: AI and Medicare Scams

The November Scam Spotlight focuses on artificial intelligence (AI) and Medicare scams. It's important for people to be aware of what AI is and what to watch out for. AI itself isn't good or bad; it is a tool. The intentions and ethics of those who create and deploy it are what determine whether it helps or harms society.

Read the November Scam Spotlight:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/11-November-AI.pdf>

