



Volume 7, No. 44 November 11, 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: 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 GWAAR's governance. Learn more: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629>

Questions? Contact GWAAR Executive Director John Schnabl, john.schnabl@gwaar.org

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>

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

Final reminder: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training

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

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.

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

SB 578/AB 598 – Patient’s Representative Legislation (Next of Kin)

Wisconsin state legislators have introduced legislation ([SB 578/AB 598](#)) that creates “Patient Representatives” who would be given the authority to consent to patient admissions to nursing homes without requiring a petition for guardianship or protective placement. This legislation is similar to [Assembly Bill 1088](#) which was introduced last session; opposed by GWAAR and other aging, disability, and legal advocates; and failed to pass in the Senate before the session ended.

On Nov. 5, 2025, the Senate Health committee held a public hearing on [SB 578](#). The [Senate Health Committee](#) has now scheduled a paper ballot vote on SB 578 for Tues., Nov. 11, 2025. The [Assembly Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee](#) is holding a public [hearing](#) on [AB 598](#) on Wed., Nov. 12, 2025.

GWAAR and other aging, disability, and legal advocates oppose this legislation, as we believe this legislation creates risk for patients and family members, has legal and operational issues, and does not resolve the issue it was designed to address - quick transition of hospitalized patients who have become incapacitated to make health care decisions, are medically ready to be discharged, and do not have a Power of Attorney for Health Care (POAHC). Additionally, SB 578/AB 598 is more expansive than “Next of Kin” laws existing in other states. **No other states allow Next of Kin financial decision-making powers.**

Please reach out to your State Senator and Assembly Representative to share your thoughts regarding this legislation that is moving quickly. See the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network’s (WAAN’s) Action Alert - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008799> for more information.



Speaker’s Task Force on Elder Services – Upcoming Dates (Unofficial)

SAVE the DATES: While not yet officially announced, we have learned that the State [Assembly Speaker’s Task Force on Elder Services](#) is scheduled to meet next in Wausau on Mon., Nov. 17th and will meet again on Nov. 20 in La Crosse. Details on these hearings (locations, times, public testimony vs. invited speakers only, themes) are yet to be publicly announced.

[Assembly Speaker’s Task Force on Elder Services:](#)
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/committees/assembly/3035>

A date has not yet been determined for what is likely to be the last hearing scheduled to take place in Madison.

As a reminder, the Task Force Members are:

- [Representative Snyder \(Chair\)](#)
- [Representative Doyle \(Vice-Chair\)](#)
- [Representative Melotik](#)
- [Representative Gundrum](#)
- [Representative VanderMeer](#)
- [Representative Novak](#)
- [Representative McCarville](#)
- [Representative Taylor](#)

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The task force charge includes identifying 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 details on the hearings become available, 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. Please share information about the upcoming hearings with staff, board members, volunteers, program participants, community partners, and local citizens.

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). 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) – Latest News

As we enter the sixth week of the federal government's partial shutdown, this shutdown is now the longest in U.S. history (the partial shutdown of late 2018 and early 2019 lasted 35 days).

One casualty of the government shutdown has been the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), called FoodShare in Wisconsin. The 42 million Americans who receive SNAP benefits are caught in the crosshairs of an ongoing administrative and legal federal battle.

On Sun. evening, Nov. 9, the U.S. Senate voted 60-40 to advance a tentative deal that would reopening the federal government until Jan. 30, 2026, and provide funding for several agencies and programs, including SNAP and veterans' benefits, through Sept. 2026 (the end of the fiscal year). To obtain the votes needed to pass in the Senate, the deal also includes a promise to hold a vote on the Affordable Care Act subsidies before the end of the calendar year.

Sun. night's action puts the shutdown on track to potentially end this week, but a final vote is still required by the Senate (voting is to take place on Mon. night (11/10/25) and then the House before the continuing resolution heads to the President's desk.

Here in Wisconsin, on Nov. 6, just hours after a federal court ordered the Trump administration to stop withholding SNAP payments to states and to use the available federal funding to provide food assistance payments, Governor Evers directed his administration to immediately pay **full** November SNAP (FoodShare) payments to all the state's nearly 700,000 FoodShare members. On Fri. morning (11/07/25), the Wis. Dept. of Health Services (DHS) announced that full November benefits were available on the Quest cards of all FoodShare members. On Fri., the Trump administration asked the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to block the lower federal court's order requiring full SNAP benefits to be paid to states by Fri. (11/07/25). On Fri. night, Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson temporarily halted the order requiring the Trump administration make full Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) November payments by Friday, pending the appeals court ruling. Then, late on Sun the federal appeals court rejected the Trump administration's request to halt the order requiring full Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments during the government shutdown.

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On Mon. morning (11/10/25), the Wis. Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Wisconsin DHS sent out a reminder to Wisconsin businesses who have signed up for the FoodShare program that FoodShare recipients have had funding legally loaded onto their cards and businesses cannot turn away members using QUEST cards at registers. At this time, full November FoodShare benefits continue to be available on all QUEST cards. Any Wisconsinite who needs additional food or infant formula for their house or family can reach out to 211 for information and referrals to local services. Anyone can use 211 to get help by:

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

Webinar: Federal Funding Fallout 2025 Updates and Q&A

Friday, November 14 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds1114>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan1114>

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

Reminders

All webinars are recorded and posted on the GWAAR Partners Resources site under Aging Programs/Data Management library for registered users.

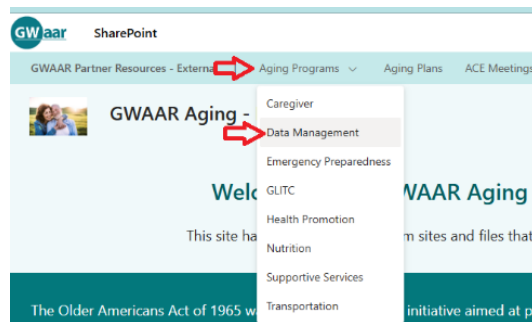
<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources> | Aging Programs | [Data Management](#)

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.

Deadline Dates to know (updated)

- 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

♥ Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting – Agenda Now Available!

Tuesday, November 25 | 10:00 a.m.

We're looking forward to connecting with all of you for our upcoming Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting! ☀️

Location: Virtual Teams Meeting: <https://bit.ly/4oWGDXm>

Join us for training, discussion, and updates that will support your work with family caregivers across Wisconsin. 💬

👉 **View the agenda here:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008804>

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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! ♥️



Emergency Preparedness

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

Nice to Know

Being prepared means helping prevent scams and 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.

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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:** <https://www.ready.gov/cybersecurity>

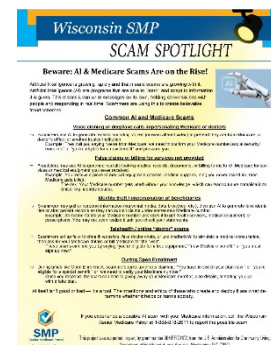
UnitedWay Wisconsin also provides access to free resources to help learn about cybersecurity, including a Build Your Cyber Security Awareness course.

Learn more: <https://communityupskill.org/courses-and-skills/>

Plus, don't forget to check out the November Scam Spotlight from Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol to learn more about how artificial intelligence is being used in Medicare scams.

Read the November Scam Spotlight:

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



Fiscal

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

Need to Know

****Upcoming****

Webinar: AFCSP Mid-Year Report Webinar

Wednesday, November 12 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

BADR and GWAAR will be co-hosting a webinar to review completion of the AFCSP Mid-Year Report.

AFCSP Mid-Year Report Webinar Registration: <https://bit.ly/4hXboJC>

****Reminders****

The Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR), collaborating with GWAAR, has created for your completion the AFCSP Mid-Year Report. This report serves to gather fiscal expenditure information on the AFCSP Contract for the period of January 1st, 2025 through June 30th, 2025. The purpose of this report is to provide information to BADR and GWAAR for mid-year review to ensure accuracy between what is reported to BADR in GEARS vs what an agency is reporting they are actually spending on services, administration costs and staff training for the period mentioned.

The deadline for submission is Friday, November 21st, 2025.

If you have questions, please reach out to:

- Lynn Gall - BADR Program Technical Support - Lynn.Gall@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- Bryn Ceman - GWAAR Program Technical Support - Bryn.Ceman@gwaar.org
- Carrie Kroetz - GWAAR Data/Fiscal Technical Support - Carrie.Kroetz@gwaar.org

This form is also posted on the GWAAR SharePoint site in the Fiscal Resources library for registered users.

<https://bit.ly/3KNZiWz> | Upcoming Trainings | [AFCSP Mid-Year Report.xlsx](#)

****Deadline Dates to know (updated)****

- AFCSP Mid-Year Report – November 21
- 2026 Budget (yet to be posted) – due TBD
- FFY Variance Report – December 12

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Health Promotion 101 (OAA Title III-D Refresher)

Monday, December 15 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Need a Refresher on Health Promotion (OAA Title III-D)?

Join us for an upcoming webinar that provides an overview of the Older Americans Act Title III-D: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention provisions and priorities.

We'll cover key topics including:

- Locating approved evidence-based health promotion programs
- Data collection and reporting requirements
- Voluntary contributions
- Available resources and support

This session is open to Health Promotion Coordinators, Aging Unit Supervisors, ADRC Directors, and fiscal or data reporting staff.

Register today to strengthen your understanding and ensure your program is aligned with Title III-D goals!

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



Nice to Know

Reminder: 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>



Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Waushara County's Battle of the Beef!

Want to see what other programs are doing? Val Ladwig from Waushara County shared this fun idea happening Friday, November 14: a Battle of the Beef at the local dining centers!

- Wautoma: Liver & Onions
- Wild Rose: Salisbury Steak

Check out their flyer and radio ad—they really make it sound exciting!

This is a great example of a “pop-up” style event that programs could replicate or use as inspiration for your own local twist. Think of creative ways to engage participants at your site!

Consider how you might bring a similar themed event to your community. Don't forget to fill out your Pop-Up Approval form and notify your Nutrition Program Specialist if you do!

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008805>

Listen to the radio ad (registered GWAAR SharePoint users):
<https://bit.ly/3WTK8qu>

View the Facebook post: <https://bit.ly/47xW3f2>



Get Smart with Kitchen Gadgets webinar

Thursday, November 13 | 2:00 p.m.

From air fryers to fridge thermometers, kitchen gadgets continue to pop up in homes across the country, especially around the holidays. While some tools can help reduce the risk of foodborne illness, others are more about convenience. Understanding how these gadgets work and knowing when to use them can make a significant difference in preparing safe and delicious meals.

During this [free webinar](#), you'll learn about the role of kitchen gadgets in cooking and storing food, when and how to use them correctly, and how to answer consumer questions with practical, research-based guidance. You'll also get ideas for weaving these tools into holiday meal safety conversations.

Register Now: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EbrwqI0QSI23qrouIUEP6Q



Free Event to Support Safe Holiday Meals: Turkey Talk With All the Sides To Dish

Monday, November 24 | 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

As families prepare for the big holiday meal, many have questions from thawing a turkey safely to making sure leftovers are safe to enjoy. This [free one-hour office hours event](#) offers trusted guidance from food safety experts in real time. Anyone can drop in, ask their questions, and get clear answers that help keep celebrations safe and healthy.

Webinar registration: <https://bit.ly/4nPWHTc>

Social media toolkit: <https://fightbac.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Turkey-Talk-Outreach-Toolkit.pdf>



Tribal Technical Center

[Kassy Heard](#), TTAC Program Director

Nice to Know

Reminder: Indigenous/Tribal Resources available for Native American Heritage Month

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>

