



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Nutrition Team C1 Flexibility for Carry Out Meals Input Call

Friday, December 5 / 9:00 -10:00 a.m.

Join us on Friday, December 5 at 9:00 am for a nutrition network call. BADR included the C1 Flexibility for Carry Out Meals in their state aging plan, as part of a regulation in the Older Americans Act. As an Area Agency on Aging, GWAAR can amend our Aging Plan to include this flexibility for the counties/tribal nutrition programs. The state aging plan includes criteria for this flexibility, please note that GWAAR can't be lenient with the criteria. Please see the link below – pages 15 to 18.

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008823>

Please join the GWAAR Nutrition Team, as we request feedback and input with regards to adding an amendment to our plan.

Meeting information:

Meeting link: <https://bit.ly/4pPnE1D> | Meeting ID: 252 305 840 098 16 | Passcode: kZ736mw7

Dial in by phone: [+1 608-338-1382,,276090130#](tel:+16083381382,,276090130#) United States, Madison | [Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 276 090 130#

Questions? Please feel free to contact Jean Lynch at Jean.lynch@gwaar.org, or 608-228-8097.

Nice to Know

We're Hiring: Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) Care Consultant

Do you have a passion for supporting Veterans and helping them live independently? The Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) empowers Veterans to choose their own caregivers, services, and supports so they can safely remain in their homes.

As a VSDP Care Consultant, you'll:

- Assess Veterans' abilities and needs
- Develop personalized care plans
- Assist with budgeting and purchasing goods/services
- Monitor service provision and provide ongoing support



This role involves travel across **North Chicago, Tomah, Madison, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis VAMC catchment areas**. **Ideal candidates will have a degree in Social Work or related field (Bachelor's required, Master's preferred) and be based in Central, South-Central, or South-Eastern Wisconsin.**

-continued-

View the full job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008591>

View or share on LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/48tiHEF>

To apply, send your cover letter and resume to: Lisa Drouin, VA Programs Manager,
Lisa.Drouin@GWAAR.org

Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Weekly Federal Funding Fallout2025 Updates and Q&A webinar

Friday, December 5 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds125>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpa125>

The impacts of the ongoing federal government shutdown, federal 2026 budget limbo, and consequences of not extending ACA premium subsidies are starting to ramp up. This webinar will cover the latest updates on what is happening at the federal level.



Data Management

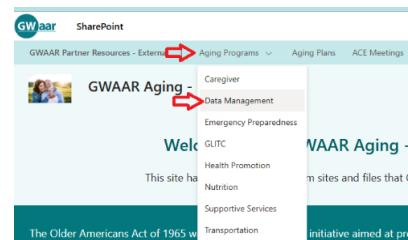
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Nice to Know

Reminders

All webinars are recorded and posted on the GWAAR Partners Resources site and accessed by registered users.

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



End of Federal Year Reporting

As we are wrapping up the End of Year Reporting for the NAPIS report, GWAAR asks that data users do not enter new, modify existing or delete existing data in PeerPlace prior to October 1, 2025 – unless instructed otherwise by GWAAR Data staff. This information has been vetted and is almost ready for submission.

If you have questions, please reach out to [Carrie Kroetz](#), carrie.kroetz@gwaar.org

Upcoming

FFY Variance Report – as we complete the End of Federal Year Reporting, we will send out the FFY Variance Report and at that time provide a due date for submission. This report will compare clients served, services received, and funds used to pay for these services – this will also include In-Kind reported. Remember, when answering the variances we are looking for the “why” something has changed – not that “we served more people”. Please aim to provide a more detailed explanation – “WHY” did you serve more people? Did you expand your program, did you start a new program...

Family Caregiver Support

Bryn Ceman, Caregiver Programs Specialist

Nice to Know

Family Caregiving video series available

✨ I am once again excited to share the third short video in our new series spotlighting family caregiving, the cornerstone of our aging & disability services ecosystem. Each video explores what caregivers need throughout the lifespan, how to recognize those needs, and where to find trusted support across Wisconsin. Visit WisconsinCaregiver.org to learn more. I invite you to watch, share, and engage, especially if you're a caregiver, part of the aging or disability services network, an advocate, or work with children, youth, and families, this message is for you. ❤️



Here for You: Discover WisconsinCaregiver.org: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuPKxrWMtzs>

National Family Caregivers Month Marketing Toolkit survey

Thank you for taking a moment to complete this brief 2-question survey. We're gathering feedback from Caregiver Coordinators, Aging Unit Directors/Managers, and ADRC Directors/Managers on the usefulness of the National Family Caregivers Month Marketing Toolkit. Your responses will help us understand how widely the toolkit was used and how we can continue improving statewide support and resources for future caregiver initiatives.

Please complete the survey



This will take less than one minute—thank you for your time and insight! ❤️

<https://forms.office.com/r/6bR4VjUZkw>

Updated data on unpaid caregiver experiences

📊 New Wisconsin data from the Survival Coalition shows just how much unpaid family caregivers are doing and how much our systems depend on them.

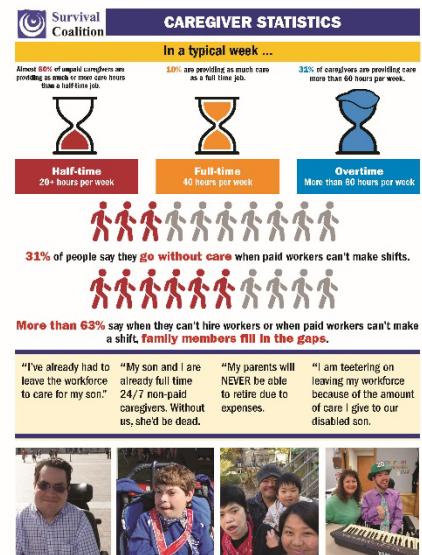
- 💬 Nearly 60% provide 20+ hours of care each week,
- ⌚ 31% are providing more than 60 hours/week, and
- 🚫 When paid workers miss shifts, 63% of families step in to cover the care.

Unpaid caregivers are coordinating medical care, providing hands-on support, navigating Medicaid paperwork, and doing the work that makes living at home possible; often at the cost of their own health, income, and well-being.

❤️ Caregiving isn't just love, it's labor. And Wisconsin families are doing it around the clock.

Survival Coalition Unpaid Caregiver Experiences Nov. 2025:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008825>



Reminder: Webinar for Caregiver Coordinators & Family Caregivers!

Serving the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community

Thursday, December 4 | 12:00 p.m.

Join the DHS Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to learn practical strategies for supporting individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind, including communication tips, assistive technology, and dementia-related resources.



Jennifer Anderson & Stacie Heckendorf, DHS ODHH

💡 A helpful session for Caregiver Coordinators and the caregivers you support.

👉 **Register here:** <https://bit.ly/48qde1s>


Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Wisconsin Dementia Resource Network

Webinar Topic: **Successful Approaches to Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community**

When: **Thursday, December 4, 2025 • Noon - 1:00pm**

The Department of Health Services (DHS) Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) has been working with multiple state and community partners to raise awareness related to the risk of dementia for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind.

During the webinar, participants will learn about the 5-year partnership between ODHH and the Wisconsin statewide Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Disease grant. Participants will also learn about communication tips, assistive technology, and resources to minimize the impact of untreated hearing loss and dementia on our aging population.

Presenters



Jennifer Anderson
Deaf Specialist,
DHS Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Stacie Heckendorf
Behavioral Health Initiative Program Coordinator,
DHS Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

 [Join us for the free Zoom webinar, Registration Link](#)  **ODHH**
Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Please contact Jody Krainer at jkrainer@wisc.edu with questions.
Advancing Education, Research, Clinical Care, and Community

Fiscal

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

Need to Know

Reminders

All webinars are recorded and posted on the GWAAR Resources site and accessed by registered users.

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources> | [Fiscal Resources](#)

ACE Meet  [Fiscal Resources](#) [Advocacy](#)

Partners

End of Federal Year Reporting

As we are wrapping up the End of Year Reporting for the NAPIS report, GWAAR asks that data users do not enter new, modify existing or delete existing data in PeerPlace prior to October 1st, 2025 – unless instructed otherwise by GWAAR Data staff. This information has been vetted and is almost ready for submission.

If you have questions, please reach out to [Carrie Kroetz, carrie.kroetz@gwaar.org](mailto:Carrie.Kroetz@gwaar.org).

Upcoming

October-December Claim – we are sorry for the delay in posting the October-December claim form, however we have been working with Aging Units to finalize their September claim for the Federal Report. This has also delayed in the re-obligation of unspent funds, which must be addressed before posting the next claim form. We anticipate posting the claim this week and having the deadline for submission extended to December 10th. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

FFY Variance Report – as we complete the End of Federal Year Reporting, we will send out the FFY Variance Report and at that time provide a due date for submission.

-continued-

This report will compare clients served, services received, and funds used to pay for these services – this will also include In-Kind reported. Remember, when answering the variances we are looking for the “why” something has changed – not that “we served more people”. Please aim to provide a more detailed explanation – “WHY” did you serve more people? Did you expand your program, did you start a new program...

2026 Draft Budget – due to some upcoming changes taking effect in 2026 we have yet to post the 2026 Draft Budget. Once we have solidified the changes, we will update the form and inform Aging Directors and Fiscal staff of the posting. GWAAR Fiscal will also hold a webinar to inform staff of these changes and a review of instructions to complete the budget.

Health Promotion

[Angie Sullivan, Health Promotion Program Specialist](#)

Need to Know

Reminder: Prescriptions, Supplements, and Everything in Between

Understanding the link between medications and preventing falls as we age

Tuesday, December 9 / 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Presenters: Nancy Shea, RPh, BCGP, GCAPn, Mike McKinnis, PhD., MOT, OTR

Join the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) for a free, informative webinar to learn how different medications- including prescriptions, over-the-counter medications may impact our risk of falling. The presenters will present about what to watch for, when to ask questions, how to work with healthcare providers to keep us steady on our feet, and how to manage our medications safely.

This is a great opportunity for your Aging Unit or ADRC to host a watch party!

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4pn65Wt>

View the flyer - <https://wihealthyaging.org/age-well-series/>

Prescriptions, Supplements, and Everything in Between

Understanding the link between medications and preventing falls as we age

Falls Free Wisconsin Age Well

Join us for an informative webinar to learn how different medications— including prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, and supplements may impact our risk of falling. We'll talk about what to watch for, when to ask questions, how to work with our doctor or pharmacist to keep us steady on our feet, and how to manage our medications safely.

**Tuesday, December 9
1:00-2:00 p.m. CST
FREE WEBINAR**

Presenters: Nancy Shea, RPh, BCGP, GCAPn & Dr. Mike McKinnis, PhD., MOT, OTR

Whether we take just a few medications or many, this webinar will give us tips to help protect our health, independence, and falls resiliency!

[Register Here](#)

WIHA
Wisconsin Institute
for Healthy Aging

Reminder: 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

-continued-



- 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>

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

[Pam VanKampen](#), Nutrition Program & Senior Center Specialist

Need to Know

Nutrition Team C1 Flexibility for Carry Out Meals Input Call

Friday, December 5 / 9:00 -10:00 a.m.

Please see the article at the beginning of this issue about the call taking place this Friday.

Nice to Know

Reminder: Looking for something new to add to your menu?

We're exploring a few new recipes and would love your input! Would you like to see these added to the Recipe database?

[Sweet Potato and Kale Hash with Avocado](#)

<https://loveonetoday.com/recipe/sweet-potato-and-kale-hash-with-avocado/>

or

[Enchilada Skillet with Spinach and Avocado](#)

<https://loveonetoday.com/recipe/enchilada-skillet-with-spinach-and-avocado/>

Try one out for a "sample day" and share your feedback with Kristi Cooley at Kristi.cooley@gwaar.org , your comments could be featured in an upcoming issue of the newsletter!

Remember we have new recipes as well as menu classics in the Recipe Database that you can use on your menus. Log-in details and tutorial available for the Recipe Database are found here: <https://bit.ly/47P3Vrq>



Reminder: Ways to celebrate staff this holiday season

The holidays are the perfect time to lift your team up, show appreciation, and create moments that bring everyone closer. A few thoughtful touches can go a long way, where you all give so much of every day. Here are easy, meaningful ways communities can celebrate staff this season. This list is from the Senior Dining Association, but they may provide some tips for you to share or use during the month of December with your Nutrition teams.

[View the 12 Tips:](#) <https://bit.ly/3M56fDm>



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

Ingrid A. Kundinger, Senior Medicare Patrol Program Director

Nice to Know

Winter edition of the Senior Medicare Patrol's newsletter, The Scoop, now available

This issue features information about older Americans and Medicare call scams, cold weather safety, how to find reliable health information online, benefits of volunteering for older adults, Justice Served: Two Florida men charged for \$34.8 million fraud scheme targeting Medicare beneficiaries, and so much more!

You are welcome (and encouraged) to share this newsletter with anyone you think might find the information useful – whether it be consumers, Medicare beneficiaries, neighbors, family and friends, those who work with older adults, etc.

Winter Newsletter, The Scoop:

https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/SMP-Scoop-Winter-2025-Edition_Final.pdf



The SMP SCOOP
PROTECT DETECT REPORT
WINTER 2025

Older Americans and Medicare Call Scams
Resourced by Federal Communications Commission

Medicare.gov urges you to take the following precautions:

- Never give your Medicare card, Medicare number, Social Security card, or Social Security number, or other health insurance identification, if it is most likely a scam call. If you get a call like this, hang up immediately!
- Do NOT accept offers of money or gifts for free medical care.
- Do NOT allow anyone, except your doctor or other Medicare providers, to review your medical records or recommend services.
- Never join a Medicare health or drug plan over the phone unless YOU called Medicare.
- If someone asks for your information, for money, or threatens to harm you or your loved ones if you don't share your personal details, hang up and call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or visit medicare.gov.
- Report Medicare fraud and abuse.

The Wisconsin SMP program is supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0102-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees underaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.

December Scam Spotlight focuses on Holiday scams

Don't miss the December issue of the Scam Spotlight which shares many of the common methods used by scammers during the holiday shopping season.

December Scam Spotlight:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/12-December-Holiday-Scams.pdf>



Wisconsin SMP
SCAM SPOTLIGHT
December 2025

Holiday Scams

The holiday season is upon us! With it comes time with loved ones and plenty of shopping. While doing your holiday shopping this year, be on the lookout for these scams:

"Free" gift cards and HUGE sales
Be wary of anything listed as "free" or any offers that sounds "too good to be true". Only used reputable sellers.

Fake websites and messages
Double check all websites you shop on and ensure they are legitimate. Don't trust messages and emails claiming to have updates about a package you didn't purchase. Delete the messages. Don't click on any links.

Scam calls claiming to be loved ones
Artificial intelligence is being used by scammers to copy the voices of our loved ones to get access to our money or personal information. HANG UP! Confirm with your loved ones before sharing.

Fake Shipping Notifications
Watch out for messages claiming to be USPS, Amazon, FedEx, or other shipping companies about packages that are undelivered or need additional verification. This email can have attachments or links to sites that will download viruses on your device to steal your identity and your passwords. Do not be fooled by this holiday phishing scam.

Social Media Gift Exchange
Purchasing one gift and receiving 36 sounds like a great deal, but this seasonal scam is a pyramid scheme, which is illegal. Keep it safe and only buy gifts for people you know (not ones you have only met online.)

Stay safe this holiday season! Report scams to the Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org

If you or a loved one has been a victim of Medicare fraud, call the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol 888-818-2611.

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 90MPPG0102, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.