



Save the date

Next ACE Meeting – January 14

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Happy New year!

GWAAR will be closed on Thursday, January 1, for New Year's Day.



Mark your calendar for ACE meetings

Wednesday, January 14 / 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

The first quarter ACE (A Commitment to Excellence) meeting will be happening in just two weeks! Join us for updates including the latest from the Reframing Aging Initiative and an update about a home-delivered meal funding project available to the network.

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008843>



Save the dates for 2026 ACE meetings

- 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.

Reminder: 2026 Regional Learning Exchanges

Locally based health and wellbeing organizations are invited to upcoming Regional Learning Exchanges hosted by the Wisconsin Owns Wellbeing (WOW) Collaborative. Events take place January-April 2026.

During each Regional Learning Exchange, participants will:

- Celebrate and learn from community collaborations already operating in the region
- Discuss priority issues, challenges, and opportunities in the region, connecting them to broader state and national trends
- Begin to develop strategies to grow or enhance collaboration at all stages of development
- Identify ways that statewide partners can better support and learn from local partners to make meaningful collaborative impact, regionally and statewide
- Build and strengthen relationships across organizations

-continued-

Register today for the event that best matches your service area!

- [Jan. 27, 2026: Market on River, Chippewa Falls](#)
registration: <https://bit.ly/4qkIN3P>
- [Feb. 17, 2026: Lake of the Torches, Lac du Flambeau](#)
registration: <https://bit.ly/4sbmRda>
- [Mar. 4, 2026: St. Norbert College, De Pere](#)
registration: <https://bit.ly/4aMP2cr>
- [Mar. 19, 2026: Baraboo Arts, Baraboo](#)
registration: <https://bit.ly/4qsIpAx>
- [Apr. 15, 2026: Waukesha Area Technical College, Pewaukee](#)
registration: <https://bit.ly/3MHUyTH>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008840>

Read the press release: <https://bit.ly/4s9vfK7>



More Leadership Opportunities in 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

View or share the post on LinkedIn:

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



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

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.

View the full job description:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008591>

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

View or share on Facebook: <https://bit.ly/4iPGF1B>



Advocacy

Janet Zander, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator

Nice to Know

Federal Funding Fallout2025: Updates and Q&A

Friday, January 9 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

English Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds1926>

Spanish Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpa1926>

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.



Family Caregiver Support

Bryn Ceman, Caregiver Programs Specialist

Nice to Know

Reminder: Research study: Custodial grandparents raising teenage grandchildren

The University of Cincinnati is recruiting participants for a research study focused on the experiences of custodial grandparents raising teenage grandchildren. Led by Dr. Tina Dothard Peterson, this study aims to better understand the challenges, strengths, and support needs of grandfamilies.

What's involved: Participants will take part in interviews and brief surveys, with a possible follow-up interview.

Flexible participation options:

- In person, by telephone, or virtually - based on participant preference.
- ⏳ Time commitment: Up to 2 hours
- 💳 Compensation: \$40 gift card in appreciation of your time

👉 If you know of an interested caregiver, please ask them to use this contact for more information:

Dr. Tina Dothard Peterson, University of Cincinnati,
513-556-3517, Dothartl@ucmail.uc.edu

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008841>



Are you a grandparent raising a teenage grandchild?

You might be eligible for a research study if you are:

- Primary caregiver for a grandchild
- Primary caregiver is 40 or older
- Grandchild is 12 years of age or older
- Grandchild resides in the home with you at least 3 days per week
- Living anywhere within the United States
- Willing to talk by telephone, virtual, or in person

- Activities: Interview, short survey, follow up phone review
- Total time involved: Up to 2 hours
- Compensation: \$40 gift card

For more information contact:

Principal Investigator: Tina L. Dothard Peterson, PhD, MPH, CSW, FGSA
Associate Professor
University of Cincinnati School of Social Work
Phone: 513-556-3517; Email: dothartl@ucmail.uc.edu
Facebook: [DrTinaLPeterson](https://www.facebook.com/DrTinaLPeterson) IRB#: 2024-0735
"University of Cincinnati is an Equal Opportunity Institution"

IRB #: 2024-0735 | The University of Cincinnati is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

Fiscal Resources and Data Management

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

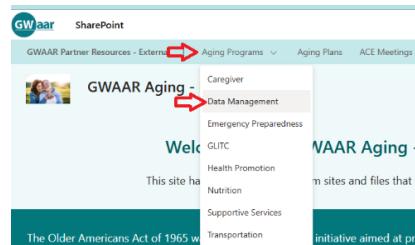
Need to Know

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](#)

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



End of Federal Year Reporting

We have currently pulled all data from PeerPlace for the NAPIS Federal Report, please note if any changes are made prior to October 2025 this information will not be adjusted in the federal report. Additionally, expenses reported from October 2024 through September 2025 on direct services have been applied. We are in the process of incorporating the variance explanations. If you have yet to submit, please do so ASAP as all are used to report on differences.

After the new year, GWAAR Fiscal and Data will be hosting a webinar to provide information regarding the GWAAR NAPIS process and to ask Aging Units for feedback regarding what more we could do during the year to help facilitate this annual project.

Remaining Transfers

During a recent discussion with BADR (Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources), we have been told that they will be releasing the remaining transfer allocations to GWAAR. This process can take a couple of weeks to work through the State's contract process. Once received and signed by GWAAR, amended contracts will be sent out and the updated allocations will be included in the Final Claim form. GWAAR Fiscal Staff will follow up with Aging Units regarding End-of-Calendar-Year reporting.

2026 Draft Budget

Due to 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 Aging Unit staff of these changes and a review of instructions to complete the budget, waiver, and transfer requests. In the meantime, we have received the estimated allocations and have posted them in the Fiscal Resources library under Budget.

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar

Tuesday, February 10 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

(Optional 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Networking and Sharing)

Virtual – TEAMS: <https://bit.ly/4siQkSw>

Plan to attend the first Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar of 2026. The agenda includes a 2025 Program Summary of Health Promotion Programs across the State, important updates from GWAAR and the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging as well as highlighting evidence-based Diabetes education programs.

There will be an optional time at the end of the webinar for counties to informally discuss successes, challenges, etc. This portion of the webinar will not be recorded.



Nice to Know

Reminder: Free webinar: Inside Hoarding: What It Is, What It Isn't, and How to Help

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Presenter: Carla Alejo, Catholic Charities

Hoarding is often misunderstood and judged. In reality, it is a complex issue. This webinar will explain common myths about hoarding and help clarify the differences between hoarding behaviors related to autism and those connected to other mental health conditions.

Carla will also share kind and practical ways to improve safety, respect personal choice, and support a better quality of life for people experiencing hoarding challenges.

Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/FLb00FLrQvetb-B0jADTw>

Where to find it on the WIHA website: <https://wihealthyaging.org/2025/12/08/webinar-february-11-2026/>



Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley, Nutrition Program Specialist](#)

[Jean Lynch, Program Specialist Manager](#)

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Save the Date! GWAAR Nutrition Team Service Area Virtual Call

Thursday, February 5 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

A detailed agenda will be shared closer to the meeting, but we encourage you to plan to attend for important updates and discussion. The meeting will also be recorded for those unable to join live.

Microsoft Teams live meeting link: <https://bit.ly/3L5nuEv>

Meeting ID: 253 444 690 524 1 | Passcode: 55eV6SX6

Dial in by phone [+1 608-338-1382,,726289041#](tel:+16083381382)

