



Volume 8, No. 6 February 10, 2026
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

GWAAR Year in Review

In case you missed it. We're pleased to share GWAAR's first-ever "Year in Review." This publication is intended to touch on some of the highlights from 2025 and offer a glimpse at some of the many efforts happening at GWAAR.

Read the GWAAR Year in Review: <https://bit.ly/4teJMVE>



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, Southwestern, or Southeastern 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>



Abuse in Later Life Grant

Nice to Know

Elder abuse training for direct service providers

Wednesday, March 18 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration: <https://wisdoj.cventevents.com/event/directservices31826/summary>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008919>

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; and Existing services for older victims. Please share widely with your colleagues, advocates, providers and senior centers.



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Advocacy Updates

- Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services – Companion Bills Released
- Caregiver Designation Legislation Update (AB 798/SB 795)
- Memory Care Designation Legislation: Senate Companion Bill Introduced!
- Ask Your State Senator and Representative to Support Funding Request for FoodShare
- Save the Date: WAAN 2026 Aging Advocacy Day of Action
- Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 Budget Signed into Law

Read the full Advocacy Update online: <https://gwaar.org/advocacy-news-2-9-26>

Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services – Companion Bills Released

The Assembly's Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services, created last September to identify ways to improve the quality of life for older Wisconsinites, released their final report on Mon., January 22, 2026 - <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/85/snyder/media/vgratypa/elder-service-final-task-force-report.pdf>.

On January 30, 2026, all six bills included in the Task Force's legislative package were introduced in the Assembly. Last Fri. (2/06/26), the Senate companion bills for this legislative package were released. More details on these bills are available in the February 3 GWAAR newsletter:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008912>

- Crypto Kiosks AB-968
- Drug Repository Program AB-969
- Grants for Fall Prevention Awareness AB-970
- Community EMTS AB-971
- Financial Exploitation AB-972
- Economic Support Specialists AB-973

On Wed., Feb. 11, the Assembly's Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee will meet in executive session to vote on AB 969, AB 970, AB 971, and AB 973.

Time is of the essence, if you have not yet reached out to your state Representative and Senator on bills in this package of importance to you and those you serve, please do so now! The Assembly's last day in session is expected to be next week (2/19) and the Senate will wrap up in March, so bills legislators hope to pass yet this session are being fast-tracked.

Take Action: Contact your State Senator and State Representative TODAY to share with them how bills in the Elder Services Task Force package would impact you, others you care about, and/or people in your community.

Who Are My Legislators: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>.

Watch for updates as the remaining bills go through the Assembly and Senate!

Read more: <https://gwaar.org/advocacy-news-2-9-26#ADV1>



Caregiver Designation Legislation Update (AB 798/SB 795)

In late December 2025, the Caregiver Designation legislation (AB 798/SB 795) was formally introduced. In the 2023-2025 legislative session, Wisconsin created a process that offers people the option to have emergency contact information included in their electronic record when applying for or renewing their driver's license, learner's permit, or state identification ([Wisconsin Department of Transportation](https://www.wisconsin.gov/transportation) Emergency contact: <https://bit.ly/3O44yqG>). The Caregiver Designation legislation builds upon the emergency contact information process by also providing for an option for people to designate themselves as the primary caregiver for up to three people in their electronic record.

Read more: <https://gwaar.org/advocacy-news-2-9-26#ADV2>

Memory Care Designation Legislation: Senate Companion Bill Introduced!

AB-984 Memory Care legislation creating requirements for the use of a "memory care designation" by community-based residential facilities was introduced on Jan. 30, 2026; just in time for advocates participating in the Alzheimer's Advocacy Day at the State Capitol on Feb. 3 to share why this legislation is so important to the safety and care of individuals living with dementia.

Read more: <https://gwaar.org/advocacy-news-2-9-26#ADV3>

Ask Your State Senator and Representative to Support Funding Request for FoodShare

Action is needed now to ensure that Wisconsinites continue to have access to food assistance.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in Wisconsin as FoodShare, is jointly run by federal, state, and local governments with the goal of stopping hunger across the country. In Wisconsin, the Department of Health Services (DHS) administers this program in partnership with county governments. SNAP provides nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites, including older people, people living with disabilities, children, and families, with basic food necessities.



A new federal law passed last summer included several significant changes to SNAP, including:

- Cuts to the federal administrative cost share
- Expanding work requirements
- Potential Benefits Cost Share for States

State and county budgets are insufficient to cover the increased costs and reduction in federal funding.

Take Action: It is important for state lawmakers to know what it would mean if FoodShare benefits were delayed, reduced, or went away. Share the importance of this program for you, your family, community members you serve, and others. Contact your State Senator and State Assembly Representative this week (<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>) and let them know how important food assistance is to you and your community! **Read more:** <https://gwaar.org/advocacy-news-2-9-26#ADV4>

Save the Date: WAAN 2026 Aging Advocacy Day of Action

Mark your calendars, on Wed., May 6, 2026, the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) will host a "Day of Action" including a virtual training followed by an online campaign. We will use this day to celebrate Older Americans Month and lift priority aging network issues for the next budget and legislative session.



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Our day of action will be complemented by local, in-district meetings held by WAAN core members throughout the state.

Local sponsors are encouraged to schedule the in-district meetings between late March and the end of October 2026. Stay tuned for more information.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 Budget Signed into Law

President Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 on February 3, 2026, enacting the fiscal year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education funding bill. The legislation provides approximately \$221 billion in total funding, including \$116.6 billion in discretionary funding for HHS (where the Older Americans Act and other aging service programs are funded) for the rest of FY 2026, which runs through September 30. For more details on Older Americans Act funding amounts, see USAging's Appropriations Chart.

Our national partner, USAging, will release a new appropriations campaign focused on FFY 2027 next month. To view ([USAging](https://www.usaging.org/appropriations-chart)) [appropriations chart](https://www.usaging.org/appropriations-chart) go to: <https://bit.ly/4qB4Kw4>

Disability Advocacy Day: Registration Open!

Thursday, March 19 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Disability Day of Action is back in person! The event is focused on connecting Disability Advocates with their legislators to talk about issues that matter to them. Attendees are expected to participate in the morning briefing and visit their legislators in the afternoon.

Registration is free but required to attend.

Registration (deadline March 2): <https://bit.ly/4apX9JZ>

Save the date Disability Advocacy Day of Action flyer:
<https://bit.ly/3ZjUKLF>

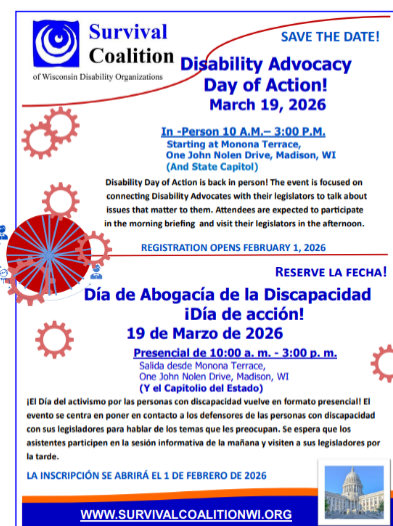
“Community Organizing to Maximize Power the Impact,” a three-part training series helpful for preparing for Disability Advocacy Day

- Session #2 (February 11): Identifying challenges and developing strategies for change.
- Session #3 (February 25): Forming cohesive groups and maximizing strengths for bigger impact

Questions about the trainings: Contact Jeremy Gundlach at jeremy.gundlach@wisconsin.gov

Training registration: <https://bit.ly/CommunityOrganizing2026>

View the training flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008874>



Reminder: Federal Funding Fallout2025: Updates and Q&A

Friday, February 13 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

English Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds213>

Spanish Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpa213>

View updates and resources:

<https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/federal-funding-updates/>



Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

Reminder: PeerPlace Reference Sheets Updated! 🎉

The AFCSP and NFCSP PeerPlace Reference Sheets are now available on SharePoint and the GWAAR website.

- 📁 Family Caregiver Support
 - ➔ AFCSP or NFCSP
 - ➔ Data Management
 - ➔ PeerPlace Reference Sheets

👉 **AFCSP:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008888>

👉 **NFCSP:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008887>

Use these updated guides for consistent data entry and smoother PeerPlace reporting. The NFCSP and AFCSP reference sheets have officially been updated to include the new PeerPlace service types, units, and definitions!

Nice to Know

Webinar: Living Longer — The Increasing Need for Dementia Care and Support for People with I/DD

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

This webinar will provide participants with an overview of I/DD and dementia including prevalence, signs and symptoms, and assessing if a person with I/DD may be developing dementia. Participants will also learn practical considerations for supporting people with I/DD and dementia with an emphasis on enhancing workforce training.

The webinar will also include insights into NADRC's newly released resource, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Dementia: Practical Strategies for Professionals.

More information: <https://bit.ly/45X0001> | **Registration:** <https://bit.ly/3ZzhYHh>

If you have questions, please email NADRC-Webinars@rti.org



Reminder: We Bring Light: Supporting Families Facing Younger-Onset Dementia

Thursday, March 5 | The Edgewater Hotel, Madison

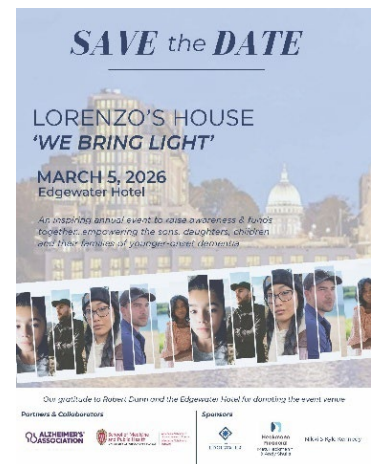
Lorenzo's House and NextGen WI are bringing together families, advocates, partners, and community leaders for a powerful evening of storytelling, connection, and hope — shining light on a younger-onset dementia community that is often unseen.

This gathering celebrates lived experience, raises awareness, and supports families navigating younger-onset dementia. If you or someone you know may benefit from community, understanding, and support, you are warmly invited to learn more and attend.

Event details and registration: <https://bit.ly/4taYQUm>

Membership Form: <https://bit.ly/49K4o0i>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008896>



Fiscal Resources and Data Management

Carrie Kroetz, Data Management and Technology Coordinator

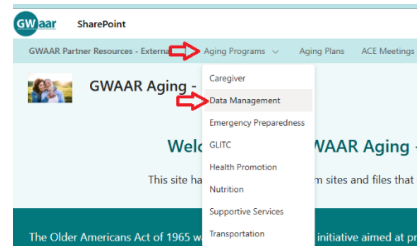
Need to Know

****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](#)



****Updated Registration and Intake Forms****

The 2026 Client Registration and Intake forms have been updated and posted in the Data Management library.

****GWAAR 2025 Final Claim Form****

Allocations have been updated to reflect the remaining transfer funds and final end-of-year allocation adjustments. As GWAAR currently does not have the NSIP and SPAP contracts from the State, those allocations will not be available until 2026. The Final Claim form, and any outstanding claims, are **due March 5**. Reminder that January through December, plus a Final claim, must be submitted – 13 in total. Agencies must continue to report any funds used to pay for Aging services even if you have fully expended contract dollars or met your Match requirement.

****End of Year Re-obligation requests****

We have posted the 2025 Re-obligation Request Form (link located in Fiscal Resources library). This form is to be completed to submit a Re-Obligation request for any of the following contracts held with GWAAR: Title III B, C1, C2, D, E, SSCS, EBS, Elder Abuse and/or AFCSP. Please complete this by **February 20, 2026**.

****2026 Budgets****

Due to upcoming changes taking effect in 2026 we have yet to post the 2026 Budget. We plan to have the form posted by late February. Please refer to the upcoming webinars section for training information.

****2026 Claim Form****

GWAAR Fiscal will be updating the 2026 Claim Form with the 2026 allocations and changes to reporting requirements. We plan to have the form posted by late February. Please refer to the upcoming webinars section for training information.

****2026 Webinars and In-Person Trainings****

- **NAPIS GWAAR Reporting and Aging Unit Input and Feedback**

Monday, February 16 | 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4aK1qZ5>

Review the GWAAR NAPIS Reporting process and seeking Aging Unit input and feedback on how to better prepare for the FFY Variance Report during the year.

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Fiscal Trainings (webinars)

- **2026 Budget Completion, Waiver application and Transfer requests**
Friday, February 20, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. [Registration: https://bit.ly/4bLqIrS](https://bit.ly/4bLqIrS)
- **2026 Fiscal Reporting and Claim Form Updates**
Friday, February 20, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Registration: https://bit.ly/400DCec](https://bit.ly/400DCec)

PeerPlace Trainings (webinars) – these trainings will be held by individual programs and focus on the main report/view builder that reviews demographic information, missing assessments information and missing/incorrect program reporting information.

- **IIIB Supportive Services and IIID Health Promotion – Served Clients Details - Agency report review**
Thursday, February 26 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. [Registration: https://bit.ly/4qmdxkz](https://bit.ly/4qmdxkz)
- **IIIC Nutrition – Served Clients Details - Agency report review**
Friday, February 27 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. [Registration: https://bit.ly/4qqNby4](https://bit.ly/4qqNby4)
- **IIIE NFCSP Caregiver – Caregiver/Care Recipient View review**
Monday, March 2 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. [Registration: https://bit.ly/4r3IXxh](https://bit.ly/4r3IXxh)
- **Tribal PeerPlace General Training**
Thursday, March 5 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. [Registration: https://bit.ly/4rFaG7u](https://bit.ly/4rFaG7u)

Regional Trainings (in-person) – GWAAR Staff is working on scheduling Fiscal and Data Spring trainings again this year. These are expected to be held mid-April through May – once arrangements are finalized, we will send out the registration information.

Guardianship Support Center

[Polly Shoemaker](#), WI Guardianship Support Center Attorney

Nice to Know

Reminder: Latest issue of The Guardian available

The Guardian is a quarterly newsletter published by the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources' (GWAAR) Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center (GSC). The GSC provides information and assistance on issues related to guardianship, protective placement, advance directives, and more.

Read the January 2026 issue:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008885>

It can also be found on the Guardianship Support Center page:

<https://gwaar.org/guardianship-resources> |

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Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Nice to Know

Get Ready to Celebrate the Senior Nutrition Program This March

Every March, ACL celebrates its Senior Nutrition Program and the vital services it has provided to millions of older Americans since 1972. The anniversary is a chance to promote the program's purpose and impact, engage with partners, and recognize the achievements of the aging services network.

The 2026 theme, *Serving Up Solutions*, emphasizes the creativity, innovation, and collaboration that define the Senior Nutrition Program. It spotlights how local programs continue to adapt and respond to community needs — from providing nutritious meals to offering opportunities for older adults to stay engaged and independent. With every meal, programs are serving up solutions that support health, well-being, and stronger communities.

Visit their webpage to find activity ideas and event tips, sample materials, and graphics to help you mark the occasion and raise awareness of your local nutrition program. Stay tuned for more information about a March celebration event, and don't forget to use the hashtag #SeniorNutritionProgram to share your plans on social media.

Learn more and download materials: <https://acl.gov/snp/celebrate>



Tribal Technical Center

[Kassy Heard](#), TTAC Program Director

Nice to Know

Reminder: Introducing Carri Chapman and Jenise Swartley

Greetings from the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council TTAC Team!

We are Carri Chapman and Jenise Swartley, and we're honored to have joined the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) as the new Program Specialists for the Tribal Technical Assistance Center. In our roles, we provide technical assistance to the 11 Tribal Aging Units of Wisconsin and serve as representatives for the Senior Medicare Patrol program.

Beginning this work during the quieter winter months has given us valuable time to learn the many responsibilities of the position. We are grateful for the opportunity to grow into these roles and look forward to building strong relationships while supporting the important work taking place across each Tribal community.

Thank you to everyone at GWAAR for the many trainings and insights you have shared as we prepare to work together. Please feel welcome to reach out to us at any point.

Carri can be reached at cchapman@glitc.org or 715-588-1050 and works from GLITC's headquarters in Lac du Flambeau, WI.

Jenise can be reached at jswartley@glitc.org or 715-890-0292 and is located at the Ashland Area Enterprise Center in Ashland, WI.

