



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

Nice to Know

Reminder: We're hiring: Advocacy and Public Policy Director

This role is responsible for mobilizing the aging network, building powerful coalitions, developing partnerships with other advocate organizations across the state, and representing the interests of older adults and family caregivers before state and federal governing bodies. As a primary liaison to the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN), this position will synchronize regional and statewide efforts to advance policy priorities and ensure the voices of older adults are heard. This position can be located at a home office or at our Madison office.

To apply, send cover letter and resume to info@gwaar.org

View the full job description: <https://bit.ly/4ueJkr0>

View or share on LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/4rQySUK>



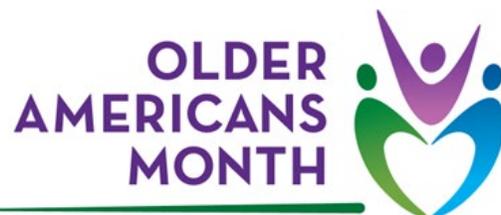
All current open positions can be viewed at <https://gwaar.org/jobs> including:

- Part-time Human Resources and Benefits Liaison
View the full job description: <https://bit.ly/46mcKck>
View or share on LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/3P4zrff>
- Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) Care Consultant
View the full job description: <https://bit.ly/4shIRCx>
View or share on LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/48tiHEF>

Older Americans Month 2026 Theme: Champion Your Health

Every May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month, a time to recognize older adults' contributions and reaffirm our commitment to supporting their health and independence.

The 2026 theme, Champion Your Health, underscores prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as cornerstones of healthy aging. It encourages taking an active role in managing and advocating for your health, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions.



CHAMPION YOUR HEALTH: MAY 2026

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This year, the focus is on evidence-based approaches, self-management, caregiver roles, and community partnerships that empower individuals to lead healthy lives.

The 2026 logos, sample article, and activity ideas are available now. Stay tuned for this year's poster, social media graphics, and more. Use the hashtag #OlderAmericansMonth on social media to share your plans and see what others are doing!

Information and updates: <https://acl.gov/oam/older-americans-month>

Abuse in Later Life Grant

Nice to Know

Reminder: Elder abuse training for direct service providers

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

<https://bit.ly/3N8hE6f>

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

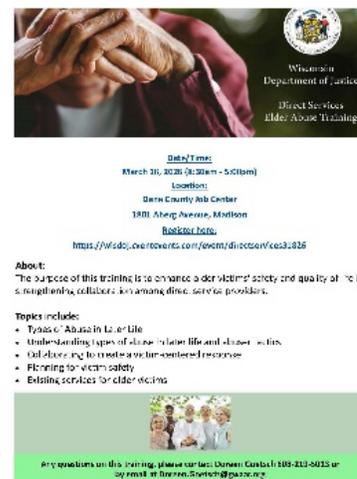
The purpose of this training is to enhance older victims' safety and quality of life by strengthening collaboration among direct service providers. Topics include:

- 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
- Existing services for older victims

Who should attend?

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.

Please share widely with your colleagues, advocates, providers and senior centers.



Reminder: Walking Each Other Home: Pursuing Respect, Justice, and Wellbeing for Older Victims Cross-Training for Faith Leaders and Advocates

Tuesday, April 14 | 8:30 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

Walworth County Health & Human Services Building

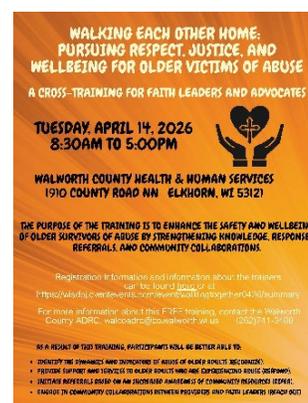
1910 County Road NN | Elkhorn, WI 53121

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

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008928>

Learning Objectives: As a result of this training, participants will be better able to:

- Identify the dynamics and indicators of abuse of older adults (Recognize),
- Provide compassionate support and services to individual older adults who are experiencing abuse (Respond),
- Initiate referrals based on an increased awareness of community resources (Refer), and
- Engage in community collaborations between service providers and faith leaders to better respond to the unique needs of older, faith-involved survivors of abuse (Reach Out).



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

ACTION ALERT: Your Help is Needed to Get the Elder Services Task Force Bills Across the Finish Line

The Wisconsin state legislature's bipartisan Speaker's Task Force on Elder Service developed a legislative package earlier this year to identify ways to improve the quality of life for older Wisconsinites. The package included six legislative bills and two associated funding bills. In late February, the State Assembly passed all eight bills proposed by the Task Force. The clock is ticking to get these bills passed by the State Senate which is scheduled to wrap up on **March 17!** To get the bills in front of the Governor and signed into law, they must first be passed by the following highlighted committees and the full Senate.

Take Action: Contact your State Senator this week to share with them how legislation proposed by the Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services would impact you, others you care about, and/or people in your community. Ask them to urge committee passage of the bills and get them on the calendar for a vote by the full State Senate. To find out who represents you in the state legislature, enter your home address in the "Who Are My Legislators?" box found on this page - <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>.

Read the full Action Alert here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008948>

ACTION ALERT: Contact Your State Senator and Ask Them to Support the FoodShare Funding Needed

Take Action: Contact your State Senator to share with them how important the FoodShare program is for low-income older people and family caregivers and ask them to support the funding needed to ensure that Wisconsinites continue to have access to food assistance. Let them know how continued FoodShare funding, as well as benefit restrictions, would impact you, others you care about, and/or people in your community. To find out who your state Senator is enter your home address in the "Who Are My Legislators?" box found on this page - <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>. Please contact your state Senator and ask them to support the additional funding needed for FoodShare.

Read the full Action Alert here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008947>



Save the Date Reminder: 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. Our day of action will be complemented by local, in-district meetings held by WAAN core members throughout the state. **Local meeting hosts are encouraged to schedule in-district meetings between late March and the end of October 2026.** Stay tuned for more information.



United States Postal Service Postmark Change and Voting by Mail

A recent rule issued by the United States Postal Service (USPS) changes how a "postmark" is defined. This change affects voter registration by mail but does not change the rules for returning absentee ballots in Wisconsin. Under the new rule, a postmark reflects the date an envelope is first processed by an automated USPS sorting machine, which may occur days after the envelope is dropped off at the post office. Previously,

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many people assumed the postmark reflected the date the mail was deposited.

Wisconsin voters who register to vote by mail should be aware of how this change could affect registration deadlines. In Wisconsin, voter registration forms submitted by mail must be postmarked no later than 20 days before Election Day. Because the new USPS definition means the postmark date could be later than the date the form was mailed, voters are encouraged to send their registration well in advance of the 20-day deadline. Another option is to request a manual postmark (also called a “hand cancel”) at the post office counter, which ensures the postmark reflects the actual date the envelope was submitted. If the mail registration deadline is missed, voters can still register in person at their polling place on Election Day.

This USPS rule does not affect absentee ballot returns in Wisconsin. Absentee ballots must still be received by the municipal clerk by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. To ensure timely delivery, absentee voters are encouraged to mail their ballots back at least 10 days before the election. Voters may also return their absentee ballot in person. Contact your municipal clerk to learn where and when ballots can be accepted: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Municipal-Clerk>.

The SAVE Act: What You Need to Know

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act narrowly passed the U.S. House of Representatives in early February by a vote of 218–213. The bill would require individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections. It would also require photo identification to vote in federal elections, which is already required in Wisconsin.

Supporters say the goal is to ensure that only U.S. citizens vote. However, citizenship is already required under federal law, and instances of non-citizens voting are extremely rare—estimated at less than 0.5% of votes cast.

Acceptable proof of citizenship would include documents such as a birth certificate, U.S. passport, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, Certificate of Citizenship, or Naturalization Certificate. Many people assume that a REAL ID driver’s license proves citizenship, but it does not establish citizenship status.

While most Americans technically have access to one of these documents, many do not have them readily available. Studies show that 9% of eligible voters lack or cannot easily access proof of citizenship, 52% of registered voters do not have an unexpired passport with their current legal name, and 11% do not have access to their birth certificate. Name changes due to marriage or court order may also require additional documentation to verify identity and citizenship.

Requiring documentary proof of citizenship could create additional barriers to voter registration, particularly for military families who move frequently, people who have lost documents in natural disasters, individuals who have changed their names, and communities that face greater challenges accessing documentation. In fact, just under 2% of voting-age U.S. citizens—more than 3.8 million people—lack any documentary proof of citizenship.

The bill now awaits action in the U.S. Senate. If you are concerned about additional barriers to voting, the League of Women Voters created an action alert encouraging Congress to oppose the SAVE Act suite of bills.

Learn more and take action here: <https://www.lwv.org/save-act>

See the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition’s Alert: <https://bit.ly/3MWXHzt>

Federal Funding Fallout2025: Updates and Q&A

3/13 English Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds313>

3/13 Spanish Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpa313>

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



Reminder: Rides to the Polls resource

Rides to the Polls is a list of transportation options for voting or voting-related activities for people with disabilities and older adults. This form is for organizations or transportation companies who offer voting-related rides. Information submitted through this form will be included in a list compiled by Disability Rights Wisconsin and made publicly available as a resource for Wisconsin voters.



View or complete the form with your organization's information: <https://bit.ly/4b0Ynf7>

Reminder: Disability Vote Coalition Webinar: What's on the Ballot?

Tuesday, March 17 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Intended Audience: People with disabilities, caregivers, service providers, school staff, etc.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/DVCWebinarMarch2026>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008943>

View the event on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1AtS9inEVj/>



Emergency Preparedness

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Be prepared with resources for March

March is known for being unpredictable in Wisconsin. But with resources from ReadyWisconsin and Ready.gov, we can raise awareness and help older adults with preparation tips.

ReadyWisconsin on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin/>

Mar. 9 – 13: Flood Safety Awareness Week

<https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/flooding/> | <https://www.ready.gov/floods>



Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting 📅 Agenda Now Available!

Wednesday, March 11 | 10:00–11:30 a.m.

The agenda, virtual meeting link, and call-in option are now posted for the Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting. This session will include Caregiver Grants overview, best practices, and FAQs with time for discussion.

🔗 View the agenda & join information:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008955>

We look forward to connecting with caregiver coordinators from across Wisconsin!



Nice to Know

Reminder: 🌞 Addressing Food Insecurity for People Living Alone with Dementia

Tuesday, March 17 | 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Join the National Alzheimer’s and Dementia Resource Center to learn how food insecurity affects people living alone with dementia — and explore an innovative, volunteer-based food delivery model that works.



FREE Free & open to the public | 🎥 Recorded | 🔊 Closed captioning

📄 Pre-registration required | 🖱️ Register here: <https://bit.ly/4rHAPmx>

💙 Please share with colleagues and partners!

Reminder: Save the Date: 3rd Annual Dementia Conference

Wednesday, August 12 | 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Medford, WI

Please join the ADRC of Taylor County for the 3rd Annual Bringing Hope & Light to the Dementia Journey Conference, a free, full-day event for dementia caregivers, professionals, and individuals living with dementia or mild cognitive impairment.

Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. Michelle Braun, Author of High Octane Brain
- Angele Lunde, M.A., Author of Day to Day: Living with Dementia

The conference will include breakout sessions, vendor booths, lunch, and on-site respite for caregivers.

Registration information coming soon.



Fiscal Resources and Data Management

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

Need to Know

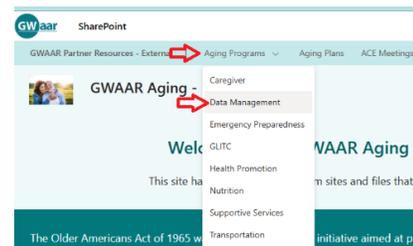
****Reminders****

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](#)

ACE Meeting → Fiscal Resources Advocacy



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****GWAAR 2025 Final Claim Form and Year End Re-Ob Requests****

The Final Claim form, and any outstanding claims, were **due March 5**. Reminder that January through December, plus a Final claim, must be submitted – for all contracts, even if claiming zero. Once all Final Claims have been received the re-obligation process will begin. Not submitting your Final Claim on time may impact your ability to receive additional funds.

****2026 Budgets and 2026 Claim Form****

The 2026 budget and claim form have been posted in the Fiscal Resources library. <https://bit.ly/4sdH1CO>. The 2026 Budget, along with the online transfer and waiver requests, is due March 31, 2026.

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

Regional Trainings (in-person)

GWAAR will be hosting four (4) Fiscal and PeerPlace Aging regional training sessions. Each session will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Non-refundable cost to attend is \$25 per person, with morning snack, lunch and beverages included. Please complete the following registration indicating which session you will be attending. Attendance is limited to 40 participants per location. Each participant must register separately. Registrations are due 14 days prior to the session. *Virtual attendance and recording will not be available.* (This training will not cover EBS, DCS or ADRC specific information.) **A confirmation email will be sent to you within 10 business days, along with an invoice for payment.** Payment will be required for no-shows or cancellations within 14 days of the training date.

Data Training Dates and Locations:

Adventure Awaits – Navigating the Sea of Data - [Registration: https://forms.office.com/r/14GH1zPXHM](https://forms.office.com/r/14GH1zPXHM)

If you would like to assist with topics for our data training, please complete this [form](https://forms.office.com/r/4TniLx5qvw):
<https://forms.office.com/r/4TniLx5qvw>

Meeting Date	Location	Address
Wednesday, April 22, 2026	Holiday Inn - Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843
Tuesday, May 12, 2026	Tomah - Cranberry Country Lodge	319 Wittig Rd, Tomah, WI 54660
Tuesday, May 19, 2026	Antigo - NorthStar Lanes	400 Prosser Place, Antigo, WI 54409
Wednesday, May 27, 2026	Beaver Dam - Moraine Park Technical College	700 Gould Street, Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Fiscal Training Dates, Locations and Registrations:

Secrets Revealed – Unlocking the Fiscal Mystery - [Registration: https://forms.office.com/r/24xZ0hNB7S](https://forms.office.com/r/24xZ0hNB7S)

If you would like to assist with topics for our fiscal training, please complete this [form](https://forms.office.com/r/B7VedNMcs):
<https://forms.office.com/r/B7VedNMcs>

Meeting Date	Location	Address
Thursday, April 23, 2026	Holiday Inn - Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843
Wednesday, May 13, 2026	Tomah - Cranberry Country Lodge	319 Wittig Rd, Tomah, WI 54660
Wednesday, May 20, 2026	Antigo - NorthStar Lanes	400 Prosser Place, Antigo, WI 54409
Thursday, May 28, 2026	Beaver Dam - Moraine Park Technical College	700 Gould Street, Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Tribal Fiscal and Data Focus Topics Training – SAVE the DATE! Thursday, May 21, 2026 – please contact GLITC for more information.

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Reminder: Voices Matter – Help Strengthen OAA Title III-D (Health Promotion) Programming

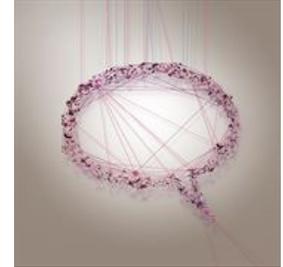
The Health Promotion Advisory Group is currently gathering input to better understand the impact of Health Promotion programs (OAA Title III-D) serving older adults in our community. These programs play an important role in supporting wellness, preventing chronic disease, and helping older adults live healthier, more independent lives.

While attendance totals and survey scores are important, numbers alone don't tell the whole story. We can count how many people joined a class, but we can't measure the confidence someone gained, the new friendships formed, or the healthy habits that continued at home. Your personal experience helps show the real difference these programs make. That's why your feedback is so valuable.

By taking just a few minutes to complete the feedback form, you help ensure these programs continue to meet real community needs. Your responses may be used for county, state, or federal reporting and outreach efforts. Every response strengthens our ability to advocate for older adults and enhance the services that matter most. Please take a moment to complete the survey by Thursday, April 2, 2026.

Complete the survey: <https://gwaar.wufoo.com/forms/z7a473w1dztg66n/>

If you have any questions about the form, Angie Sullivan is happy to help at angela.sullivan@gwaar.org or 608-228-8081. Thank you for helping us tell the full story and build a healthier, stronger community together.



Reminder: Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar

Tuesday, May 12 | 9:00-10:30 a.m. (Optional 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. networking)

Meeting link: <https://bit.ly/46UY444>

Mark Your Calendars!

The next Quarterly Health Promotion will be taking place virtually on Tuesday, May 12 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. (Optional 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Networking Opportunity)

Agenda will be released a few weeks prior. If you have any questions or would like to recommend an agenda item, please contact Angie Sullivan at angela.sullivan@gwaar.org or 608-228-8081.



Nice to Know

Reminder: Online Health Promotion Opportunity (Title IIID–Eligible Programming)

Support the health and independence of older adults in your community through an evidence-based, virtual strength training program offered by UW–Madison Extension.

Virtual StrongBodies is a proven strength-training and wellness program designed for older adults and delivered conveniently online via Zoom. This option allows Aging Units and ADRCs to reserve spots for county residents while meeting Title IIID health promotion requirements.

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Program details:

- Program: UW–Madison Extension Virtual StrongBodies
- Format: Online via Zoom
- Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.
- Length: 11–12 weeks
- Cost: \$50 per participant
- Eligibility: Spots may be reserved by AUs/ADRCs for county residents

How it works:

- Reserve participant spots using the online request form: <https://bit.ly/3XLKknr>
- After your request is received, UW–Madison Extension will provide:
 - An invoice for payment
 - A promotional flyer for the upcoming virtual series (editable to include your local contact information)
 - A link to the online registration page so you can enroll local residents

Reporting support:

- Participant demographic information will be shared with you after the registration deadline for each series to support Peer Place reporting.

Learn more about StrongBodies: <https://health.extension.wisc.edu/strongbodies/>

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Nice to Know

Discover the Power of Nutrition Event – March 18 is Almost Here! *Final Details including meeting link*

The statewide “Discover the Power of Nutrition” event is just around the corner! This is a reminder to make sure your program is ready to celebrate and share this important event with those you serve. Learn, connect, and discover how nutrition supports independence and how the Power of Nutrition can support you as you age.

👉 If you are hosting, please email your Nutrition Program Specialist or Kristi Cooley directly to let us know.



New items have been added to the materials in the external drive for your use, including an updated agency toolkit that includes link, post event survey, and QR code.

March 2026 Discover the Power of Nutrition Event materials: <https://bit.ly/4qQ8r0p>

Discover the Power of Nutrition Event: *Wednesday, March 18 | 10:15 –11:15 a.m.*

Meeting link: <https://bit.ly/4ujgQMy> The event/meeting will also be recorded for those unable to join live.

Meeting ID: 255 388 077 827 15 | Passcode: CC9qk7jA | Or call in (audio only) | +1 608-338-1382,, 225604378#

We are so excited to have you join us to hear this powerful message as we celebrate National Nutrition Month and Senior Nutrition Month On behalf of the entire GWAAR Nutrition Team we want to say thank you in advance.

Questions? Contact Kristi.Cooley@gwaar.org