



Volume 8, No. 13 March 31, 2026
608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



✓ Save the date

Next ACE Meeting – April 8

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Second quarter ACE meeting next week

Wednesday, April 8 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

The second quarter ACE (A Commitment to Excellence) meeting is coming up soon! Join us for updates including the 2025 Federal NAPIS Report and a Fiscal update covering 2026 allocations and more.

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008972>



Nice to Know

ADILN Conference September 21-23

Save the date for the Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Network Conference: September 21 – 23, 2026 at the Kalahari, Wisconsin Dells. Watch the website for up-to-date news and details.

Who Should Attend

Professionals working with older adults, people with disabilities or their caregivers, including from:

- ADRCs & Tribal Nation Partners
- Independent Living Centers
- AAAs, County & Tribal Aging Units
- Local & Tribal Health Departments
- Managed Care Organizations
- IRIS Consultant Agencies
- Adult Protective Services
- Senior Centers & Other Community-Based Organizations
- Healthcare Providers
- Statutory Councils & Committees

ADILN conference site: <https://www.uwgb.edu/adiln/>



Seeking Participants: Research Study regarding Aging Together anti-ageism support program

The University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee is currently recruiting people 50+ years of age who might be willing to participate in research study about the Aging Together anti-ageism peer support program.

Participants will meet online via Zoom on Fridays from April 24th – June 26th.

Please share the flyer with eligible people in your community.

Additional information and contact information are available on the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008974>

The flyer is titled "You are invited to participate in a research study about the Aging Together anti-ageism peer support program". It is divided into several sections: "What is Aging Together?" which describes the program as an anti-ageism peer support program for adults 50+, including education about ageism and benefits; "The Research" which lists criteria for participants (50+, 30 minutes, 2-month follow-up) and details of the study (100 participants, 50 in-person, 50 virtual); "Eligibility" which lists requirements like age, U.S. residency, English fluency, and no diagnosis of dementia; and "Principal Investigator" information for Andrew Stewart, PhD, LCSW. It also includes a "To Sign Up" section with contact information for Dr. Andrew Stewart at (414) 435-7734 or astewart@uwm.edu. A small photo of a group of diverse older adults is included in the bottom right corner.

USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing Programs Lunch and Learn Webinar

Tuesday, May 5 | 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Aging and disability network staff are encouraged to join this webinar to learn more about low-income loans for housing repairs or modernization, grants for low-income older Wisconsinites to remove health and safety hazards, and direct loans for first-time homebuyers. To register, contact Veronica Hinke: Veronica.Hinke@usda.gov

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008976>



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

The 2025–2026 Wisconsin Legislature

The 107th Session of the Wisconsin Legislature officially concluded their regular session legislative work on March 17. The Legislature is not expected to come back to the floor except to possibly vote on a tax relief passage in a Special Session (called by the Governor) or an Extraordinary Session (called by the Legislature). Governor Evers also signed [Executive Order #285](#), <https://bit.ly/484e3gM> calling the Wisconsin Legislature into special session on April 14, 2026.

The purpose of the special session is to consider and act upon a [proposed constitutional amendment](#) (<https://bit.ly/41CZUn4>) banning partisan gerrymandering in drawing state legislative districts. The legislature is not scheduled to return for a full new session until January 4, 2027.

Over the course of the 107th Wisconsin Legislative Session, 1185 bills were introduced in the Senate, and 1238 bills were introduced in the Assembly. According to the legislature's website, 175 bills have been enrolled (the final version of a proposal that has passed both the Assembly and Senate in identical form, including all approved amendments), so far. To date, the Governor signed 145 bills into law and vetoed 39.

Many bills, including some of the aging network's priorities, failed to pass before the end of the session and are now officially considered dead (a legislative proposal that has ceased to move forward in the lawmaking process and has no immediate chance of becoming law during that legislative session). A few aging network priorities were signed into law this session and one bill we hoped wouldn't pass, did.

-continued-

Here is a list of some of the bills impacting older Wisconsinites and family caregivers that were signed into law:

Signed into Law this Session

Legislation Providing Needed State Funding for FoodShare Signed into Law

On March 23, 2026, Governor Evers signed [AB 180 https://bit.ly/481mU2Q](https://bit.ly/481mU2Q) (as amended) into law – [2025 Wisconsin Act 116 https://bit.ly/4bUFxGS](https://bit.ly/4bUFxGS). This legislation was approved by the State Senate on March 17 and by the State Assembly in February. Though AB 180 also imposes extra restrictions on what can be purchased with FoodShare benefits, this legislation became the vehicle to ensure that the much-needed funding (\$72 million) for the program could be secured, the additional costs imposed by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act would be available, and the delivery of essential services would continue while safeguarding Wisconsin taxpayers.



Governor Evers Signed SB 152 – AFCSP Bill into law (2025 Wisconsin Act 21)

Early last Aug., the Governor signed SB 152 into law. This legislation removed income requirements for the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) to align with the federal National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). Removing income-based eligibility requirements from AFCSP protected up to \$3.5 million in annual federal NFCSP funding and ensured support remains accessible to low- and middle-income Wisconsin families.



Governor Signs AB 424 Rental of Mobile & Manufactured Homes into Law

In late December 2025, the Governor signed [AB 424 https://bit.ly/415YQIg](https://bit.ly/415YQIg) into law (2025 Wisconsin Act 67). This legislation requires that leases be in writing and strengthens housing stability by **increasing notice requirements when a site is shutting down from 5-14 days to at least 90 days.**



Governor Evers Signs Admissions Consent/Patient Representative Bill into Law

On March 20, Governor Evers signed [AB 598 https://bit.ly/4v3vqYU](https://bit.ly/4v3vqYU) (as amended) into law - [2025 Wisconsin Act 115. https://bit.ly/41D0m4K](https://bit.ly/41D0m4K)

On the final day of its general-business floor period this session (3/17/26), the State Senate passed this legislation which creates an alternative to the guardianship process by allowing patient representatives (next-of-kin) to consent to admissions to certain health care facilities without requiring a petition for guardianship or protective placement. The amended bill also includes hospital price transparency language. The bill was approved by the State Assembly in February. The legislation **goes into effect on June 1, 2026.** This law is set to end three years after the effect date. Survival Coalition and the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network put out a [statement](#) to the press sharing their **concerns about the bill.**



View the statement: <https://bit.ly/4bYDbXq>

Not Quite a Law Yet – Pending the Governor's Signature

Several additional bills GWAAR supported also passed both houses and **are waiting to be sent to the Governor for action.** If not called up or sent earlier, these bills will be sent to Governor Evers on April 2:

The following **housing-related bills** supported by GWAAR have been enrolled and are awaiting action from the Governor:

-continued-

- [AB 182](#) (relating to changes to the low-income housing tax credit [LIHTC) – This legislation requires the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) to set aside at least 35% of its annual LIHTC allocations for qualified projects in *rural* areas and expands the number of future projects that qualify by removing the requirement that LIHTC projects be financed by tax-exempt bonds. [AB 182: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/ab182](#) 
- [AB 194](#) (relating to modifications to housing programs under WHEDA) – This legislation removes barriers to participation by permitting the Infrastructure Access Program, Restore Main Street Program and Vacancy-to-Vitality Program to access loans *and* use historic tax credits or tax incremental financing (TIF) (referred to as stacking which is currently prohibited). The legislation also allows loans to be secured by personal guarantees *and* corporate guarantees. Additionally, to improve participation in the three programs enacted last session to address Wisconsin’s housing shortage, the bills makes specific changes to the individual programs and increases the cap set for the percentage of a developer’s project cost to 33% and makes changes to the dollar cap set for the programs to further incentivize developers and local governments interest in the loans. [AB 194: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/ab194](#) 

The following financial exploitation-related bills supported by GWAAR have also been enrolled and are awaiting action from the Governor:

- [AB 685](#) (relating to individual income tax subtractions for losses due to financial exploitation) – This legislation creates a subtraction for financial exploitation losses in state tax law to ensure that those meeting the specific criteria outlined in the bill would not be subjected to additional financial losses from financial penalties related to what would otherwise be considered a taxable event (such as withdrawals from retirement accounts) in state income tax law. [AB-968 Cryptocurrency Kiosk Bill](#) (part of the Speaker’s Task Force on Elder Services legislative package) - On the final day of its regular floor session (3/17/26), **the Wisconsin State Senate unanimously passed the Cryptocurrency Kiosk Bill (AB-968)** to protect residents, particularly older Wisconsinites, from fraud by regulating crypto kiosks and enabling refunds for scam victims. 

Investigations of crypto kiosk use revealed that more than 9 in 10 are fraudulent.

Though a substitute amendment to the bill (approved in mid-February) eliminated any caps placed on transaction fees (some currently as high as 30%), this legislation protects the hard-earned money of Wisconsinites by:

- Setting daily transaction limits at \$1,000
- Requiring cryptocurrency kiosk operators to provide users with receipts
- Implementing consumer identification measures for every transaction
- Allowing scam victims to receive refunds

More Work to Be Done

With the last regular floor period now completed, several GWAAR and Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) priorities did not get across the finish line or failed to be introduced. Some of the priorities are funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), adult protective services, elder benefit specialist counseling, falls prevention initiatives, family caregiver support/training, the Guardianship Support Center, home-delivered meal services, long-term care ombudsman services, Parkinson’s Disease registry, transportation services, improvements to voting access and training of poll workers, and workforce supports for direct care workers.

-continued-

Priorities without specific funding needs include caregiver designation in electronic records (DOT), requirements for the use of “memory care” designation, insurance protections for volunteer drivers, and protection of voting rights. **Work on these proposals will need to continue to get them in the next biennial budget (2027-2029) or taken up in the next legislative session beginning in Jan. 2027.**

Congress is in Recess: Connect with Your Federal Legislator to Boost Older Americans Act Funding

Members of Congress are back in their home districts for a two-week recess through April 10. This is a great time to reach out to U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, as well as your U.S. House Representative to schedule a site visit or a meeting at one of their local offices.

Use the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network’s (WAAN’s) advocacy platform and editable email to urge your federal lawmakers to boost funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) and to protect other critical aging services and programs in the FY 2027 appropriations process.

TAKE ACTION: <https://bit.ly/4dqmCGt>



Federal Funding Fallout: Updates and Q&A

The next webinar will take place on Friday, April 10.

4/10 English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds410English>

4/10 Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFund410Spanish>

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



Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Nice to Know

Caregiver Centered Care training available

Family caregivers play a vital role in care, but many professionals have never received training in how to support them effectively. ❤️

The Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance is proud to offer Wisconsin’s version of Caregiver Centered Care (CCC) training, adapted in collaboration with the University of Alberta.

This training helps professionals and community members build the relational skills needed to truly support family caregivers.

Through the Caregiver Centered Care Competency Framework, participants learn how to:

-continued-



Build skills to recognize, communicate with, and partner with family caregivers.

Who should take this training?

- 👤 Healthcare professionals
- 👤 Social service & community staff
- 📅 Care coordinators & case managers
- 👤 Community members who support caregivers

www.wisconsincaregiver.org

- 👁️ Recognize caregivers and their role in care
- 💬 Communicate effectively with families
- 🤝 Partner with caregivers as part of the care team
- 🌱 Foster supportive care environments
- ⚙️ Navigate systems and services
- ✨ Enhance caregiver well-being

Whether you work in healthcare, social services, community outreach, or simply want to better support caregivers in your community, this training provides practical tools you can apply right away.

♥️ Stronger caregiver partnerships lead to better care for everyone.

🔗 **Learn more about Caregiver Centered Care training today.** <https://wisconsincaregiver.org/>

This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$490,000 with 75 percentage funded by ACL/HHS and \$163,000 and 25 percentage funded by non-government source(s). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

🎬 Film Screening: “Taking Care” Documentary

📅 Thursday, April 9 | 6:30–8:00 p.m.

📍 Marcus Palace – Sun Prairie, WI

Join AARP Wisconsin for a screening of Taking Care, a powerful documentary that follows Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen as they navigate Lauren’s mother’s Alzheimer’s journey. A panel discussion will follow the film. This free event is open to all ages. Registration is required, and seating is first-come, first-served.

🔗 **Learn more and register:** www.aarp.org/events/find/ | <https://bit.ly/4sEgxuJ>



Reminder: Webinar: Innovative Approaches to Dementia Supports and Services

📅 Tuesday, April 7 | 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Join the National Alzheimer’s and Dementia Resource Center (NADRC) for the webinar “Meeting Communities Where They Are: Innovative Approaches to Dementia Supports and Services.”

This session will highlight two community-based dementia programs serving African American and Korean American communities, demonstrating strategies to reduce barriers, increase engagement, and deliver culturally responsive supports for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

🎤 Presenters

- Jackie Dedeaux, MS, LSW – Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District
- Hye-Won (Grace) Shin, PhD – Somang Society

💻 Free and open to the public | 📌 **Register here:** <https://bit.ly/4rW7t3c>

📺 The webinar will be recorded and available afterward. Closed captioning will be provided.

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](#)



2026 Budgets

The 2026 budget form has been posted in the Fiscal Resources library. The 2026 Budget, along with the online transfer and waiver requests, is due March 31, 2026.

PeerPlace Review and Cleanup

Aging Units should be receiving notices regarding eligibility errors (i.e. missing DOB or underage ineligible clients) to be addressed by March 31. Please note, error Reports/View Builders should be run monthly to ensure accuracy in data and fiscal reporting. Please refer to the associated webinars for your program.

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/4Tnlx5qvw>

Meeting Date	Registration Deadline	Location	Address
22-Apr	8-Apr	Holiday Inn - Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843
12-May	28-Apr	Tomah - Cranberry Country Lodge	319 Wittig Rd, Tomah, WI 54660
19-May	5-May	Antigo - NorthStar Lanes	400 Prosser Place Antigo WI 54409
27-May	13-May	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>

If you would like to assist with topics for our fiscal training, please complete this [form](https://forms.office.com/r/B7VedNMCSs):

<https://forms.office.com/r/B7VedNMCSs>

Meeting Date	Registration Deadline	Location	Address
23-Apr	9-Apr	Holiday Inn - Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843
13-May	29-Apr	Tomah - Cranberry Country Lodge	319 Wittig Rd, Tomah, WI 54660
20-May	6-May	Antigo - NorthStar Lanes	400 Prosser Place Antigo WI 54409
28-May	14-May	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.

Meeting Date	Location	Address
21-May	Menominee Tribe - Keshena	TBD

Health Promotion

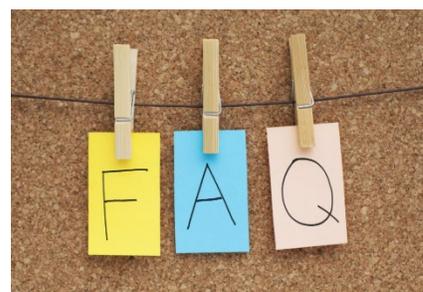
[Angie Sullivan](#), Health Promotion Program Specialist

Need to Know

Reminder: GWAAR Releases Updated Title III-D Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document

GWAAR has published an updated Title III-D Health Promotion and Disease Prevention FAQ to support Wisconsin’s aging network. The revised document offers clearer guidance on allowable activities, evidence-based program requirements, and reporting expectations—addressing many of the questions aging units and ADRCs encounter in day-to-day program implementation.

This streamlined resource is designed to help local partners plan effectively, ensure compliance, and strengthen the delivery of high-quality health promotion programs for older adults across Wisconsin. GWAAR encourages all Title III-D providers to review the updated FAQ and share it with staff involved in program operations.



View the updated FAQs: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008967>

View in the GWAAR Health Promotion SharePoint Library: <https://bit.ly/4bPfroF>

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Nice to Know

Spring/Summer 6-Week Menu Cycle

REMINDER: Looking for something fresh to support your menu planning this year? We're thrilled to remind you that a Spring/Summer 6 Week Menu Cycle is available for use! Whether you use the whole cycle, select your favorite weeks, or borrow pieces as inspiration for your own menus. Along with the menu cycle, the Meal Pattern Menu Approval Document and the full Nutrient & Packing Details are also available here for registered SharePoint users:  [6 Week Menu Cycl Feb 2026: https://bit.ly/4qS5XyE](https://bit.ly/4qS5XyE)

Use It Your Way! Whether you are a cooking kitchen or working with a caterer, or somewhere in-between this menu cycle is built to support you. All recipes are available in the Trustwell Database (access directions: <https://bit.ly/4rV921w>) so you can scale them up or down to fit your needs. Don't want the full cycle? No problem, treat it as a menu framework to spark ideas, streamline planning, or help shape your own seasonal offerings.

View the menu: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008929>

Nutrition Directors: Please share this with your Program Nutritionist, caterers, and those on your team who develop or write the menus. If you have questions, need help navigating the Trustwell database, or want support modifying the cycle, reach out to Kristi Cooley at Kristi.Cooley@gwaar.org .

We're excited to see how you use these tools and we love hearing about your successes, tweaks, and creative adaptations!



Pork Chop Carrots Garlic Parmesan Beans Pistachio Fluff Wheat Bread	Tuna Noodle Casserole Peas Mixed Greens Salad Strawberry-Rhubarb Crisp	Carolina Salad with Grilled Chicken Maple Mustard Vinaigrette	Pork Chop Suey over Brown Rice Stir Fry Blend Veggies Pickled Beets Carrot Cake	Cheesburger on a Bun Stewed Tomatoes Tater Tots Apricots
Chicken Cordon Bleu Roasted Sweet Potatoes Country Blend Veggies Berry Delight Fruit Salad Wheat Dinner Roll	BBQ Pulled Chicken on a Wheat Bun Baked Potato Cauliflower Coleslaw	Greek Meatballs Greek Lemon Rice Green Beans Broccoli Kale Slaw Apple Cobbler	Lasagna Italian Blend Veggies Mixed Greens Salad with Tomatoes Garlic Knot	Baked Ham Baby Red Potatoes Baked Beans Pineapple Wheat Dinner Roll
Beef Stroganoff Brussel Sprouts Peas Sweet Potato Brownies	Honey Garlic Chicken Brown Rice Roasted Butternut Squash Mixed Greens Salad Applesauce	Chicken Salad Sandwich Yellow Split Pea Soup Cottage Cheese with Berries	Taco Bake over Spanish Rice with Lettuce & Chips Corn Warm Spiced Peaches	Boiled Halibut Succotash Buttered Beets Potato Salad Rye Bread
Berry Spring Salad with Grilled Chicken Raspberry Vinaigrette Wheat Dinner Roll	Sweet & Savory Meatballs Half Baked Potato Corn & Zucchini Salad Wheat Bread	Orange Chicken Brown Rice Stir Fry Veggie Blend Thai Cucumber Salad Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookie	Beef Sloppy Joes on a Bun Sweet Potato Fries Ancho BBQ Pinto Beans Pea & Cheese Salad	Pork Loin Butternut Mac & Cheese California Blend Veggies Sunshine Fruit Salad
Brat on a Bun Green Peas German Potato Salad Sliced Apples with Chocolate PB Hummus	Herb Roasted Chicken Mashed Potatoes with Gravy Carrots Creamy Grapes Wheat Dinner Roll	Egg Salad Sandwich Stuffed Pepper Soup Southwest Bean Salad Fresh Banana	Creamy Turkey Casserole Green Beans Mixed Green Salad Cottage Cheese Chickpea Blondie	Lemon Garlic Cod Baby Red Potatoes Country Blend Veggies Creamy Coleslaw Rye Bread
Sub Sandwich Baby Carrots with White Bean Dip Fresh Orange	Monterey Chicken Brown Rice Chateau Blend Veggies Creamy Cucumbers Fruited Gelatin	Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Broccoli Gazpacho Peach Crisp with Vanilla Greek Yogurt	Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes with Gravy Brussel Sprouts 3 Bean Salad Wheat Bread	Egg Bites Diced Potatoes Warm Spiced Peaches Wheat English Muffin Orange Juice