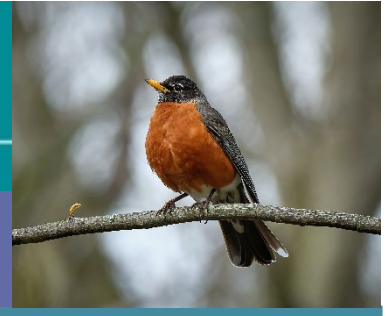




Volume 8, No. 14 April 7, 2026
608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Second quarter ACE meeting tomorrow

Wednesday, April 8 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

The second quarter ACE (A Commitment to Excellence) meeting is almost here! 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

We're hiring: Health Promotion Program Specialist

GWAAR is seeking a dedicated, full-time Health Promotion Program Specialist to join our team. This position plays a key role in supporting Wisconsin's county and tribal aging units and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC), with a primary focus on health promotion programming and supportive services.

As a Health Promotion Program Specialist, you will provide training, technical assistance, and program guidance to promote excellence and ensure compliance with policies and regulations. This is a full-time remote position with required travel throughout GWAAR's 70-county, 11-tribe service region. The starting salary range is \$66,000 to \$71,000 annually.

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, or equivalent related experience, is preferred. The successful candidate will demonstrate the ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team, with minimal supervision. Strong written and verbal communication skills, organizational skills, and initiative are required.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Jean Lynch, Program Specialist Manager, Jean.Lynch@gwaar.org

View full job description: <https://bit.ly/41ndRph>



We are hiring: Fiscal Assistant

This full-time position works in the GWAAR Fiscal Department supporting programs in a wide variety of fiscal activities including the distribution and tracking of all contracts, amendments, and agreements; the collection and review of all provider annual audit reports.

-continued-

This position will also assist GWAAR Fiscal Staff in the coordination of Aging Unit site reviews. This position may assist the GWAAR Lead Accountant in entering journal entries and providing support with Accounts Payable and Receivable processes. Our Fiscal Staff work together as a cohesive team on a regular basis and this position will be expected to work collaboratively with all GWAAR Staff in a virtual and in-person team environment. All GWAAR Fiscal Staff will work directly with our partners in the Aging Network and those interactions will be conducted professionally and provide excellent customer service.



This position can be located at a home office or at our Madison office. Starting salary range is \$43,680-\$47,840 annually.

Minimum two years of fiscal experience. Competent and skilled in the use of Microsoft programs, especially Teams, SharePoint, Lists, To Do, PowerPoint, Word, and Excel. Strong written and verbal communication skills along with some Customer Service experience. Ability to function independently without direct supervision and work within deadlines. Ability to work with a diverse population. Must live in Wisconsin and be able to travel within the state including occasional overnight travel and possess a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. To apply, send cover letter and resume to: info@gwaar.org

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

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

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

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



Abuse in Later Life Grant

Nice to Know

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

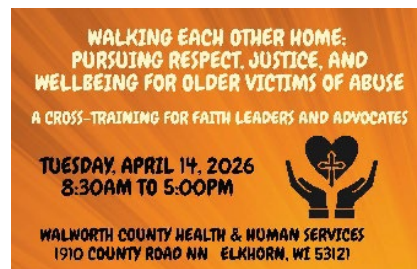
Tuesday, April 14 | 8:30 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

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>



Advocacy


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

Nice to Know



The 2025–2026 Wisconsin Legislative Update

All enrolled bills not previously called up by or sent to the Governor were sent to him on Thurs., April 2, 2026. This past week many more bills were signed into law and two dozen more bills were vetoed or partially vetoed by the Governor. Among the bills signed into law was AB 685.

Governor Evers Signs Income Tax Subtraction for Fraud Losses Bill into Law

On April 3, 2026, [AB 685](#) (relating to individual income tax subtractions for losses due to financial exploitation) was signed into law by Governor Evers, and is now **2025 Wisconsin Act 192**. 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. 

The following GWAAR/Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) supported bills are still awaiting action from Governor Evers including the following **housing-related bills**:

- [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 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. 

Additionally, we are anxiously awaiting the Governor's action on this **financial exploitation-related bill**:

[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

Save the Date Reminder: WAAN 2026 Aging Advocacy Day of Action

Mark your calendars, on **Wed., May 6, 2026, from 1:00 -2:00 p.m.**, 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. **WAAN has selected these three issues as the priorities for our Day of Action training and campaign:**



1. Older Americans Act – **State funding for home-delivered meals**
2. ADRC – **State funding**
3. Falls Prevention – **State funding**

The 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.**

Please share your plans for your in-district meeting with Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Director, GWAAR at: janet.zander@gwaar.org. Check out the Day of Action website to view La Crosse County’s - [How-To Guide: Planning and Hosting an In-District Legislative Meeting](#) and other resources.

Thanks to our sponsors (listed on our Day of Action webpage), funds are available to help support expenses related to your in-district meeting. Anyone interested in being added as a sponsor can find more information here: <https://gwaar.org/waan-day-of-action-2026>. **An application to request in-district funding support will be added soon.** Stay tuned for more information.

President Trump’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Budget Released (Excerpts from USAging, our national area agency on aging association)

The Trump Administration [released several budget documents](#) last Friday (4/03/26) as part of the president’s budget for FY 2027: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-resources/budget/>

The president is proposing a 10-percent overall cut to non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding in FY 2027. NDD funding represents roughly 14 percent of federal spending and includes Older Americans Act (OAA), State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and a host of other government efforts that support older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers outside of the mandatory funding programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

As of now, full details on the president’s proposed funding levels for OAA and the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) have not been released. However, it appears that several areas of ACL received funding modest increases. The budget does contain details on some agencies and programs. The following programs are slated for elimination LIHEAP, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and OAA Title V Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP). Additionally, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is slated for major cuts, reducing the budget to about \$91 million from an original \$551 million. This funding would be available for use until the end of FY 2028 (September 30, 2028) but would certainly run out before then.

It’s important to remember that the president’s budget blueprint and not an actual appropriations bill. Congress must agree to implement these levels through their appropriations process, which is just getting started.

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>



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), <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) (<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.

Reminder: 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

Need to Know

💡 Explore Trualta: Free Virtual Learning Opportunity 💡

Friday, April 17, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

We invite you to join an upcoming virtual session to learn more about Trualta, an innovative online platform offering 24/7 education, tools, and support for family caregivers across Wisconsin.

-continued-

- ♥ Session Topics Include:
- 🧠 Dementia Care
- 💪 Caregiver Wellness
- ⚠️ Fall Prevention
- 🌈 Autism Supports

👥 Who Should Attend?

Caregiver Coordinators, ADRC and Aging Unit staff, Tribal partners, employers, HR professionals, and all family caregivers. Open & FREE to all Wisconsinites.

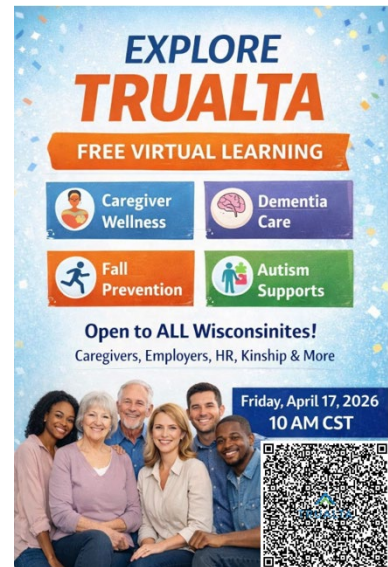
🔗 **Registration:** <https://bit.ly/4twc1Yr>

📢 Please help us spread the word!

We encourage Caregiver Coordinators and partners across the Aging & Disability Network to share this opportunity with colleagues, community partners, caregivers, and families. 🏛️ We also welcome elected officials and community leaders who would like to learn more about how Trualta supports family caregivers across Wisconsin.

Together, we can expand access to valuable resources and strengthen support for caregivers statewide.

♥ Thank you for your continued commitment to Wisconsin’s caregiving community.



Nice to Know

Reminder: 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:

- 👁️ 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



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



-continued-

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://wisconsin caregiver.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.

Reminder: 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>



Fiscal Resources and Data Management

Carrie Kroetz, Data Management and Technology Coordinator

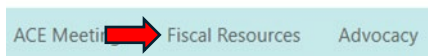
Need to Know

Reminders

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

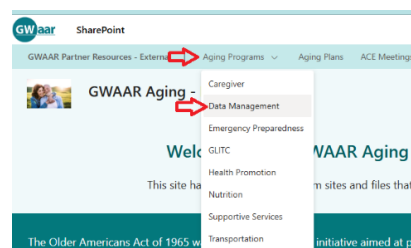
<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources> | Aging Programs | [Data Management](#)

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



2026 Budgets

The 2026 budget form, online transfer and waiver requests were due March 31. If you have not submitted all three forms please do so ASAP.



-continued-

****Funding Controls****

As we are preparing to distribute January expense payments, we wanted to remind you of the funding controls that could limit GWAAR from fully paying your agency. For State contracts funding controls are in place until 07-01-2026 and for Federal contracts funding controls will be in place until the full OAA award is received by BADR from ACL as noted below.

- Title IIIB, C2, D and E: 4-month control
- Title IIIC1: 2-month control
- SSCS, EBS, Elder Abuse and AFCSP: 6-month control

How does this impact your agency? As an example, if your IIIC1 allocation is \$100,000 your agency is limited to a payment of \$16,667 or 2 months' worth of the contract. On the claim form we do ask that you continue to report expenses against contract, so GWAAR is able to submit these expenses for payment. Once the funds are released, this will allow for the State to pay GWAAR during the next distribution of funds, versus delaying submission and therefore payment to Aging Units.

Additionally, if your agency did not submit your 2026 Budget and Online Transfer Form by the March 31 deadline, GWAAR had to take into consideration the maximum request to transfer which would reduce your available allocation and funding control amount. As an example, if your IIIC1 allocation is \$100,000 and the maximum IIIC1 transfer request is 40% the available allocation will be reduced to \$60,000 and then the funding control will be applied to that amount – or leaving available \$10,000 for payment. Those Aging Units who have submitted their 2026 Budget and Online Transfer form, the request applied for will be used. (Also, please remember to submit the Online Waiver Request form along with the budget.)

****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 April 17. 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.

-continued-

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):

<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](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 – GLITC will be hosting the Tribal Fiscal and Data Training along with the May TAU meeting. Please contact GLITC for more information regarding registration and hotel accommodations.

Meeting Date	Location	Address
21-May	Menominee Tribe - Keshena	Menominee Casino & Resort N277 WI-47 Keshena, WI 54135

Medicare Outreach and Assistance

[Stephanie Haas](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

Medicare Outreach Training

Reframing Aging: Changing the Conversation

Tuesday, April 28 | 2:00 -3:00 p.m.

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselors, supervisors, and other interested agency staff are invited to an optional training on Reframing Aging: Changing the Conversation. In this training, participants will learn about Reframing Aging and how the way we talk about aging shapes perceptions, trust, and engagement. By shifting away from outdated language and instead use messaging that is respectful, inclusive, and empowering participants will strengthen their outreach, build stronger connections with the people they serve, and support more informed decision-making.

Live meeting link: <https://bit.ly/4e4PIRd>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008980>



The flyer features a blue and orange wavy header. The main title is "MEDICARE OUTREACH TRAINING" in bold orange letters. Below it, a dark blue box contains the subtitle "Reframing Aging: Changing the Conversation" in white. The body text describes the training for SHIP staff. At the bottom, there are three blue boxes with white text: "April 28, 2026", "2:00pm - 3:00pm", and "Zoom Link". To the right, an orange box provides contact information for Stephanie Haas. Logos for SHIP and GWAAR are at the bottom.

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Major Gift Applications for Home Delivered Meal funding due by April 10.

The Major Gift Home Delivered Meals funding opportunity remains open for agencies seeking support to expand meal services for older adults.

Funding is available for 2026 and 2027, and agencies may apply monthly and reapply each year. Funds must support additional meals and may not replace existing Title III or cash match funding.

Applications are due by the 10th of each month, with award notifications issued later that same month.

All application materials, instructions, and resources are available in the External SharePoint Site Major Gift folder. (for registered users) <https://bit.ly/4dzNPX9>

Questions? Please contact your GWAAR Nutrition Representative.

Volunteerism

[Nick Musson](#), *Transportation & Aging Plan Specialist*

Nice to Know

Volunteer Recognition Day April 20

Each year on April 20, we celebrate Volunteer Recognition Day, a time to thank the individuals who generously give their time to support our communities.

Across Wisconsin, volunteers are essential to aging units, ADRCs, and transportation programs. Whether delivering meals, providing rides, or offering companionship, volunteers help older adults and individuals with disabilities stay connected and independent.

In many communities, especially rural areas, these contributions are critical.

Volunteers do not just provide services; they build relationships, strengthen communities, and improve quality of life.

Volunteer Recognition Day is a reminder to say thank you, but appreciation should not stop there.

Recognizing volunteers year-round helps sustain engagement and reinforces the value they bring to our work.

To all volunteers across our network, thank you for the difference you make every day.

We encourage you to check in with your local aging unit or ADRC to see what volunteer appreciation events are happening in your community.



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

[Ingrid A. Kundering](#), *Senior Medicare Patrol Program Director*

Nice to Know

April Scam Spotlight focuses on Hospice fraud

Hospice fraud has been in the national spotlight recently, impacting the Medicare program. This month's Scam Spotlight focuses on hospice fraud and what Medicare beneficiaries need to know about it. When used appropriately, hospice services can greatly improve quality of life with a terminal diagnosis. Unfortunately, hospice fraud is a growing problem that can harm beneficiaries and misuse Medicare dollars.

Read the April Scam Spotlight: <https://bit.ly/41j1Zog>

A graphic for the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) SCAM SPOTLIGHT. It features a blue and yellow header with the text "Wisconsin SMP" and "SCAM SPOTLIGHT" in white. Below the header, it says "April 2026". The main content is titled "Hospice Fraud: What Medicare Beneficiaries Need to Know" and includes several sections: "Watch for Red Flags", "How Hospice Fraud Harms You", "Protect Yourself", and "Report Concerns". There is also a small image of a clipboard with a "HOSPICE CARE" document and a stethoscope. At the bottom, there is a logo for the SMP and contact information for reporting fraud.

Wisconsin SMP
April 2026 **SCAM SPOTLIGHT**

Hospice Fraud: What Medicare Beneficiaries Need to Know
Hospice care is meant to provide comfort, dignity, and support to people who are terminally ill and to their families. When used appropriately, hospice services can greatly improve quality of life. Unfortunately, hospice fraud is a growing problem that can harm beneficiaries and misuse Medicare funds. Understanding what hospice fraud looks like—and knowing your rights—can help protect you and your loved ones.

Watch for Red Flags

- Being enrolled in hospice without a terminal diagnosis
- Pressure to sign hospice forms quickly
- Unsolicited calls or door-to-door visits
- Offers of free services, gifts, or incentives
- Little or no hospice care provided
- A hospice provider you don't recognize on your Medicare Summary Notice

How Hospice Fraud Harms You

- Limits access to needed medical care
- Misuses your Medicare benefits
- Increases healthcare costs for everyone

Protect Yourself

- Never give your Medicare number to unsolicited callers
- Don't sign blank or incomplete forms
- Review your Medicare Summary Notice
- Talk with your doctor or a trusted caregiver before choosing hospice

Report Concerns
If you suspect hospice fraud:

- Contact your doctor
- Call your Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) for free, confidential help
- Call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**

Hospice care should be based on medical need—not pressure or promises.

Report any suspected fraud or suspicious activity to the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol
Call 888-818-2611 to report fraudulent activity.
For more information, visit www.smpwi.org.

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 50199PGC102, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living
Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201