



Volume 8, No. 17 April 28, 2026  
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**AGING  
ADVOCACY**

**DAY OF ACTION: MAY 6**



We are **HIRING**

Learn more at [gwaar.org/jobs](https://gwaar.org/jobs)



## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

### Nice to Know

#### Healthcare in the Digital Age: Leveraging Broadband for Better Health and Stronger Communities

Please note, this course has been cancelled until further notice

*Multiple dates and locations including:*

- May 6, Dodgeville, Iowa County Law Enforcement Center
- May 19, Rice Lake, Northwood Technical College
- June 2, Milwaukee, ThriveOn King



Community Economic Development  
Division of Extension

Explore the critical connection between broadband access and improved health outcomes—and how these advancements drive local economic growth at a free daylong workshop.

As broadband availability grows, the question becomes: How can we maximize its impact on health outcomes and quality of life? This workshop will provide a forum for actionable strategies that strengthen communities and foster economic resilience.

Registration and additional information: <https://bit.ly/4ua28GP>

#### 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](mailto:john.schnabl@gwaar.org)



**Reminder: Retirement celebration for Janet Zander**

Thursday, May 14 | visit any time from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Room 315, 1414 MacArthur Road; Madison, WI 53714

Please join us in congratulating Janet Zander, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, on her retirement after 13 years with GWAAR and more than three decades dedicated to the aging network. An open house celebration will be held on Thursday, May 14 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Snacks and light refreshments will be provided. Congratulations Janet!



If you wish to send a card, please feel free to mail it to: 1414 MacArthur Rd., Madison, WI 53714

Cards will be forwarded once received.

**Reminder: Congratulations Doreen Goetsch!**

From [Ingrid A. Kunding](#), Senior Medicare Patrol Program Director

Please join me in thanking Doreen Goetsch for her years of service the Wisconsin Aging Network and congratulating her on her upcoming retirement! Doreen has been a fierce advocate for older people in Wisconsin and a strong support for the APS network. Doreen worked both at the local and state level, focusing on the importance of training and making resources available for people impacted by elder abuse. During her time at GWAAR, Doreen worked with local communities to strengthen their ability to recognize and support people facing elder abuse while strengthening the referral network. Doreen's work with direct service providers, law enforcement, faith leaders has made an impact and for that we are grateful. Thank you, Doreen, for your dedicated years of service! We wish you all the best in your retirement!



**Reminder: We are hiring**

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

**[Guardianship Support Center Managing Attorney](#)**

We are hiring a full-time attorney in our Elder Law & Advocacy Center. This is a full-time grant-funded position managing the Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center. The attorney will staff a statewide telephone helpline providing neutral information on adult guardianship and related matters, collaborate with statewide partners and counties to promote and educate consumers on advance directives, and participate in broad-based workgroups on guardian training and systems advocacy.

To apply, send cover letter and resume to: [info@gwaar.org](mailto:info@gwaar.org).

**[View the full position description:](https://bit.ly/4tr4sJx)** <https://bit.ly/4tr4sJx>



**[Health Promotion Program Specialist](#)**

GWAAR is seeking a dedicated, full-time Health Promotion Program Specialist to join our team.

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

[Jean.lynch@gwaar.org](mailto:Jean.lynch@gwaar.org) | **[View full job description:](https://bit.ly/41ndRph)** <https://bit.ly/41ndRph>

## Advocacy

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

### Nice to Know

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#### Advocacy Updates

With the state legislature's regular session for this biennium completed, the aging network's advocacy focus now turns to unfinished business from this session that we want to see introduced in the next session, either as stand-alone legislation or included in the 2027-2029 State Budget. Did you know state departments are already busy working on the next biennial budget? State departments will receive their budget instructions this summer and by September will be required to submit their budgets. So, what does this mean for our work?

Now is the time for us to review our policy priorities, review our messaging (does it need to be reframed - [Reframing Aging & Disability in Wisconsin CHAMPION?](#)), and prepare our materials for the next session and budget. Next, we will need to meet with the state departments that have purview over our policy issues (generally the Department of Health Services and the Department of Transportation but could also include agencies like the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, Department of Financial Institutions, and others) to review and discuss our priorities.

It is also time for us to communicate our legislative priorities to the broader aging network and to listen for any new emerging priority needs. We should also be discussing the priorities with our boards and advisory committees, community members, our partner and provider agencies, legislators and candidates. With a Partisan Primary Election on Aug. 11, 2026 and the General Election on Nov. 5, 2026, it is never too soon to be encouraging candidates to include our issues in their platforms!

**We will be discussing the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's (WAAN's) top three priorities during our Aging Advocacy Day-of-Action on May 6<sup>th</sup>!** See the information below and make sure you [register](#) [to attend](#) (you must register in order to receive the link to join, see the registration link below).

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

Wednesday, May 6 | 1:00 -2:00 p.m.

Registration deadline for virtual training, May 4

Mark your calendars, on Wed., **May 6, 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.

<https://gwaar.org/waan-day-of-action-2026>

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**

**Click here to register for the virtual training on May 6:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gSh5PNw6QYG67RVUqaGcEA>

(registration is limited to the first 300 participants). The **deadline to register is 5 p.m. on Mon., May 4.**

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The day-of-action will be complemented by local, in-district events held by WAAN core members throughout the state. **Local meeting hosts are encouraged to schedule in-district meetings between now and the end of October 2026. Please share your plans for your in-district events with Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Director, GWAAR at: [janet.zander@gwaar.org](mailto: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 reimbursement of in-district expenses (up to \$300) can be found here:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008991>.

### Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2027 Budget

Our focus also remains on federal issues, including the FFY 2027 budget. The flat funding for Older American's Act and other aging-related programs included in the President's budget is insufficient for programs to meet current and future needs. Additionally, the President's proposed cuts (including complete elimination) of major programs in the next budget will cause harm to many older adults. To see the specific funding levels for OAA and other aging services programs, see USAging's latest [Appropriations Chart-April 6, 2026](#). Use WAAN's Older Americans Act Action Alert to urge your federal lawmakers to boost funding for OAA programs and to protect other critical aging services and programs in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2027. **The email and advocacy ask in the action alert are editable** so you can personalize your message and share how OAA programs are working for you or others in your community and any challenges you are experiencing. 🗝️ **Take Action :** <https://bit.ly/4dqmCGt>

USAging's latest [Appropriations Chart-April 6, 2026](#):

[https://www.usaging.org/Files/FY 2027 Appropriations Chart April 2026 \(2\).pdf](https://www.usaging.org/Files/FY 2027 Appropriations Chart April 2026 (2).pdf)

We are also keeping track of Congressional action on:

- The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) America Act ([HR 7296](#)) which would impose unnecessary documentation requirements on the voting process (both at registration and the polls, and for absentee ballots to be received by election day) and make it harder for some Americans to participate in elections.  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/7296/related-bills>
- A second budget reconciliation bill (remember HR. 1 – One Big Beautiful Bill Act) that could make further changes to Medicaid.

### Reminder: Federal Funding Fallout: Updates and Q&A

Cuts to federal Medicaid spending continue to be a top concern, however other programs important to people with disabilities may cut through the reconciliation bill process, and the administration is making changes at several federal agencies including the Dept. of Health and Human Services, Social Security, and Education that directly impact people with disabilities.

**5/1 English registration:** <https://bit.ly/FedFunds51>

**5/1 Spanish registration:** <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpa51>

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



## Family Caregiver Support

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[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

### Need to Know

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#### Reminder: [WisconsinCaregiver.org](https://wisconsin caregiver.org/): A Free Resource for You and the Caregivers You Support ✨

A reminder to Caregiver Coordinators and partners across the Aging & Disability Network that [WisconsinCaregiver.org](https://wisconsin caregiver.org/) is a free, statewide resource hub designed to support both professionals and family caregivers.

The site has undergone major upgrades in recent months, making it easier than ever to navigate and connect Wisconsinites to local Aging Units, ADRCs, and Tribal partners.

♥ Caregivers can:

- ✓ Find trusted resources and supports
- ✓ Access education and training (including Trualta)
- ✓ Connect to local services by county or Tribe

Professionals can also use the site as a go-to tool for referrals, outreach, and education—helping caregivers access the right supports at the right time.

📣 Please continue to share widely with caregivers, colleagues, and community partners to ensure more individuals know help is available.

🌐 Visit: <https://wisconsin caregiver.org/>

Together, we can make it easier for caregivers across Wisconsin to find the support they need.



### Nice to Know

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#### Reminder: Upcoming National Caregiving Advisory Council Meeting ✨

📅 Wednesday, April 29 | 🕒 1:00 – 5:30 p.m.

The RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council and the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren will hold a joint meeting.

This national meeting will bring together thought leaders to discuss the evolving caregiving landscape and help inform updates to the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers.

We're proud to share that Lynn Gall, Manager of Family Caregiver Support and Lifespan Respite Programs (DHS Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources/Office on Aging), will be presenting on Wisconsin's work advancing the National Strategy and supporting caregivers across the state.

📺 Watch live:



<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/joint-meeting-raise-family-caregiving-advisory-council-advisory-0>

📣 We encourage partners across the Aging & Disability Network to tune in and learn more about national and state-level efforts to strengthen support for family caregivers.

For questions: [SGRG.mail@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:SGRG.mail@acl.hhs.gov) or [RAISE.mail@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:RAISE.mail@acl.hhs.gov)




## Reminder: Caregiver Navigation & Innovation Strategies Webinar

 Thursday, April 30 |  1:00–2:00 p.m.

Join this engaging session featuring USAging and national partners to explore how organizations are strengthening caregiver navigation across the aging network. Learn about:

- The caregiver navigation continuum
- Replicable models across states, tribes and communities
- Strategies to better support caregivers and improve access to services


 Perfect for Aging Units, ADRCs, Tribal partners and community organizations!



 Register here: <https://bit.ly/4vMYZ1k>



## Reminder: Upcoming Events & Resources for Relative Caregivers


Across Wisconsin, many older adults step into caregiving roles for grandchildren and other relatives. Below are a few upcoming resources and events you may wish to share with kinship and relative caregivers in your communities.



 Families Like Mine – Northern Wisconsin

 May 16 |  10:00 a.m. –2:00 p.m. | FREE

Regional drop-in event for relatives raising children through formal or informal caregiving arrangements.

**Register:** <https://bit.ly/4tC1i5V>

 Families Like Mine – Southwestern Wisconsin

 June 6 |  10:00 a.m. –2:00 p.m. | FREE

Connect with other relative caregivers and learn about available supports and resources.

**Register:** <https://bit.ly/4trj0sG>



## Fiscal Resources and Data Management

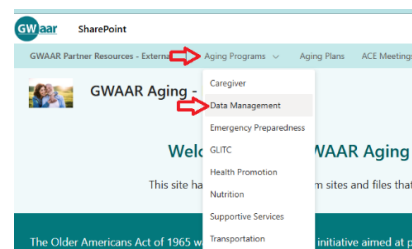
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

### Need to Know

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](#)



### \*\*PeerPlace Review and Cleanup\*\*

GWAAR will conduct another round of data review over the next few weeks and will reach out to Aging Units regarding noticed errors. Thank you all for being so prompt in addressing these! Just as a reminder, 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>

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       | <b>Registration closed</b> | 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       | <b>Registration closed</b> | 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<br>N277 WI-47, Keshena, WI 54135 |