



Volume 8, No. 24 June 16, 2026  
608-243-5670 | [info@gwaar.org](mailto:info@gwaar.org) | [gwaar.org](http://gwaar.org)



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

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### ***Need to Know***

#### **Reminder: Third quarter ACE meeting**

Wednesday, July 8 | 10:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Lee Sherman Dreyfus University Center, Stevens Point

#### **View the agenda:**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009050>

### Quarterly ACE Meeting

Wednesday, July 8

Stevens Point  
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



## Advocacy

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[Emily Petersen](#), Advocacy and Public Policy Director

### ***Need to Know***

#### **Action Alert: FFY2027 Older Americans Act Funding**

Last week, the House Appropriations Committee released recommended funding levels for the FY2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Funding bill.

They recommended **increased** funding in several Older Americans Act (OAA) program areas, including Title III C Nutrition programs (home-delivered and congregate), Title VI Native American Aging programs, and the Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman program.

Several other ancillary programs received an increase: AmeriCorps, including Senior programs, Community Development Block Grants, and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

All other OAA programs were recommended for level-funding.

**The appropriations process now moves to the Senate as that chamber advances its own version of the FY 2027 appropriations bill, which is expected to occur in July. While we are glad that OAA Title VI, Title III C and Title VI LTCOP received increases in the House bill, we'll be working to increase those levels and add increases to our other priorities: OAA Title III B Supportive Services and Title III E NFCSP. And of course, we'd love to see a much-needed boost to Title III D!**

Now is the time to advocate for the programs and services that help us all age in place! Share with your legislators the importance of home-delivered meals, social support programs, caregiver support, and more.

**Please use and customize the action alert to send an email to your representatives this week:**

<http://bit.ly/4u2koCq>

Be sure you are reviewing the email text before sending as there are blanks to fill in and opportunities to share your story!



## Federal Medicaid Work Requirement Updates

H.R. 1, passed on July 4, 2025, added work requirements to Medicaid. This new requirement will affect some members enrolled in BadgerCare Plus (including those enrollees aged 60+) in 2027.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) launched [a new webpage](#) with information about the new federal Medicaid requirement including when it will go into effect, how to meet it, and reasons people may be exempt.

**View the new WI DHS webpage:** <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/work.htm>

## Medicaid Work Requirement Webinar

Thursday, June 18 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

DHS is hosting a webinar focusing solely on this new federal Medicaid work requirement. This webinar will take place on Thursday, June 18 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. During the webinar, DHS staff will share an overview of the requirement, the implementation timeline, and planned communication to Medicaid members.

Register to attend the webinar [here](#). <https://bit.ly/3S9RWAA>

Staff will answer questions during the webinar received in advance. Send questions to [DHSForwardHealthPartners@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSForwardHealthPartners@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

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## Nice to Know

### In-District Meetings

Legislators are in their districts and eager to hear from constituents about the issues that matter. Now is a great time to schedule an In-District Aging Advocacy event in your region with your state Representatives and Senators. Local hosts are encouraged to schedule these events between now and the end of October 2026. When you schedule your meeting, please reach out to let us know! If you would like information about planning an In-District meeting, view our toolkit here: <https://gwaar.org/advocacy-toolkit>

### Reminder: Federal Funding Fallout Webinar

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities will cover what is happening in the state and the latest in Congress, actions the federal administration is taking, and the impacts HR 1 is having on state budgets, disability services, family caregivers, and the health and home and community-based care systems.

**6/19 English registration:** <https://bit.ly/3Qd6QWc>

**6/19 Spanish registration:** <https://bit.ly/4xogaqP>



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## Emergency Preparedness

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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### Nice to Know

#### Reminder: Get #SummerReady

Extreme heat is expected to become more frequent and intense in the future. #SummerReady aims to raise awareness of the impacts of extreme heat and the simple steps to stay prepared. There are also tips for **Firework Safety, Water Safety and Grilling Safety.**

-continued-

View tips from Ready.gov: <https://www.ready.gov/summer-ready>

Firework awareness resources from US Fire Administration include handouts in English and Spanish about outdoor fire safety, including fireworks, grills and campfires: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outdoor-fires/index.html>

### National Lightning Safety Awareness Week: June 21 - 27, 2026

This page provides an overview of how to prepare for a thunderstorm, and tips to stay safe during and after the storm. View the resources from Ready.gov: <https://www.ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning>



## Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

### Nice to Know

#### Free Virtual Training Opportunity: Discover Wisconsin's Caregiver Learning Library Through Tualta

Wednesday, June 24 | 12:00 p.m. Free Virtual Event

The Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA), in partnership with Wisconsin DHS, invites caregivers, professionals, employers, and community partners to join a live virtual tour of Wisconsin's free Tualta caregiver education platform.

#### Caregiver Education & Training at Your Fingertips: A Tualta Tour

Participants will receive a guided overview of Tualta's online learning library and resources, including:

- Dementia Care
- Working & Caregiving
- Caregiver Wellness
- Falls Prevention
- Autism Support
- Medications
- Emergency Planning
- Burnout Recovery

Tualta offers hundreds of educational videos, learning modules, practical tools, and resources designed to support family caregivers, professionals, employers, HR staff, grandfamilies, and community partners across Wisconsin.

Register for the Tualta Tour: <https://bit.ly/4gmXKka>

Please help us share this opportunity through your organization's:

- Facebook and social media channels
- Newsletters
- Caregiver mailings
- Caregiver support groups
- Community calendars
- Staff and partner networks

The more caregivers and professionals we reach, the more individuals can connect to trusted education, support, and resources available through Tualta and WisconsinCaregiver.org.

Thank you for helping us spread the word!



### 📌 Upcoming Dementia Webinar Opportunity

Join the ACL-funded National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center (NADRC) for:  
Bridging Health Care and Social Services for People Living with Dementia and Their Caregivers

Wednesday, June 24 | 12:00–1:00 p.m.



As the number of people living with dementia continues to grow, collaboration between health care systems and community-based organizations is increasingly important. This webinar will highlight successful strategies for integrating health care and social services to support people living with dementia and their caregivers.

Presenters will share promising practices, implementation lessons learned, and recommendations for strengthening partnerships that help individuals remain in their homes and communities.

This free webinar may be of interest to Caregiver Coordinators, ADRC and Tribal ADRS staff, Aging Unit professionals, dementia care providers, and community partners.

🔗 **Register here:** <https://bit.ly/4eoxTpz>

Please consider sharing this opportunity with colleagues and community partners.

### 📌 Free Webinar for Professionals: Walking in Their Shoes: Engaging Students in Dementia Awareness

Learn how schools, aging services professionals, and community partners can work together to build dementia awareness, foster empathy, and create meaningful intergenerational connections.

📅 Thursday, June 25 | 🕒 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

💻 Virtual & Free

Topics include:

- 🌟 Dementia education for students
- 🌟 Experiential learning through Dementia Live®
- 🌟 Student involvement in Memory Cafés and dementia-friendly programs
- 🌟 Building community partnerships
- 🌟 Inspiring future careers in aging and dementia care

This webinar may be especially valuable for:

- 👩‍🏫 Educators
- 🧠 Dementia Care Specialists
- 🤝 ADRC, Tribal ADRS, and Aging Unit staff
- 👥 Social workers and care managers
- 🌟 Anyone interested in intergenerational programming

🔗 **Register here:** <https://bit.ly/3Q7CGUh>

Please share with colleagues, schools, and community partners!

#DementiaAwareness #IntergenerationalPrograms #AgingServices #MemoryCare #DementiaFriendly  
#WisconsinCaregivers #CommunityPartnerships



**Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

**Reminder: Conference Opportunity for Caregivers of those with Dementia & Caregiver Support Professionals**

Wednesday, August 12 | 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | First Baptist Church, Medford, WI

The ADRC of Taylor County is hosting the: **\*\*Bringing Hope & Light to the Dementia Journey Conference\*\***

This free conference is designed to support caregivers, professionals, and individuals living with dementia through education, resources, and connection. The day will include:

- ✓ Keynote speakers
- ✓ Breakout sessions
- ✓ Resource & exhibitor booths
- ✓ Networking opportunities
- ✓ Lunch provided
- ✓ On-site respite available for caregivers

This event may be especially valuable for:

- Caregiver Coordinators
- Dementia Care Specialists
- ADRC Specialists
- Aging Network Professionals
- Healthcare & Community Partners

Registration is free, but required by July 31, 2026.

**IMPORTANT:** Caregivers needing on-site respite services must complete respite paperwork by July 1, 2026, to allow time for staffing and intake coordination.

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/261195163050147>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009057>

**BRINGING HOPE & LIGHT TO THE DEMENTIA JOURNEY CONFERENCE**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026**  
**TIME: 8:00AM-4:00PM**  
**LOCATION: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**751 GRACE WAY, MEDFORD, WI 54451**

The ADRC of Taylor County is excited to bring Hope & Light to the Northwoods! The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Bringing Hope & Light to the Dementia Journey" conference is designed to empower our community dementia caregivers, and those living with dementia through education, resources, and support. The conference agenda includes two keynote speakers, 8 breakout sessions and a variety of exhibitor/resource booths.

The ADRC of Taylor County is partnering with BRI in Medford to provide [gwaar.org](https://gwaar.org) so caregivers can attend and actively participate in the conference with the peace of mind that their loved one is in a safe environment. Conference attendees will also receive lunch at no cost.

**A huge THANK YOU to our conference sponsors:**

Registration is now open! Click on the link below or scan the QR to be taken to the online registration form. Please fill out our registration form per person. Please indicate on the form if you or your loved one would like to participate in Respite care so we can forward that reservation to the contracted providers who will be performing the Respite registration. **Deadline for respite applications is July 1, 2026.**

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE**  
 Or scan the QR code

**QUESTIONS??**  
 Contact: DANA DETWILER  
 ADRC Dementia Care Specialist  
 751-741-1888  
[dana.dettwiler@adrcwi.org](mailto:dana.dettwiler@adrcwi.org)

**Schedule for 8/12/26**

8:00-8:30	Check In, Respite, Dementia Respite from open
8:30-9:00	Keynote & Networking
9:00-9:30	Breakfast
9:30-10:00	Breakout Sessions
10:00-10:30	Breakout Sessions
10:30-11:00	Breakout Sessions
11:00-11:30	Breakout Sessions
11:30-12:00	Breakout Sessions
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Breakout Sessions
1:00-1:30	Breakout Sessions
1:30-2:00	Breakout Sessions
2:00-2:30	Breakout Sessions
2:30-3:00	Breakout Sessions
3:00-3:30	Breakout Sessions
3:30-4:00	Breakout Sessions

**Medicare Outreach and Assistance**

Stephanie Haas, Medicare Outreach Coordinator

**Nice to Know**

**Medicare Mingle**

Wednesday, June 24 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/4fNHPvc>

Medicare Mingle is a casual and informative meeting aimed at supporting Wisconsin SHIP counselors in their role of guiding individuals through the Medicare process.

View 2026 dates: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008905>

Medicare Mingle provides a chance for SHIP Counselors to:

- Connect with your peers
- Offer and receive support
- Seek advice
- Explore outreach strategies, what's working and what's not
- Discuss various Medicare topics

Are you a SHIP counselor in search of support, advice, or a chance to connect with other counselors? Discover Medicare Mingle, a gathering designed to encourage collaboration, share experiences, and boost your Medicare outreach initiatives. Medicare Mingle is set in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and offers the ideal opportunity to learn and share your knowledge.

Medicare Mingle is a casual and informative meeting aimed at supporting Wisconsin SHIP counselors in their role of guiding individuals through the Medicare process. Medicare Mingle provides a chance for SHIP Counselors to:

- Discuss different topics
- Offer support to other counselors
- Ask advice on challenging cases
- Explore outreach strategies

**2026 MEDICARE MINGLE DATES:**

Wed-Fri: 6/24/26	9:00am-10:00am	<a href="#">2026 Link</a>
Wed-Fri: 8/27/26	9:00am-10:00am	<a href="#">2026 Link</a>
Wed-Fri: 10/1/26	9:00am-10:00am	<a href="#">2026 Link</a>
Wed-Fri: 11/4/26	9:00am-10:00am	<a href="#">2026 Link</a>
Wed-Fri: 12/2/26	9:00am-10:00am	<a href="#">2026 Link</a>

**JOIN STEPHANIE HAAS, MEDICARE OUTREACH COORDINATOR AT THE NEXT MEDICARE MINGLE!**

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at [stephanie@adrcwi.org](mailto:stephanie@adrcwi.org).

**SHIP** State Health Insurance Assistance Program

**GW** Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

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# Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

## Nice to Know

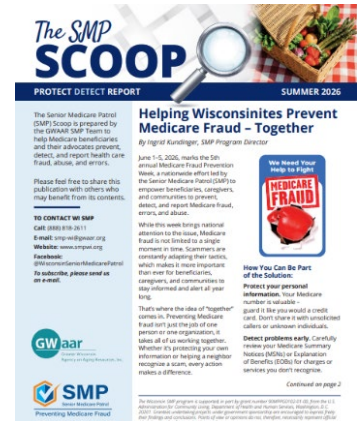
### Reminder: WI Senior Medicare Patrol Newsletter - Summer 2026

This issue of the SMP Scoop features recognition of the 5th annual Medicare Fraud Prevention Week, highlights expanding outreach efforts in tribal communities, the health benefits of gardening for older adults, a new crypto kiosk law in Wisconsin to stop criminals in their tracks, why gut health matters, a re-cap of the annual Volunteer Retreat, and so much more!

You are welcome (and encouraged) to share this newsletter with anyone you think might find the information useful – whether it be consumers, Medicare beneficiaries, neighbors, family and friends, those who work with older adults, etc.

Please feel free to contact the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol if you have any questions. We can be reached at our toll-free helpline, (888) 818-2611 or by email, [smp-wi@gwaar.org](mailto:smp-wi@gwaar.org).

Read the Summer Scoop: <https://bit.ly/4vjDFzk>



### Reminder: June Scam Spotlight focuses on Unnecessary Tests and Services

Medicare pays for services that are medically necessary to diagnose or treat a medical condition. When providers order unnecessary tests, services or equipment, it can be Medicare fraud.

Read the June Scam Spotlight: <https://bit.ly/4xklk7t>

