



Volume 8, No. 27 July 7, 2026
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

ACE Meeting happening tomorrow!

Wednesday, July 8 | 10:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Registration/refreshments 9:00 a.m., lunch included

*Lee Sherman Dreyfus University Center | 1015 Reserve Street,
3rd Floor, Alumni Room | Stevens Point, WI 54481*

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the ACE Meeting on Wednesday, July 8 in Stevens Point. Parking is available in Lots R and Y. Parking permits were emailed on Sunday, July 5. If you registered and did NOT receive your parking permit, please contact [Rosanna Mazzara](mailto:Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org) at Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org

Please review the updated agenda, which includes an updated list of breakout sessions for the afternoon.

View the updated agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009050>



Nice to Know

Introducing Madeline Guthrie, Benefit Specialist Support Attorney

Please join us in welcoming Madeline Guthrie, newest Benefit Specialist Support Attorney with the Elder Law Center at GWAAR! Madeline is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, and she comes to us from ABC for Health where she worked with clients of all ages to connect them with health care coverage. Prior to that, Madeline was a staff attorney at Legal Action of Wisconsin. Madeline lives in Madison with her spouse and two cats and in her free time enjoys hiking and reading. Her first day with GWAAR was July 6. Welcome, Madeline! We look forward to working with you on the EBS support team!

Reminder: ADILN Conference Breakout Session Schedule Now Available

September 21-23 | 1305 Kalahari Drive, Wisconsin Dells

Professionals in the fields of aging and disabilities contribute to a stronger Wisconsin for everyone. We work to advance the shared goal of ensuring that we can all live our best lives at any age or ability. Through learning together, exploring best practices, and evolving mindsets, we stay energized for the mission ahead.

View the schedule: <https://bit.ly/4u4xleu>

Registration (Early bird deadline August 21): <https://bit.ly/4sMtnGp>

Sponsorship opportunities: <https://bit.ly/4oWIBsc>

Direct questions and concerns to Helen Sampson at Helen.Sampson@dhs.wisconsin.gov.



Reminder: 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



Advocacy

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

Need to Know

Be Ready to Vote in 2026!

There are two very important elections coming up in 2026—make sure you have a plan to vote!

Partisan Primary: Tuesday, August 11, 2026

General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Check your registration status, what's on your ballot, and where your polling place is at <https://myvote.wi.gov>. The Disability Vote Coalition has a [helpful fact sheet](#) (English and Spanish) so you can be ready to vote this year!

<https://disabilityvote.org/2025/be-ready-to-vote-in-2026/>

More information about the candidates on your ballot can be found at <https://www.vote411.org>.

Need a ride to the polls? The Disability Vote Coalition has compiled [a list of transportation providers that are offering free rides to the polls](#) for individuals with disabilities and older adults. Please share this resource with anyone who may be interested!

<https://disabilityvote.org/2025/rides-to-the-polls/>

Nice to Know

Upcoming Candidate Forum: July 25, 2026

The Small Town and Rural Seniors of Wisconsin (STARS) is hosting a Governor Candidate Town Hall on Saturday, July 25, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Ho-Chunk Conference Center in Baraboo, WI. The planned discussion topics include nursing home care, transportation, housing, care workers, food security, dementia care, and more. Confirmed candidates attending include Francesca Hong, Joel Brennan, Andrew Manske, Kelda Roys, and Sara Rodriguez. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.stars-wi.org>

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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.

7/10 English registration: <https://bit.ly/4ew4Cuf>

7/10 Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/4oNo0q5>



Elder Abuse Programs

[Donna Rosner](#), Elder Abuse Program Specialist

Nice to Know

Elder abuse direct service funds guidance document available

View the document here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2009087>

Please contact Donna.Rosner@gwaar.org with any questions regarding allowable use of these funds.

Reminder:

Save the date: 2027 Adult Protective Services Conference

April 12-14, 2027 | Wilderness, Wisconsin Dells

Forward Together: Advancing Partnerships to Improve Prevention & Response to Adult and Elder Abuse.

This two-day conference will bring together adult protective services staff and statewide partners to strengthen support for adults at risk of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation. It will focus on serving adults with complex needs and improving inter agency collaboration for better prevention and response.

Learn more: <https://www.uwgb.edu/adult-protective-services/2027-conference/>



Emergency Preparedness

[Evan Ewing](#), Health Promotion Program Specialist

Nice to Know

Safeguard Critical Documents and Valuables

Safeguarding important financial records, medical records and contact information in advance of any potential disaster can provide peace of mind and decrease stress in the event that disaster strikes. Having access to these documents is important in the recovery process. Taking inventory of your household documents, contacts, and valuables is a great first step.

The checklist here can help you get started: <https://bit.ly/4vm0AJX>

Visit Ready.gov for a more detailed Emergency Financial First Aid Kit:
<https://www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness>



Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Nice to Know

New Podcast Series: The Care Economy

Looking for a new caregiver resource? Check out The Care Economy: Practical Approaches to Family Caregiving and Financial Well-Being, hosted by Maureen Feldman.

♥ Topics include:

- Family caregiving & financial stability
- Workplace support for caregivers
- Legal planning
- Policy solutions
- Real-life caregiving experiences

We encourage caregivers, professionals, employers, advocates, and community partners to listen and share!

 **Listen here:** <https://gero.usc.edu/centers/cg-security/podcast/>

 **Additional caregiver resources:** <https://wisconsincaregiver.org/>



Webinar Opportunity: Identifying & Supporting Young Carers

 Tuesday, July 21 |  1:00 p.m.

Did you know that many children and teens provide care for a family member, often without ever identifying as a "caregiver"?

Join nationally recognized researcher and advocate Dr. Melinda S. Kavanaugh on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 1:00 PM CT to learn how to identify young carers, implement the Young Carer Screener and Toolkit, strengthen referral pathways, and build more family-centered systems of care.

 Ideal for Caregiver Coordinators, ADRC staff, healthcare professionals, educators, and others supporting families. Small changes in practice can make a big difference for young carers.

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



Fiscal Resources and Data Management

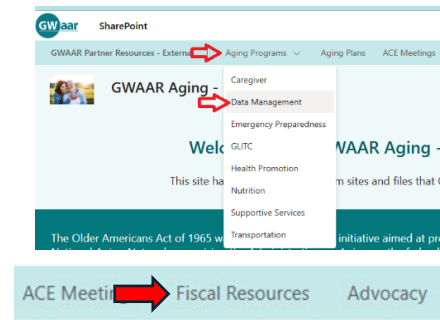
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

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](#)



****IIID Match Requirement**** – During a training with ACL GWAAR was made aware, and confirmed with the BADR, that the match requirement for IIID is no longer in effect. However, continue to report Cash Match (Tax Levy/Tribal Funds) once contract dollars have been fully spent to show the true full cost of the service provided.

****AFCSP Mid-Year Report**** – The AFCSP Mid-Year Report is an additional tab on the claim form to be completed by August 5th. For those Aging Units who have the AFCSP contract through GWAAR the mid-year report will automatically populate, with some additional information needed to be completed manually. For those Aging Units whose contract is with BADR, this form will be sent out for completion also to be due on August 5th. Keep watch for an upcoming webinar regarding the completion of this report.

****Major Gift Recipients**** – If you are a Major Gift fund recipient just a reminder to review the instructions and complete the Major Gift Meal Reporting tab to report actual meals served and number of clients that were removed from the waitlist or those who had expanded meals provided.

****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.

Health Promotion

[Evan Ewing](#), Health Promotion Program Specialist

Nice to Know

Walk with Ease (WWE) participant workbook update

Administration for Community Living (ACL) has asked The National Council on Aging (NCOA) to share the following time-sensitive message related to implementation of Walk with Ease (WWE) under Title III-D funding. Please communicate this information as appropriate and relevant for your AAAs and local service providers delivering WWE in your state.

ACL has been made aware of a shortage of Walk with Ease participant workbooks due to a shipping delay

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with a lead-time of approximately 12 weeks. This has the potential for disrupting WWE implementation and risking program fidelity for those organizations implementing WWE under Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-D, as well as ACL's discretionary CDSME grantees.

For those impacted by this shipping delay, the Arthritis Foundation, the developer of WWE, has extended the following allowances, and ACL is permitting these allowances for all affected providers delivering WWE under OAA Title III-D or Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs (CDSME) discretionary funding during this shortage.

- Audiobooks may be used with participants and would still meet fidelity requirements. This can help ensure participants are able to follow along with the content while workbook inventory is replenished.
 - Get Your Audio Copy / Español - Available on all major audiobook distributor including local library Libby and Hoopla apps.
- For those just getting started, programs can begin using approved alternative materials like the audiobook while awaiting shipment, without jeopardizing fidelity, as long as core program components are maintained.
- While delayed, printing chapters is permitted.

Walk With Ease Leader Resources: <https://bit.ly/3R4OUNR>

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Nice to Know

Common Good Philanthropies Major Gift Continues to Make a Difference

Since early 2026, GWAAR has been distributing funding made possible through a generous major gift from Common Good Philanthropies to strengthen home-delivered meal programs throughout our service area. These funds are helping local nutrition programs reduce home-delivered meal waitlists and restore or expand delivery routes that have been reduced, ensuring more older adults can receive nutritious meals and remain independent in their homes. Applications are due to your GWAAR Nutrition Representative by the 10th of each month and are reviewed monthly as funding remains available.

Reminder: Free Produce Food Safety Nutrition Education Materials Available for Download

Fresh fruits and vegetables are one of the best parts of summer—and they're an important part of a healthy diet. As farmers markets and home gardens fill with colorful produce, it's also a great time to review safe produce handling practices.

While fresh produce is nutritious, it can sometimes carry harmful bacteria such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, and *Listeria*. Following a few simple food safety steps—like washing your hands before handling produce, rinsing fruits and vegetables under running water, keeping produce separate from raw meat, and refrigerating cut produce promptly—can help reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

Looking for educational materials to share? The Partnership for Food Safety Education offers free consumer handouts, posters, social media graphics, and other resources to help promote safe produce handling. Visit [Safe Produce Resources](#) to access these free materials.

Safe Produce Resources: <https://fightbac.org/food-safety-education/safe-produce/>

Reminder: Sun, Fun, and Food Safety- Free Live Webinar!

Wednesday, July 8 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom

Summer is a time for grilling, outdoor gatherings, and fresh local foods, but warmer temperatures can also increase the risk of foodborne illness.

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3TbrRBq>

Reminder: Dietitian/Diet Technician Call

Thursday, July 9 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

We have a full agenda. Please share with your RDs and Diet Techs. Nutrition Directors are also welcome to attend if you wish.

Agenda:

- Meal Pattern Discussion
- Strong Bodies Nutrition Class and upcoming free leader training discussion
- NOURISH Class Update
- Eating Disorder for middle age and older adults Workgroup Update
- Malnutrition Awareness Week Update, Sept. 14-18, 2026

Join: <https://bit.ly/4qQ4OIs>

Meeting ID: 234 136 223 685 | Passcode: Jd3WY9LN

[+1 608-338-1382](tel:+16083381382), [195045346#](tel:+195045346#) Phone conference ID: 195 045 346#

Reminder: Home Delivered Meal (HDM) Assessor Call

Thursday, July 23 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

We are delighted to have Laura Groom, former Nutrition Director from Vernon County, who is now employee with St. Croix Hospice as our featured speaker. She will provide an overview of Hospice services to help increase our awareness of additional supports available. We will also discuss how you handle No Shows/Undeliverable Meals. Please send other agenda topics you would like to discuss.

Join: <https://bit.ly/4eEdkqx>

Meeting ID: 247 159 226 123 148 | Passcode: 6Cn6tQ3g

[+1 608-338-1382](tel:+16083381382), [855651068#](tel:+1855651068#) Phone conference ID: 855 651 068#

Reminder: 2026 Nutrition Program Cook's Training – July 15 registration deadline

Cook Strong. Serve Smart. Feed Well.

Join us this summer for the 2026 Nutrition Program Cook's Training, a hands-on learning opportunity designed specifically for Older Americans Act nutrition program kitchen staff. Spend the day with Chef Justin Johnson and the GWAAR Nutrition Team exploring practical kitchen solutions, food safety, menu quality, purchasing strategies, waste reduction, and nutrition updates.



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Training topics include:

- Real-world food safety and kitchen best practices
- Purchasing and cost-saving strategies
- Waste reduction and workflow efficiency
- Senior meal quality considerations
- Nutrition guidelines updates
- Trustwell Recipe Database resources
- Recipe sharing and networking opportunities

Choose the session that works best for your program:

- July 23, 2026 – Madison College, Madison
- August 6, 2026 – Food + Farm Exploration Center, Plover

Registration deadline: July 15, 2026 | **Cost:** \$25 per attendee

Complete the registration form: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2009068> (Word download)

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009067>

Additional location and parking information will be provided prior to the training.

Reminder: Wisconsin Aging Operations Manual Updates

Feedback deadline is Friday, July 10

The opportunity to provide feedback on the updated [Nutrition Services chapter](#)* of the Wisconsin Aging Operations Manual is now available. Comments are being collected electronically through the [Aging Operations Manual - TIII-C Nutrition Services Chapter Survey](#)* on the [ADRC and Aging SharePoint site](#)* (*accessible to State SharePoint registered users).

Nutrition Services chapter: <https://bit.ly/4v1yCD9>

Chapter survey: <https://bit.ly/4vbhFGB>

ADRC and Aging SharePoint site: <https://bit.ly/4apEfE2>



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

The deadline to submit feedback is Friday, July 10, 2026.

Partners are invited to begin the review process by providing comments on one or more sections of this chapter, or by leaving a general comment.

The revised Nutrition Services chapter incorporates policy and operational changes since the last revision in 2024. It reflects updates in the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* as of January 2026 and policy changes because of the release of the OAA Final Rule (45 CFR Part 1321).

As you review, please draw your attention to the following sections where changes were made:

- Eligibility for Services
- Level of Service (particularly carryout meals, nutrition education, unmet need and waiting lists for service)
- Nutrition Standards
- Funding sources (particularly NSIP, OAA Title III-C1)
- Reporting requirements (particularly nutrition education)

Please include page numbers and section titles with feedback as appropriate.

Questions about the Nutrition Services chapter of the Aging Operations Manual can be directed to the Elder Nutrition Program Manager at SaraS.Koenig@Wisconsin.Gov.

Tribal Technical Center

[Kassy Heard](#), TTAC Program Director

Nice to Know

2026 Family Healing Camp

August 4-6

Andrew Blackhawk Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds,
Black River Falls

The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Social Services will be hosting the 6th Annual Family Healing Camp on August 4, 5 and 6, 2026 at the Andrew Blackhawk Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds. If you would like to have an informational booth on Tuesday, August 4, please complete the registration at: <https://shc.ho-chunk.com/>

Informational booths should be set up by 10 a.m., if possible.

As always, booth participants are invited for both lunch and supper!

Share this event with any Ho-Chunk families, adults or elders.

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009088>

2026 Family Healing Camp Pre-Registration OPEN



Online Registration: Scan QR Code or

Visit <https://shc.ho-chunk.com/>

Event Details

Date: August 4, 5, & 6
Location: Andrew Blackhawk
Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds
W8426 WI-54
Black River Falls, WI 54615



Follow on Facebook to stay up to date on event details
facebook.com/groups/familyhealingcamp



Funding Opportunity:

National Resource Centers on Older Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian Programs

Applications due Monday, July 27, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET

A new funding opportunity is now available from ACL's Administration on Aging: National Resource Centers on Older Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian Programs. The awardees will receive a total of up to \$1,020,000 for a three-year project.

This funding opportunity is designed to support national resource centers that provide training, technical assistance, and resources to strengthen services for older American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. The centers will enhance program quality and promote promising practices that improve services for Native elders. They will also strengthen the capacity of organizations serving Native communities through education, outreach, and technical support.

Questions about this funding opportunity should be directed to TitleVI.Grants@acl.hhs.gov.

To learn more and view application information go to Grants.gov: <https://bit.ly/44gK1Eu>

