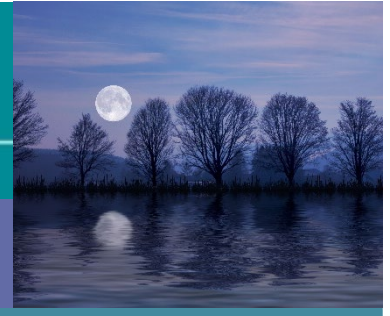




Volume 8, No. 31 August 4, 2026
608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



Leadership Opportunity

Openings available on our Board of Directors

✓ Applications welcome! **Learn more:** gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

GWAAR received a 2026 Aging Achievement Award from USAging

Congratulations to Pam VanKampen and our Nutrition team!

GWAAR received a 2026 Aging Achievement Award from USAging, for the development of The Right Meal & Services for You, a person-centered, standardized prioritization process. This process moves beyond a one-size-fits-all approach to home-delivered meals by matching services to each older adult's unique needs while maximizing limited resources.

The 2026 USAging Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards honored traditional and new strategies in a range of categories. GWAAR was among 33 local aging programs to receive Achievement honors during USAging's 51st Annual Conference and Tradeshow, July 18–21 in San Diego, CA. An additional 16 agencies received Innovations Awards.

All winners are highlighted in the USAging Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards Showcase. <https://bit.ly/4fBOIPA>



*Pictured, left to right:
Mike Eidsaune, CEO of Caregiving.com,
Pam VanKampen, GWAAR, Duana Patton,
USAging President, and John Byer, CEO of
Cumulus.care (Photo by Joe Lipstein
/Courtesy of USAging)*

Advocacy

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

Need to Know

August Partisan Primary

Tuesday, August 11

The August Partisan Primary is just one week away! What is a partisan primary? A primary election is the first round of voting that narrows the field of candidates before a general election. A partisan primary means you must select a political party and vote only for the candidates in that party. The winners from each party in the primary will go on to the November general election.

-continued-

Make sure you have a plan to vote! You can:

- Vote in-person at your polling place on election day: Tuesday, August 11.
- Vote early in-person at select polling locations determined by your municipality.
- Vote absentee by sending in your absentee ballot by mail ASAP, dropping it off at your municipal clerk's office or certified drop-box before August 11, or at your polling location on August 11.

Planning to vote in-person at your polling location on August 11? Make sure you:

- Confirm your registration status. If you are not registered to vote, you can register in-person on the day of the election at your polling site.
- Know your polling location and how you will get there. Need a ride to the polls? The Disability Vote Coalition has a comprehensive list of resources throughout the state that can transport you to the polls: <https://disabilityvote.org/2025/rides-to-the-polls/>

Know what is on your ballot and who you want to vote for! Governor is a crucial position that you will vote on this election, but did you know that there are close races for many congressional districts, state legislative seats, and state treasurer? There are also many local level races happening too, like county sheriff and clerk of courts. Before you cast your ballot, look into each candidate's platform and see what they prioritize. AARP put together a great video series with gubernatorial candidates geared toward older adults that you can view here: <https://bit.ly/4c4dwgT>

[Myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) is your go-to resource to help you find your registration status, polling place, and to view your personalized sample ballot. If you submitted an absentee ballot, you can also track its progress to ensure it's received in time.

Did you already vote? Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to vote too! Every election is an opportunity to exercise your rights and advocate for those individuals that you think will represent you best in public office.



Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act

On July 14, the Senate passed the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act ([S. 2120](#)) through unanimous consent and the bill now moves to the House for consideration.

[S. 2120](#): <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2120>

The House is only in session until Thursday, July 23 before recessing until August 31, meaning they will likely not consider the reauthorization bill until September. When they are back, it will first go before the House Education and Workforce Committee, of which Representative Grothman is a member. After a final bill is negotiated out of that committee, it will go before the full House of Representatives.

Now is a great time to contact your Representative and ask them to support the OAA Reauthorization Act. The Reauthorization includes many provisions that we, and our partners, support including a national resource center for social isolation, codification of grab-and-go meals, and a recommended increase in funding levels each year for five years.

Please use and modify our action alert here: <https://bit.ly/4fMQQxp>

Nice to Know

In-District Events

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!

Did you know that WAAN can provide reimbursement of up to \$300 to support In-District Events? Funds can be used for facility rentals, refreshments, speaker fees, printing costs, and more. To learn more and/or submit a request for reimbursement, review our form here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008991>

Did you have an in-district event recently? Please share your pictures! We would love to use these in future WAAN presentations and Aging Advocacy Day materials.



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.

8/7 English registration: <https://bit.ly/4pTnIP5>

8/7 Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/4h2mtL3>



Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

📺 AFCSP Mid-Year Fiscal Report Webinar Recording Available!

Thank you to everyone who joined the AFCSP Mid-Year Fiscal Training on Monday, July 27.

👤 Missed it or need a refresher? The recording is now available in two locations:

➡ GWAAR SharePoint (registered users): <https://bit.ly/4yVF1Dh>

➡ GWAAR Website (AFCSP Page), titled "2026 AFCSP Mid-Year Fiscal Report Webinar – 7.27.26", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jT781zBSNf0&feature=youtu.be>

🔑 Reminder: You'll need access to GWAAR SharePoint to complete your AFCSP Mid-Year Fiscal Report.

Need access? Request it here: <https://bit.ly/469NsNq> Happy reporting! 😊

📄 Seeking Promising Practices: Healthcare & Caregiver Program Partnerships

Do you feel your Caregiver Program, ADRC, Dementia Care Specialist Program, or Tribal Aging Unit has built a strong partnership with local hospitals, healthcare systems, discharge planners, primary care clinics, physicians' offices, or other healthcare providers?

We're looking for promising practices that help identify and connect family caregivers with supports and services earlier in their caregiving journey.

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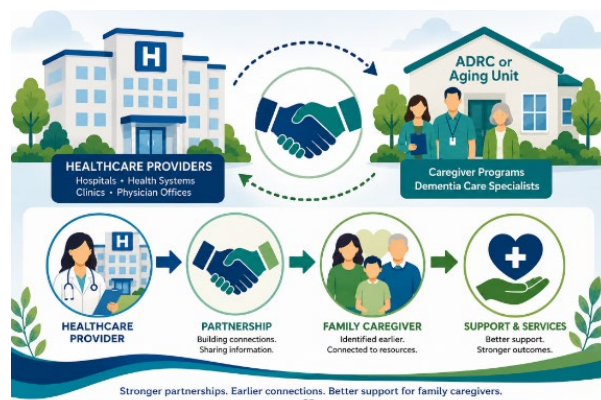
We're also interested in hearing how your community is helping caregivers and older adults overcome transportation barriers to accessing healthcare, specialists, and dementia evaluations.

At our September Statewide Caregiver Coordinator Meeting, we'll be highlighting successful partnerships and learning from one another. Topics may include:

- ✓ Healthcare referral processes
- ✓ Partnerships with hospitals and clinics
- ✓ Caregiver identification and outreach
- ✓ Discharge planning collaborations
- ✓ Transportation solutions
- ✓ Other creative or replicable approaches

Whether your partnership is large or small, formal or informal, we'd love to hear about it! Sometimes the simplest ideas have the greatest impact and are the easiest for others to replicate.

Interested in sharing your experience? Please contact Bryn Ceman at bryn.ceman@gwaar.org.



Fiscal Resources and Data Management

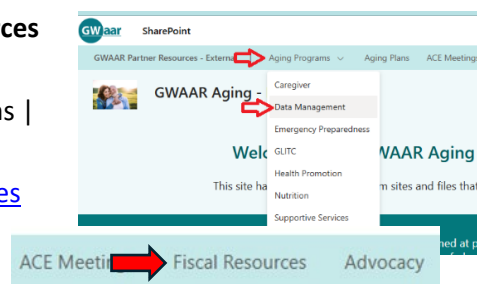
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

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 focusing on the Caregiver Program 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.

Updated Training Materials

GWAAR Fiscal is in the final stages of updating their fiscal instructions regarding completing the claim form. There is a summary version document focusing on quick to follow steps, and a more comprehensive document describing each contract in detail, along with screenshots and written examples. Both will be posted under the Fiscal Resources library within the Instructions section.

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GWAAR Data Management has been posting new training guides referred to as Quick Notes to assist with PeerPlace data entry. These are supplemental guides to BADR instructions. These will be posted under the Aging Programs-Data Management library within the Instructions section.

As a reminder, providers can also change the view layout from the default Data Management Library to the Program View which displays posted information by Program.

[Data Management Library](#) [Program View](#)

Guardianship Support Center

[Cherry Hill](#) WI Guardianship Support Center Attorney

Nice to Know

Latest issue of The Guardian available

The Guardian is a quarterly newsletter published by the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources' (GWAAR) Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center (GSC). The GSC provides information and assistance on issues related to guardianship, protective placement, advance directives, and more.

Read the July 2026 issue:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2009115>

It can also be found on the Guardianship Support Center page:

<https://gwaar.org/guardianship-resources> | [2026 - Volume 14, Issue 2](#)



Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar - Save the Date: September 10

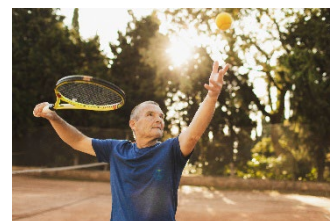
Thursday, September 10 | 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m., optional networking 11:00 – 11:30

Our next Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar will take place on Thursday, September 10 from 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. This webinar will feature important program updates, updates/latest information from the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA), and tips/best practices for promoting your health promotion programs.

The webinar is scheduled for an hour however, if you all would like to stay on and network for 20-30 minutes after the webinar, there will be time set aside for that.

I'm looking forward to meeting with you all!

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009114>



Nice to Know

Fall Prevention Mini-Grant Opportunity:

As part of a statewide strategy to increase falls resiliency among older adults, the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA), convener of the Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition, is thrilled to announce another mini-grant funding opportunity to support local fall prevention efforts across Wisconsin.

Through the LEAF initiative, WIHA will provide funding to empower communities in developing or enhancing impactful fall prevention programs or projects. This initiative prioritizes reaching underserved populations and supports the creation, revitalization, or sustainment of local falls prevention coalitions—because strong local partnerships are key to keeping our communities safe, active, and thriving.

Funding is available to non-profit, community-based organizations including aging and disability resource centers, public safety agencies, public health departments, and other public or community-based organizations or coalitions in Wisconsin

Project Period: October 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027.

Proposals Due: September 16, 2026 by 11:59 p.m.

Learn more/apply: <https://fallsfreewi.org/2026-leaf-grants/>

