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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

Advocacy

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

Need to Know

August Partisan Primary: Tuesday, August 11

The August Partisan Primary is today, August 11!

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

- Vote in-person at your polling place! Polls close at 8:00 p.m.
- Deliver your completed absentee ballot to your polling location by the time polls close today at 8:00 p.m.

Planning to vote in-person at your polling location today? 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.
- Have a ride to the polls! Still need a ride? 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/>

Myvote.wi.gov is your go-to resource to help you find your registration status, polling place, and to view your personalized sample ballot.

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.



FY2027 Older Americans Act Funding

On August 8, the Senate voted 90-6 to advance a bipartisan Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government through December 11 at FY2026 levels. As a reminder, the Federal Fiscal Year ends on September 30 and both chambers of Congress are on recess for all of August and the Senate is out for part of September. This CR provides funding for Older Americans Act programs through that crucial September 30 deadline and until the midterm election in November is over. **Importantly, this CR also delayed implementation of the controversial Federal Grantmaking Rule that the President's Office of Management and Budget released earlier this summer.** This means that the rule, which delegated grantmaking awards to presidential appointees and required alignment with presidential priorities, will not go into effect until at least December 11 or until another legislative, or judicial, solution is implemented. Because this CR differs from the one passed by the House, the House will need to accept the Senate version or negotiate a compromise when they return on August 31. Because the Senate is out until September 14, and both chambers recess again in October to prepare for the November election, it is crucial that some funding solution is agreed upon to avoid a shutdown when FY26 funding expires after September 30.

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/4fMOQxp>

Legislative Council Study Committee on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

The Study Committee will have its first hearing on Thursday, August 13 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 411 South at the Capitol and streaming live on WisconsinEye ([agenda](#)). This initial hearing will include testimony from invited speakers, including from GWAAR, AARP, and NAMI, and feature discussion on member priorities for the committee.

View the agenda: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/2001362>

The study committee is directed to study current and emerging uses of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in health care. As part of its review, the study committee shall consider the use of AI technology in the patient-provider relationship, including use in clinical care and communication facilitation. The study committee shall also consider the use of AI in interactions between insurers or medical assistance programs and patients. Finally, the study committee shall consider the use of AI between insurers or medical assistance programs and providers, including in health care coverage decision making. After these reviews, the study committee shall consider recommending legislation that addresses standards for the use of AI in health care services and insurance.

-continued-

The membership of the study committee includes Senator Cabral-Guevara (Chair), Representative Neylon (Vice-Chair), Representative Bare, Senator Keyeski, and members of the public (<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/study/2026/3042>).

To share your feedback on this topic with the committee, you can email the [Chair](#) and [Vice-Chair](#).

Chair: Sen.Cabral-Guevara@legis.wisconsin.gov

Vice-Chair: Rep.Neylon@legis.wisconsin.gov

Nice to Know

Wisconsin State Plan for Independent Living Survey

Help Shape Independent Living in Wisconsin! The State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) helps inform the way Independent Living Centers in Wisconsin provide programs and services to individuals with disabilities. There are eight Independent Living Centers in Wisconsin that are consumer-run and provide an array of services to individuals with disability of any age. Some of those services include information and referrals, advocacy, personal care assistance, and more.



The first step to developing the 2028-2030 SPIL is to hear directly from individuals with disabilities about what is needed to lead the most independent lives of their choosing! Please consider completing, and sharing, the survey to help shape the future of independent living in Wisconsin:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F2NQXGW>

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.

Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

📢 Reminder: 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.

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

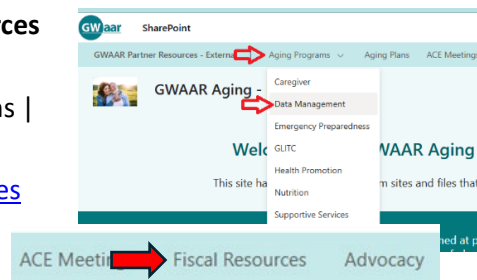
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

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



****Federal End-of-Year In-Person Training****

GWAAR will host an End-of-Year in-person training (Navigating Ahead – Mission Possible!) to assist agencies in reviewing their fiscal and service reported data. This training will aim to provide a better understanding of what is being reported and how to explain the variances so that the explanations are a complete and accurate representation of what is impacting the change.

This training will be held on September 17 at the ADRC of Central Wisconsin – Wausau Campus from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. **Registration:** <https://bit.ly/45pLZ5V>

The draft agenda will be posted shortly in the Fiscal Resources library.

GLITC will be hosting a similar event for the Tribes on September 16, coinciding with the TAU meeting.

Virtual attendance is not available as an option.

PeerPlace Review and Cleanup

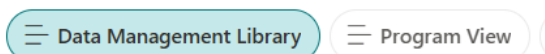
GWAAR will conduct another round of data review focusing on the Caregiver Program over the next few weeks and will reach out to Aging Units regarding noticed errors. We will also be re-running non-Caregiver error reports and reaching out regarding data to address. Thank you all for being so prompt in 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.

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.



Guardianship Support Center

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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

Reminder: 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

Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) Leader Training: Mind Over Matter

Wednesday, August 26

WIHA is providing a virtual leader training for the evidence-based health promotion program, Mind Over Matter: Healthy Bowels, Healthy Bladder on Wednesday, August 26. Complete the training to be able to offer Mind Over Matter within your community.



Mind Over Matter: Healthy Bowels, Healthy Bladder is a researched and proven program designed to give women the tools they need to take control of bladder and bowel leakage. This program is well researched and proven to improve bladder symptoms for 71% of participants and bowel symptoms for 55%.

For more information on the program: <https://wihealthyaging.org/programs/live-well-programs/mom/>

Training opportunity registration: <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/s1ny8d5x0o9x8hc/>

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Nice to Know

Malnutrition Awareness Week: September 14–18

GWAAR is an official ambassador of ASPEN Malnutrition Awareness Week!

To help promote Malnutrition Awareness Week (MAW), visit nutritioncare.org/SpreadTheWord for a toolkit that includes social media images, infographics, and a flyer for the MAW webinars listed below. There are even Malnutrition Awareness Week stickers available as a PDF in English, Portuguese, and Spanish.

View the toolkit: <https://bit.ly/4fSodWl>

Malnutrition Awareness Week Webinars are **FREE with code MAW-GWAAR**

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4xEV6ff>

- **Sept. 14: Pediatric Malnutrition Care** – Practical strategies for implementing the Malnutrition Care Score (MCS) to improve nutrition care quality in pediatric settings.
- **Sept. 15: Nutrition After the ICU** – Learn how nutrition and rehabilitation can help prevent or reduce Post-ICU Syndrome (PICS) and support recovery.
- **Sept. 16: Prehab to Post-op** – Explore how multimodal prehabilitation programs improve surgical outcomes and identify patients who benefit most.
- **Sept. 17: COPD & Malnutrition** – Understand the impact of malnutrition and muscle wasting in COPD and evidence-based nutrition interventions to improve outcomes.
- **Sept. 18: GLP-1 Medications & Malnutrition** – Discover why patients taking GLP-1 receptor agonists should be routinely screened and treated for malnutrition.

