



Volume 8, No. 33 August 18, 2026  
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## Leadership Opportunity

Openings available on our Board of Directors

✓ Applications welcome! **Learn more:** [gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board](http://gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board)



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

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

#### **Use Your Leadership Skills to Support Older People in Wisconsin**

If you'd like to play a role in shaping the direction of programs and services for older people in the state, we invite you to volunteer for the leadership team of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), Inc. Our mission is to provide aging offices with training, technical assistance, and support to improve the well-being of older people in Wisconsin.

GWAAR is looking for thoughtful, civic-minded, energetic individuals to serve on its 11-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 GWAAR's governance, including:

- Serve at least one 3-year term on the board.
- Attend approximately 6 board meetings a year in Stevens Point, with virtual attendance possible.
  - o Board members can elect to receive a \$125 stipend for virtual or in-person attendance and mileage reimbursement for in-person attendance at board meetings.

**Learn more:** [GWAAR Board of Directors Application: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629)

Questions? Contact [GWAAR Executive Director John Schnabl: john.schanbl@gwaar.org](mailto:john.schanbl@gwaar.org)

### ***Nice to Know***

#### **In the news: Elder abuse: Know the warning signs and how to report**

Donna Rosner, Elder Abuse Program Specialist, was one of the featured guests on The Lee Rayburn Show on Wisconsin Public Radio. The segment, which aired on August 17, shared information on the different forms of elder abuse, including financial exploitation, neglect or physical abuse.

"Since 2001, Wisconsin has seen an increase in reported cases of elder abuse. We learn more about the warning signs and the reporting process."

**Listen to the episode:** <https://bit.ly/4gzSxoR>



## Advocacy

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

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

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#### **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. The Senate is out until September 14, and both chambers recess again in October to prepare for the November election, so it is crucial that some funding solution is agreed upon to avoid a shutdown when FY26 funding expires after September 30.

Contact your federal representatives using our action alert now to ask them to support funding for Older Americans Act programs and services: <https://bit.ly/4vmMnNu>

#### **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 in recess until August 31. 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>

### ***Nice to Know***

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#### **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.

*-continued-*

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: 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.

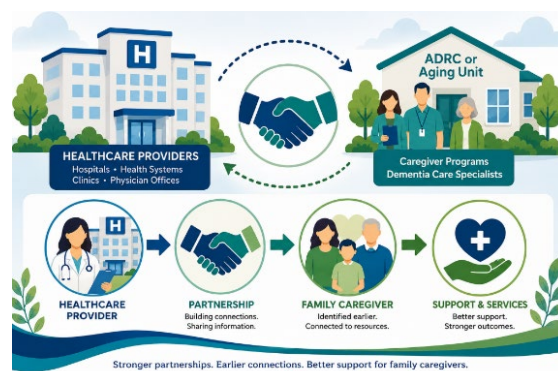
We're also interested in hearing how your community is helping caregivers and older adults overcome transportation barriers to accessing healthcare, specialists, and dementia evaluations.

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](mailto:bryn.ceman@gwaar.org).



## Fiscal Resources and Data Management

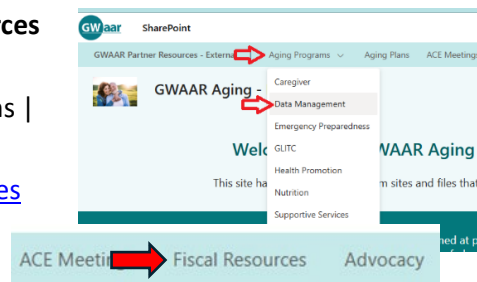
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

### 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.

**GWAAR 2025-2026 End-of-Year Review Training - 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\***

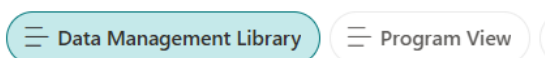
GWAAR will be sending out another round of data errors to address this week. Please have this completed by August 31. We are working on data review focusing on the Caregiver Program over the next few weeks and will reach out to Aging Units regarding noticed errors. Thank you all for being so prompt in 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.

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.



## Health Promotion

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

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **Stepping On Leader Training: Looking to offer some OAA Title III-D Health Promotion Programming this Fall?**

*Tuesday, September 15 | 8:30 a.m.*

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) is offering a leader training for their program Stepping On scheduled for September 15 (online). Stepping On is a 7-week falls prevention program that has been proven to reduce falls by 31%. This program addresses many of the factors that influence fall risk and provides participants with information and resources to avoid falls. There is a requirement of two trained facilitators, or one trained facilitator and one peer facilitator to offer this program within your community.



**Learn more about Stepping On:** <https://wihealthyaging.org/programs/falls-prevention-programs/stepping-on/>

**Leader training registration:** <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/s8d8tpv0cls7ng/>

## Nutrition

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[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **Reminder: 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](http://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.





## Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

### Nice to Know

#### August Scam Spotlight focuses on Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs)

The August Scam Spotlight is now available and focuses on the importance of reviewing Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs). The mailing schedule for MSNs is now 180 days versus 90 days, so this notice becomes even more important in reviewing for suspicious claims and potential fraud. The fraudsters continue to hope Medicare beneficiaries don't review their notices so they can continue to submit fraudulent claims to Medicare for payment. This scam spotlight helps break down what people should be looking for on their notices.

**Read the August Scam Spotlight:** <https://bit.ly/4g7pM2Q>



**Wisconsin SMP**  
**SCAM SPOTLIGHT**

*It's Medicare Summary Notice Season!*

**Review Your Medicare Summary Notice to Help Stop Medicare Fraud**  
If you have Original Medicare (Part A and Part B), it's that time of year when your Medicare Summary Notice, (MSN) may arrive in your mailbox. Your MSN is not a bill. It is a summary of the health care services, supplies, and equipment billed to your Medicare account.

**New Mailing Schedule**  
Paper Medicare Summary Notices are now mailed approximately every 180 days instead of every 90 days. Because each notice covers a longer period, you'll likely see more claims than before. Take time to review every page.

**Protect Yourself from Medicare Fraud**

- Did you receive every service listed?
- Do you recognize every provider?
- Did you receive the equipment or supplies shown?
- Is anything unfamiliar?

**Protect - Detect - Report**

| Protect                                                                                               | Detect                                                                                                   | Report                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Protect</b> Treat your Medicare number like a credit card. Never share it with unexpected callers. | <b>Detect</b> Review your MSN. Look for services, providers, equipment, or supplies you don't recognize. | <b>Report</b> suspicious charges to 1-800-MEDICARE and Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol, 888-818-2611 or email: <a href="mailto:smp-wi@gwaar.org">smp-wi@gwaar.org</a> |

**Why It Matters**  
Reviewing your MSN is one of the easiest ways to detect billing errors and possible Medicare fraud. Criminals may bill Medicare for services or equipment you never received. Catching these errors early helps protect both your Medicare benefits and your medical record.

 The Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) provides free, confidential assistance to help beneficiaries prevent, detect, and report Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse. If you need help or have questions, please contact us at (888) 818-2611.

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