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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

ACL Alert: Business Email Compromise/Vendor Impersonation Scam Targeting AAA Grant Payments

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) shared an example of an area agency on aging (AAA) that was the victim of a sophisticated fraud involving an ACH transfer of funds. As part of the alert the ACL offered recommendations on preventing loss of funds due to fraud.



“This incident illustrates how even organizations with existing verification procedures can be defeated when the fraudulent request looks routine and the verification step itself is compromised (e.g., a form returned by the scammer rather than confirmed independently with the real provider).

“This situation is a classic example of business email compromise/vendor impersonation scam. These schemes are effective nationwide because the email may come from a spoofed domain or one nearly identical to the real domain or could come from a provider’s actual email address that may have been compromised. Scammers often research real vendor relationships in advance, sometimes through public procurement or contracting records or compromised email threads, making the requests seem contextually legitimate.

“It is important to verify banking transactions independently, every time. In addition, banking change requests should be treated as high-risk transactions that require an escalated review regardless of seeming routine or the sense of urgency. Your organization should review and follow their own internal controls policy to ensure all necessary safeguards are in place.”

Nice to Know

Would you like to play a role in shaping the direction of programs and services for older people in Wisconsin?

We invite you to volunteer or share this opportunity with leaders who would be interested in joining the GWAAR Board of Directors.

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](mailto:john.schanbl@gwaar.org): john.schanbl@gwaar.org



Advocacy

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

Need to Know

FY2027 Older Americans Act Funding

On August 8, the Senate voted 90-6 to advance a bipartisan Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government from September 30 through December 11 at FY2026 levels.

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/4fM0Qxp>

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 (BPDD) 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.

8/28 English registration: <https://bit.ly/4xGXSk3>

8/28 Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/4xMY6Gp>

Note: future webinars, and registration links, can be found on the BPDD website:

<https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/federal-funding-updates/>

You can also sign up for BPDD email alerts: <https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/join/>

We will no longer include registration links to the webinars in the GWAAR newsletter after this week.



Fiscal Resources and Data Management

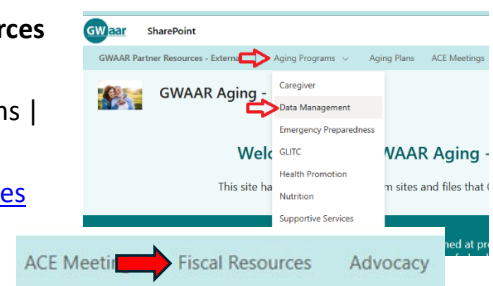
Carrie Kroetz, Data Management and Technology Coordinator

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 agenda has been posted in the Fiscal Resources and Data Management libraries.

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 has reviewed another round of data entry errors to address. Please have this completed by August 31. The document, IIB-C-D Error Reports 08-20-2026, has been posted in the Data Management library within the EOY Reports section. 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.

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Facilitator Training Opportunity! Healthy Living with Chronic Pain

October 7, 8, 14 & 15, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

In person at the Lincoln Center: 1519 Water St, Stevens Point, WI 54481

If you have ever thought about offering the Healthy Living with Chronic Pain program within your community, now is the time to complete the training! The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) is providing a facilitator training this October.



Healthy Living with Chronic Pain (HLCP) workshop covers various topics related to mental, physical, and emotional well-being. This interactive program provides practical tools and support to help participants manage their pain and live healthier, more fulfilling lives.

Facilitator Requirements:

- Ability to facilitate at least one 7-week workshop every 12 months
- Must have 2 trained facilitators for a full workshop

Registration: <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/w18o74kf09vw001/>

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Need to Know

Nutrition for Strong Bodies Virtual Training Opportunity– Registration Information

Wednesday, September 30 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Virtual

Cost: \$50 with link for the Training Curriculum that you need to print (optional \$80 with a printed curriculum shipped to you)

As shared during the July 9 Dietitian/Diet Tech Peer Sharing Call and the August 4th Stepping Up Your Nutrition Leader Call, the details are here and registration is now open for the upcoming Nutrition for Strong Bodies virtual training offered by UW–Madison Division of Extension. The training will provide you with the information and resources needed to incorporate the Nutrition for Strong Bodies curriculum into your Senior Nutrition Program. The curriculum includes eight flexible, 20-minute nutrition lessons for aging adults.

This two-hour virtual training will prepare you to use the curriculum and give you another resource for your nutrition education toolkit.

You do not need to be an RD/RDN to participate in the training or deliver the curriculum; however, you do need to complete this training if you want to offer the Nutrition for Strong Bodies curriculum.

VIRTUAL TRAINING
Nutrition for Strong Bodies

Curriculum Training

Eight flexible, 20-minute nutrition lessons for aging adults. This two-hour session gets you ready to teach.

Wednesday, Sept 30 1:00-3:00 pm CT • via Zoom

WHAT YOU'LL COVER: A walk-through of the lesson framework, plus how nutrition needs change with age.

Quick & engaging 20-minute interactive lessons that keep participants involved.	Flexible delivery Runs as a standalone series or as an add-on to an existing program.	Turnkey resources Full digital curriculum plus vibrant, full-color participant handouts.
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COST
\$50
or \$80 with the printed curriculum shipped to you.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
Staff & Volunteers
From agencies providing services with aging adults.

ARE YOU A RDN/NDTR? The CPE activity application for Nutrition for Strong Bodies Curriculum Training is pending CDR review and approval for 2 CPEUs.

Registration open!
go.wisc.edu/z30b4 – Space is limited.

QUESTIONS
Jen Whitty - jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu
Morgan Peaden - morgan.peaden@wisc.edu

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

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The CPE activity application for the Nutrition for Strong Bodies Curriculum Training is pending CDR review and approval for 2 CPEUs.

View the flyer for training details and registration information:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009127>

Questions? Contact Jennifer Whitty, UW–Madison Division of Extension, at jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu, or your GWAAR Nutrition Program Specialist.

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

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

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.



SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

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.

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 90MPPG0102, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201