



Volume 8, No. 35 September 1, 2026
608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

GWAAR closed for September 7 Labor Day holiday

We will be closed on Monday, September 7 for the Labor Day holiday. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend!



Nice to Know

GWAAR newsletter sign-up and delivery

If you're reading this news article, then you're probably already subscribed to our mailing list and are not experiencing any delivery issues. That's great!

However, some individuals within the aging network might be signed up and not realizing that they're missing out on important news and updates. These potential readers may be included in the occasional "bounced" emails we receive back. The reasons vary from changes in positions, to updates in web domains, to pre-set administrative email filters or blocks.

For anybody who has previously subscribed, and is *not* receiving the newsletter please ask them to contact us at communications@gwaar.org. We will verify if the email address we have on file is correct, or whether additional support is needed to correct delivery issues.

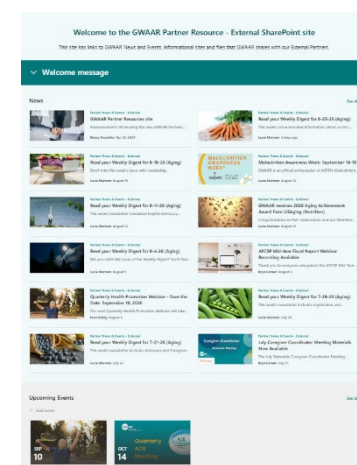
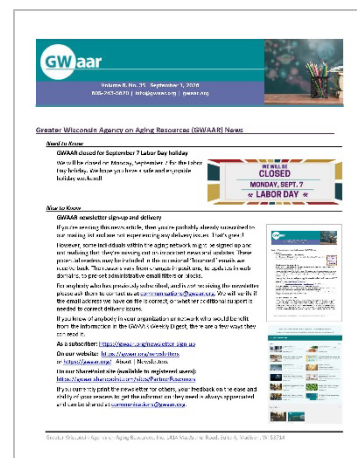
If you know of anybody in your organization or network who would benefit from the information in the GWAAR Weekly Digest, there are a few ways they can read it.

As a subscriber: <https://gwaar.org/newsletter-sign-up>

On our website: <https://gwaar.org/newsletters>
or <https://gwaar.org/> | About | Newsletters

On our SharePoint site (available to registered users):
<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources>

If you currently print the newsletter for others, your feedback on the ease and ability of your readers to get the information they need is always appreciated and can be shared at communications@gwaar.org.



GWAAR ED content and user updates

Seeing more backpacks and buses lately? We know there's learning happening nearby! But did you know that members of the aging network have access to GWAAR ED all year round? It's a web-based platform that provides 24-7 access for training and professional development for the various aging programs we support.



If you or someone you know is new or could use an overview of some of the different programs we provide technical assistance for, they can complete the GWAAR ED registration form and access the learning library.

GWAAR ED Registration information: <https://gwaar.org/gwaar-ed>

GWAAR ED Registration form: <https://gwaar.wufoo.com/forms/z95v3sv0qqhoha/>

If you're already a registered user, check the GWAAR ED FAQs for current login information or contact us at gwaar.ed@gwaar.org to request access to the full learning library.

GWAAR ED FAQs: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008677>

Haven't logged in lately? There are a few updates you might have missed:

- Updated Transportation and Health Promotion introductions
- Additional Nutrition courses and Cooks' Training and
- Updated Learning Journey and survey for new directors or supervisors or those who would like to review the course content.

In the next few weeks, inactive GWAAR ED users who have not started their courses in the year following registration will be emailed prior to removal and have the option to re-register. If you have any questions about GWAAR ED registration, course content or Learning Journey access, please contact us at gwaar.ed@gwaar.org

Reminder: 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."

Reminder: Invitation to apply for GWAAR's Board of Directors

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>

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

Save the Date: Issue Brief Webinars

Coming this October, join the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) for a series of engaging webinars focused on our top policy priorities ahead of the 2027–2029 biennial budget! These include asks related to funding for Aging & Disability Resource Centers, home-delivered meals, falls prevention, and specialized transportation.

Each week, you'll hear from staff, policy experts, and consumers as we dive into our key policy asks, explore how to use WAAN's issue briefs when connecting with legislators, and share strategies for telling your story and making your voice heard. These webinars are designed to give you the knowledge, tools, and confidence you need to be an effective advocate. Whether you're brand new to advocacy or have been involved for years, this series is a great opportunity to prepare for the upcoming budget and legislative sessions and strengthen your ability to talk about the issues that matter most with your legislators.

Dates, times, and Zoom registration coming soon!

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>

Nice to Know

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>

Survival Coalition Issue Forum: Medical Aid in Dying

Survival Coalition is hosting a series of policy issue forums this fall. The first is on September 15, from 12 – 1 PM, and is about Medical Aid in Dying laws, and how these policies may impact people with disabilities and families.

Learn about key issues and areas of concern, what laws look like in other states and countries, and how perceptions of people with disabilities/older adults and cost of care needs can influence who chooses or is offered medical aid in dying options. Survival Coalition has invited national speakers Anita Cameron and Barbara Lyons to present.

Registration: [Survival Coalition Issue Forum: Medical Aid in Dying laws, implications for people with disabilities: https://bit.ly/4wZ8ppY](https://bit.ly/4wZ8ppY)

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

Upcoming Wisconsin Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting

Wednesday, September 9 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Join us for the next Wisconsin Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting on Wednesday, September 9th from 10:00–11:00 am.

This month's meeting will include advocacy and DHS/GWAAR updates, healthcare partnership best practices, and a presentation on the Badger Caregiver Clinic.

Caregiver Coordinators, Dementia Care Specialists, ADRC/Aging Unit leadership, and other professionals supporting Wisconsin family caregivers are welcome to attend.

View the agenda and meeting information here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009132>

Wisconsin's
FamilyCaregiver
Support Programs

Fiscal Resources and Data Management

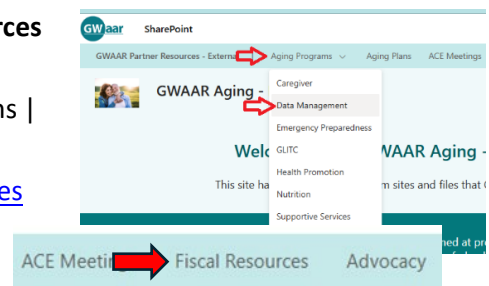
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

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 is reviewing another round of data entry errors to address as the year end is fast approaching. Continue to keep watch in the Data Management library for updated review documents. 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

Virtual StrongBodies Series: Online Health Promotion Opportunity (Title IIID–Eligible Programming)

October 7 - December 17 via Zoom

Support the health and independence of older adults in your community through an evidence-based, virtual strength training program offered by UW–Madison Extension.

Virtual StrongBodies is a proven strength-training and wellness program designed for older adults and delivered conveniently online via Zoom. This option allows you to reserve spots for county residents while meeting Title IIID health promotion requirements.

Program details:

- Program: UW–Madison Extension Virtual StrongBodies
- Format: Online via Zoom
- Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.
- Dates: October 7 - December 17th
- Length: 11 weeks
- Cost: \$50 per participant
- Eligibility: Spots may be reserved by AUs/ADRCs for county residents

How it works:

- Reserve participant spots using the online request form: <https://bit.ly/3XLKknr>
- After your request is received, UW–Madison Extension will provide:
 - An invoice for payment
 - A promotional flyer for the upcoming virtual series (editable to include local contact info)
 - A link to the online registration page so you can enroll local residents
 - Reporting support: Participant demographic information will be shared with you after the registration deadline for each series to support Peer Place reporting

Learn more about StrongBodies: <https://health.extension.wisc.edu/strongbodies/>

Remaining StrongBodies Leader Training for 2026

Wednesday, November 4 | Grand Chute

Expand your program's reach and strengthen your community! Registration is open for the final StrongBodies Leader Training of 2026, taking place in Grand Chute (Appleton area) on Wednesday, November 4th. Local ADRCs and Aging Units are able to send new volunteers to build capacity or invite current leaders to attend as a refresher to keep their skills sharp and up to date.

Training Details & Registration:

- Location: Grand Chute (Appleton Metro Area)
- Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026
- New Leader Registration: \$350
- Refresher Registration: \$50
- **Leader Training registration:** <https://bit.ly/4pqxqs8>

Don't miss this last opportunity of the year to empower new leaders and revitalize your local StrongBodies programs. Note: 2027 training dates will be announced this coming October.

Reminder: 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

Reminder: 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.

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.

