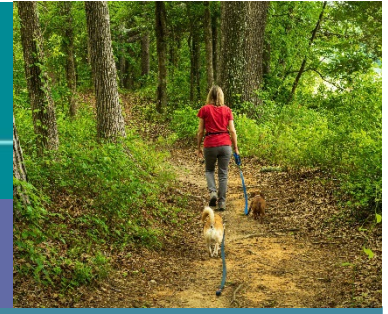




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608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

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](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629)

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



Reminder: 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>

-continued-



Haven't logged in to GWAAR ED 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

Advocacy

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

Need to Know

Join WAAN's Fall Webinar Series!

Join the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) every Tuesday in October 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.



Home-delivered Meals

Tuesday, October 6 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/BbuWP5nNQtm2Ew1LRbSuCA>

Falls Prevention

Tuesday, October 13 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Registration: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/m9bm2w5hTT6Q_S39WFuN_w

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Tuesday, October 20 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/FQTdwpzsTXmv1Sp2fvyMCw>

Specialized Transportation

Tuesday, October 27 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/X9Bp-B5EQmGmknrTdZ6BaA>

More information available here: <https://gwaar.org/get-ready-to-advocate>

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 after the midterm elections in November. The Reauthorization first needs to 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 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., 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.

Register here: [Survival Coalition Issue Forum: Medical Aid in Dying laws, implications for people with disabilities](#): <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.

Emergency Preparedness

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

Nice to Know

September is National Preparedness Month!

This observance encourages Americans to prepare for emergencies and the theme for this year is "Americans Stand Ready". Throughout the month of September, you can provide your community with the following tips:

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

- **Be in the know.** Make sure you know where to get information when you need it most. Download the FEMA App to get emergency safety alerts and resources.
- **Make a plan to keep you and your family safe and prepared.** The plan should include emergency contact information, emergency meeting places and medical information.
- **Build a kit with the essential items your family needs to stay safe and comfortable if something happens.**
- **Be there for your community.** From volunteering in your community to learning skills like first aid and CPR, you can take steps to prepare for disasters and keep your family safe and make your neighborhood and community more resilient. Take a training course through FEMA's Training and Education Program, the American Red Cross, or your local emergency management agency to build or gain skills to protect yourself, family, friends and community.

More information and resources on National Preparedness Month are available here!

<https://www.fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/mobile-products>

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/training>

<https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class>

<https://www.ready.gov/stand-ready>

Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

TOMORROW! 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

Nice to Know

Paid Research Opportunity for Caregivers

Researchers are seeking family/friend caregivers and professionals with caregiving experience who have also advised, consulted, or collaborated on a research project.

 Paid 25–30-minute online survey

 Age 18+

 Must support/care for an adult with a long-term health condition or disability

Check eligibility & take the survey:

https://virginia.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4lnqJuXFewVfWrs?Group=DL

 Questions: CaregiverCAREstudy@vumc.org |  (615) 421-4210

Please share directly with potentially eligible individuals, please do not post on social media.

Fiscal Resources and Data Management

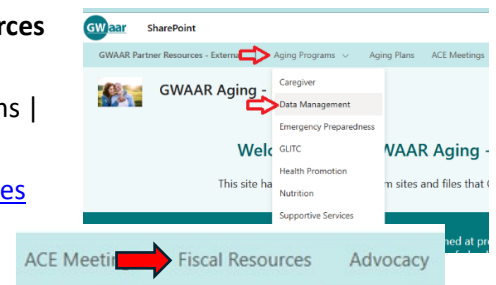
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

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

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>



Falls Prevention Grants-Proposals Due 09/16/2026

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, has 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.

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



Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Need to Know

Keep the Knocks Coming: A New Home Delivered Meals Resource

We're excited to introduce Keep the Knocks Coming, a new resource created to help local nutrition programs share the story and impact of Home Delivered Meals. The website highlights three important ways to keep the program strong: receiving meals, volunteering to deliver meals, and supporting and advocating for Home Delivered Meals.

Visit the website: <https://gwaar.org/keep-the-knocks-coming>

Be sure to watch the 7-minute video featured on the website! It brings the impact of Home Delivered Meals to life and shows how a meal delivery can be about so much more than food—it can provide nourishment, connection, safety, and peace of mind. We appreciate all the help from Eau Claire and Outagamie counties for their help in creating this video!

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/6QImE8cweI0>

Whether you're recruiting volunteer drivers, connecting older adults with services, engaging community partners, or building support for your program, Keep the Knocks Coming provides a resource you can share to help tell the story of why every knock matters.

Visit the new website, watch the video, and help us spread the word! **Keep the Knocks Coming**



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 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.



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.



Partnership for Food Safety toolkits available for September 18 Collective Day of Action

Every table looks different, but every table deserves to be safe. That's the idea behind this year's September 18 [Collective Day of Action](https://fightbac.org/nfsem/) theme, "Everyone's Table."

Learn more: <https://fightbac.org/nfsem/>

The [2026 Collective Day of Action Toolkit](https://fightbac.org/nfsem/) includes ready-to-use social media messages, images, newsletter text, and several ways to help promote food safety.

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

They have also created a [social media toolkit](https://bit.ly/4gVLKVo) to be used year-round, not just during National Food Safety Month. It covers what platforms you can use, hashtag best practices, and simple habits that can help your posts reach more people. Save it as an ongoing reference for your social media efforts.

View the social media toolkit: <https://bit.ly/4A7Gebk>



Partnership for Food Safety webinar:

Food Safety Education In Focus: Supporting Informed Consumer Decisions

Thursday, September 17 | 1:00 p.m.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3UETgNe>

In recognition of September's National Food Safety Education Month, this webinar will explore consumer attitudes and behaviors related to food safety from both the 2026 International Food Information Council (IFIC) Food & Health Survey and a recent needs assessment survey of food safety, health, and nutrition educators conducted by the Partnership for Food Safety Education. Experts will discuss what current insights tell us about how people perceive and respond to food safety risks—and how health professionals and communicators can translate those insights into practical, actionable guidance that supports safe food-handling behaviors.

Speakers include:

- Brittany Saunier, MPA, Partnership for Food Safety Education
- Ellen Shumaker, PhD, NC State University
- Tony Flood, IFIC

This webinar has been approved for 1 CPEU per CDR, the credentialing agency for the Academy of Nutrition And Dietetics.



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

The Fall edition of the SMP quarterly newsletter, The Scoop is now available!

This issue of the SMP Scoop features information about Medicare's Open Enrollment Period, which runs from October 15 - December 7, 2026, and includes information about what role artificial intelligence might play in this process.

This issue also highlights expanding outreach efforts in tribal communities, information about September being National Preparedness month, an article about the many things your local library offers, what happens to your Medicare plan if you move, and so much more!

Read the Fall 2026 issue of The Scoop:

<https://bit.ly/4yu5WFe>



September Scam Spotlight focuses on Wound Care/Skin Substitute fraud

Skin substitutes are legitimate medical treatments used to help certain wounds heal - but they have also become an area of concern for Medicare fraud. The September Scam Spotlight shares more information about this topic and provides some red flags to watch for.

Read the September Scam Spotlight: <https://bit.ly/3SvJwnO>

Wisconsin SMP

SCAM SPOTLIGHT

Be On the Look Out for Wound Care/Skin Substitute Fraud

Skin substitutes are legitimate medical treatments used to help certain wounds heal—but they have also become an area of concern for Medicare fraud, waste, and abuse.

Skin substitutes, sometimes called wound grafts, may be used for chronic or difficult-to-heal wounds when other treatments have not worked. When medically necessary and properly provided, Medicare may cover these treatments.

WHY IS MEDICARE CONCERNED?

Skin substitutes can be very expensive. Federal investigators have uncovered schemes involving medically unnecessary treatments, excessive amounts of skin substitute products, kickbacks, and services billed to Medicare that beneficiaries never received.

.....

In some cases, vulnerable older adults have been targeted for costly wound treatments, including people receiving care in their homes or in hospice.

WATCH FOR THESE RED FLAGS

You are contacted unexpectedly about wound care or skin grafts.

- A provider recommends an expensive skin substitute without explaining why it is needed.
- Skin substitutes are applied repeatedly without a clear medical explanation.
- Your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) shows wound-care services you don't recognize.
- Medicare is billed for treatments on days you did not receive care.
- You don't recognize the doctor, clinic, or wound-care company listed on your MSN.
- Someone offers money, gifts, or other incentives for receiving treatment.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Keep track of your appointments and compare them with your Medicare statements. Never give your Medicare number to someone who contacts you unexpectedly offering wound care or other medical services.

SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING.

If you see skin substitutes, wound grafts, or wound-care services on your Medicare statement that you don't recognize, don't ignore them—even if Medicare paid the claim. Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol can help you review suspicious charges and determine what to do next. Call us Toll-Free 888-818-2611



SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

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