



**Statewide Caregiver Support Meeting
Advocacy Update
September 9, 2026**

ACTION ALERTS:

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.

The House is in recess until the November midterm election is over. When they are back, they will enter the “lame duck” period and it is difficult to get any meaningful legislation passed. An OAA reauthorization bill could be advanced in the lame-duck session following November elections or be included in a December appropriations package, like the approach taken in December 2024 in the 118th Congress. It will be a challenge to make this happen, but we remain committed to pulling out all the stops in our advocacy efforts.

We really need your advocacy to make this happen! 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/4fMQQxp>

Federal Fiscal Year 2027 Funding

On September 2, President Trump signed into law a temporary funding bill extending funding for the federal government beyond the start of the fiscal year on October 1 at FY 2026 levels. The continuing resolution (CR) funds the government through December 11 and includes extensions of authorizations of Older Americans Act programs and services, along with all other discretionary programs. The CR also temporarily blocks the controversial Office of Management and Budget (OMB) federal grantmaking rule that would reshape how the Trump Administration disperses federal grants.

After December 11, Congress will need to pass legislation funding government programs and services for the remainder of Federal Fiscal Year 2027. 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>

Get Involved:

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.



Tuesday, October 6 | 12 – 1 PM | Home-delivered Meals

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

Tuesday, October 13 | 12 – 1 PM | Falls Prevention

Registration: https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/m9bm2w5hTT6Q_S39WfFuN_w

Tuesday, October 20 | 12 – 1 PM | Aging and Disability Resource Centers

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

Tuesday, October 27 | 12 – 1 PM | Specialized Transportation

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

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

Looking Ahead:

- Federal Lame Duck Period: after November 3 election, it is highly unlikely that any meaningful legislation will pass out of Congress until the new Congress begins in January 2027.
 - Congress will need to pass a government funding solution after December 11 package runs out. Those options include:
 - Simple continuing resolution extension, which would fund government at FY 26 levels through January.
 - Bigger package including some policy proposals.
 - Highly dependent upon outcome of midterm elections.
 - Some talk that the House will come back into session for a small time in September to take up some legislative items, but does not seem likely at this point.
- State Legislature will remain out of session until January 2027.

- Joint Finance Committee can and has convened to take up some funding items that are time-sensitive (for example, Division of Vocational Rehab funding and PFAS funds) because they do not need full legislative approval.
- Post-November election plans:
 - Educate new legislators (both state and federal) about our programs and services.
 - Educate the new governor on our programs and services.
 - Educate new agency staff about our programs and services once established in the new year.
 - Determine top legislative priorities for the 2027-2029 budget.
 - Current top WAAN priorities are home-delivered meals, ADRCs, specialized transportation, and falls prevention.
- What you can do now:
 - Engage with candidates at the state and federal level and ask what their priorities are for older adults and caregivers!
 - **Develop a legislative “ask” for the state budget for caregivers. What do we want to ask the Governor to put in the budget that would improve the lives of caregivers and the older adults they support? This is the perfect time to decide. Our previous ask is here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008535>**