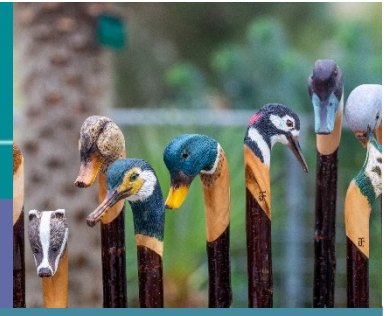




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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Save the Date! Fourth Quarter Virtual ACE Meeting Coming Up!

Wednesday, October 14 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

(Invitation, was sent by Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org earlier today.) Meeting agenda will be shared soon!

GWAAR Partner Resources EXT SharePoint site

We've recently had an issue with guest user access to our site due to a Microsoft update. We believe we have corrected the issue but if you continue to experience access issues please email sharepointadmins@gwaar.org.

Additionally, as of October 1, any user account that has not accessed our SharePoint site within the past 6 months will be disabled and have to re-register for access if needed. This will be a regular review to disable unused accounts.

Nice to Know

Wisconsin Statewide Discovery Survey

Common Good Philanthropies, in partnership with Envision Greater Green Bay, has launched the **Wisconsin Statewide Discovery Survey** to better understand the trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping long-term services and supports (LTSS) across Wisconsin.



Leaders and professionals whose work supports older adults and people with disabilities are invited to share their perspective. What we learn will help shape future **Strategic Foresight trainings and learning opportunities for Wisconsin-based nonprofits working in LTSS**—giving organizations practical tools to anticipate change, explore possibilities, and strengthen resilience for the future.

Take the Wisconsin Statewide Discovery Survey: <https://bit.ly/4d1uiOd>

The survey takes approximately **12–15 minutes** and is open through **September 30, 2026**.

Please share this opportunity with others in your network whose perspectives should be represented.

Learn more about Common Good Philanthropies' partnership with Envision Greater Green Bay:
<https://bit.ly/3V0vZW9>

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)



Advocacy

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

Need to Know

Reminder: 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



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Aging and Disability Resource Centers

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

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

Specialized Transportation

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

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

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

Reminder: 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

Free Webinar for Professionals: Dementia Friendly Tools for Students & Community Groups

 Thursday, September 24 | 12:00–1:00 p.m.

The Wisconsin Dementia Resource Network is offering a free one-hour webinar for professionals working with students, community groups, and people impacted by dementia.

Presenters Sarah Endicott, DNP, APNP, PMHNP-BC, GNP-BC, and Diane Farsetta, PhD will cover practical communication strategies, role-play scenarios to build understanding and skills, and dementia-friendly resources.

 **Registration:** <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/Gwd-SQhkt5Cvozry63sIEA#/registration>

Please share with professionals, educators, dementia-friendly advocates, Aging Network partners, and other community-facing staff who may benefit.

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009161>



The flyer features a photo of two women, one in a white lab coat and the other wearing VR goggles. The text on the flyer includes the title 'Dementia Friendly Tools for Students & Community Groups', the date and time 'Thursday, September 24 from 12 to 1 pm', and the presenter information: 'Presenters: Sarah Endicott, DNP, APNP, PMHNP-BC, GNP-BC; Diane Farsetta, PhD'. It also lists the topics to be covered: 'Strategies to communicate with people living with dementia and to support their care partners', 'Role play scenarios that increase understanding and skills', and 'Dementia friendly resources'. The flyer is from the Center for Aging Research and Education (CARE) at UW-Madison.

Reminder: September Caregiver Coordinator Meeting Materials Now Available!

- 🔔 Advocacy Update
- 📄 Healthcare Partnerships & Best Practices: ADRC Web Referral Form
- 💙 Badger Caregiving Clinic Overview
- 🎥 Full Recording

🔗 Find everything in one place:

<https://gwaar.org/family-caregiver-support-for-professionals>

Thank you to everyone who joined us and to our presenters for sharing their time, expertise, and resources! 💙

Wisconsin's
FamilyCaregiver
Support Programs

Nice to Know

🌿 Breathe, Bloom & Belong: A Caregiver Appreciation Event

📅 Wednesday, October 28 | 12:30–5:00 p.m.

📍 Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison

Please share this FREE caregiver appreciation event hosted by the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Dane County. Caregivers from Dane County and around the state are welcome!

Enjoy garden tours, refreshments, caregiver resources, a keynote, creative activities, and music. Free on-site respite is available 1:30–4:30 p.m. with advance registration.

Space is limited; register by October 23.

Register here:

https://countyofdane.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9YV398wAkVoyMn4

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009160>



Fiscal Resources and Data Management

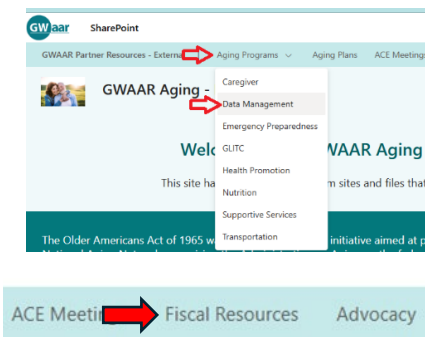
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

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



-continued-

Fiscal Updates

- We have received the final 2026 allocations for Title III and will be distributing amended contracts shortly.
- The 2027 Preliminary Budget has been posted. All contracted providers are required to complete both the preliminary and final budget (when posted in the Spring). The due date for submission of the preliminary budget is November 5th, 2026.
- We currently do not have a timeline to receive the 2026 transfers but hope to have them by the September claim.
- We have also received the 2027 preliminary allocations. Once we receive the contract from the state then we'll be able to initiate contracts.
- Fiscal Staff will be hosting a one-hour webinar to follow up on the in-person End-of-Year Variance Reporting Explanations on (TBD). This webinar will briefly review how to create clearer explanations and how to incorporate the reporting data into the reporting form.

Registration for End of Year Variance Reporting: <https://bit.ly/4xAqMC1>

PeerPlace Review and Cleanup

GWAAR will be posting another round of data entry errors by Wednesday to address as the year end is approaching fast. This will include IIIB, IIIC and IID reviews as before. A IIIE – NFCSP Caregiver data entry review will also be posted by Friday. Please aim to have these addressed by October 7 before the next review run.

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.

"Let's Talk Data" End-of-Year Webinar Series

We will be hosting a weekly webinar from October 1 to October 29 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. to help answer questions for end of year reporting. Aging staff is always welcome to schedule time with Carrie Kroetz using her Booking App link. As a reminder, all client/service data for October 2025 through September 2026 must be accurately entered by October 31 2026.

Webinar Series Link: Let's Talk Data - End of Year Series: <https://bit.ly/4hCulxb>

Please add the event to your calendar as this link will not automatically be added.

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Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

State Opioid Settlement Funds Public Input Survey

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has included older adults as an option to “vote” for as a priority population within the State Opioid Settlement Funds Public Input Survey. They also have “chronic pain programs” as an option to select when asked about prioritizing evidence-based strategies.



We know that older adults are not immune to opioid use, and the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) Healthy Living with Chronic Pain program directly addresses opioid use and misuse. Voting for those areas within the survey will help to elevate the older adult population as a priority area in the coming year and beyond.

If you have a moment to complete the survey and provide your input, it is much appreciated! The survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and will close on September 30. Please feel free to share with others who may want to advocate for older adults within this survey.

Survey Link: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8901809/SFY-2028-Opioid-Settlement-Public-Input-Survey>

Opioid Settlement Funds Info: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/settlement-funds.htm>

Transportation

[Nick Musson](#), Transportation & Aging Plan Specialist

Nice to Know

Week Without Driving: October 1-8, 2026

Week Without Driving was developed so that policy makers, elected leaders and transportation professionals could begin to understand the barriers nondrivers experienced in accessing their communities. It asks the question, “What would change in your life if driving wasn’t an option?”

The assumption that everybody is able to drive reveals who has access and who gets left out. When you don’t drive, everything becomes a negotiation between time, money, energy, distance and a tradeoff of what you can do and can access.

Learn more: <https://weekwithoutdriving.org/about/>

Participation tools and information: <https://weekwithoutdriving.org/participate/>

The Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization is working with communities and organizations across Dane County to coordinate local events, activities, and ways to participate.

Madison events and information: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/mpo/events/week-without-driving/2026>



Volunteerism

[Nick Musson](#), Transportation & Aging Plan Specialist

Need to Know

Reminder: Wisconsin Coalition for Volunteer Drivers

Volunteer driver programs play an important role in helping older adults, people with disabilities, veterans, and others get where they need to go. However, insurance practices that can result in increased premiums, changes in coverage, or other barriers are making it more difficult for programs to recruit and retain volunteer drivers.

Building on the strong response to the recent statewide volunteer driver insurance sign-on effort, GWAAR is forming the Wisconsin Coalition for Volunteer Drivers. The coalition will bring together organizations and individuals to stay informed, share experiences, support solutions, and advocate for volunteer drivers when it matters most.

Interested in joining? Organizations and individuals who support volunteer drivers and volunteer transportation are encouraged to join the Wisconsin Coalition for Volunteer Drivers.

Join here: <https://bit.ly/4j4tonN>

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Fall edition of the SMP quarterly newsletter, The Scoop is 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>

