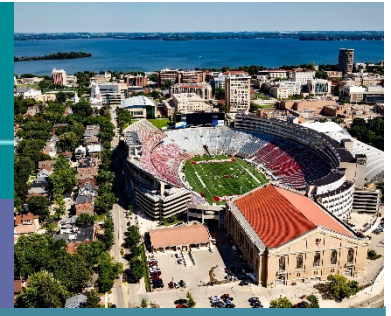




Volume 8, No. 41 October 13, 2026  
608-243-5670 | [info@gwaar.org](mailto:info@gwaar.org) | [gwaar.org](http://gwaar.org)



✓ Save the date

## Next ACE Meeting – October 14

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.



### Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

#### Need to Know

##### **Reminder: Fourth Quarter Virtual ACE Meeting tomorrow**

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

Invitations were sent by [Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org](mailto:Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org) on September 22.

**View the agenda:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009159>

##### **Save the dates for 2027 ACE (A Commitment to Excellence) meetings:**

Wednesday, January 13

Wednesday, April 14

Wednesday, July 14 (in-person, Stevens Point)

Wednesday, October 13

#### 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>

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



### **Reminder: Accepting Applications for GWAAR Advisory Council**

We are also looking for thoughtful, civic-minded, energetic individuals to join the GWAAR Advisory Council. Advisory Council Members are involved in a variety of activities that support aging programs including promotion of quality improvement of aging services and individual and organizational advocacy.

Advisory Council Members are expected to maintain community relationships to promote agency visibility and help achieve agency goals. If you or someone you know are looking for a challenging volunteer opportunity where your skills can make a difference in program planning, development, and implementation – please see the following and apply.

**View the application:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005628>

If you have any questions about volunteering on the Advisory Council, please contact Nick Musson at [nick.musson@gwaar.org](mailto:nick.musson@gwaar.org).

## **Advocacy**

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

### **Need to Know**

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#### **Reminder: Join WAAN's Fall Webinar Series!**

Join the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) for our final two webinars focused Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) and Specialized Transportation!

More information, including recordings of our past webinars on home-delivered meals and falls prevention programs, available here:

<https://gwaar.org/get-ready-to-advocate>

#### **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>

#### **Federal Medicaid Work Requirements Webinar**

Thursday, October 22 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is hosting a webinar for community partners focusing on the federal Medicaid work requirements. This webinar will focus on exemptions based on medical conditions, the caregiver exemption, and other exemptions to the rule.

If you have questions that you'd like DHS staff to answer during the webinar, you can send them in advance to [DHSForwardHealthPartners@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSForwardHealthPartners@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/4B2BELJ>



## Get Ready to Vote!

The November General Election is just three weeks away! Are you prepared to vote?

Make sure you are registered, know where your polling place is (or request an absentee ballot), and review what's on your ballot at <https://myvote.wi.gov>. If you've returned your absentee ballot, you can track its progress there, too.

Some important dates to remember:

- October 14—deadline to register to vote by mail or online.
- October 29—deadline to request an absentee ballot.
- October 30—deadline to register in person at your municipal clerk's office.
- November 3—Election Day! You can register to vote in person at your polling place. Your absentee ballot must be received by 8:00 p.m. on this day.



Do you need a ride to your polling place? The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition compiled a list of transportation providers around the state who may provide transportation for voting for people with disabilities and older adults: <https://disabilityvote.org/2025/rides-to-the-polls/>

For more voting resources, visit <https://disabilityvote.org/>

## Nice to Know

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### Your Medicaid Experience Needed!

Four Medicaid-related boards, committees, and councils are looking for new members. These groups meet regularly to talk about Medicaid policies and services and include people from across the state who can share how Medicaid programs and services are working, what gaps exist, and how they can be fixed. Your advocacy to improve the Medicaid system is needed and valued.



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES**

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is seeking applicants focused on Medicaid generally, people focused on the IRIS program, and people focused on the long-term care program. Applications are due November 6.

Learn more and apply at [Medicaid: Boards, Committees, and Councils | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/bcc.htm): <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/bcc.htm>

### 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

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[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

### Need to Know

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#### **2027 AFCSP Budgets Due November 27!**

 **Deadline:** Friday, November 27th, 2026

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is requesting 2027 Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) budgets from participating agencies.

 **Budget Submission:** Agencies should use their 2027 AFCSP allocation when preparing their budgets and submit the completed budget through the 2027 AFCSP Budget Report link here:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8963386/2027-AFCSP-Budget-Report>.

 **\*\*Important:\*\*** The online form must be completed in one sitting and cannot be saved for later. DHS recommends reviewing and preparing responses before beginning the submission.

 **Questions or Updates?**

- Budget questions or allocation requests: Contact Lynn Gall at [lynn.gall@wisconsin.gov](mailto:lynn.gall@wisconsin.gov)
- New AFCSP coordinator or contact information changes: Notify Lynn Gall or Bryn Ceman at [Bryn.Ceman@gwaar.org](mailto:Bryn.Ceman@gwaar.org)

Thank you for submitting your 2027 AFCSP budget by November 27th!

### Nice to Know

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#### **Wisconsin is leading the way in caregiver support!**

UW–Madison has launched the Badger Caregiving Clinic, the nation's first clinic of its kind, offering free education, individualized support, and resources for unpaid family and friend caregivers. ❤️

We're grateful to Dr. Beth Fields, an active WFACSA member, for her leadership in advancing this innovative approach to recognizing and supporting family caregivers.

 **Learn more about the Badger Caregiving Clinic:** <https://bit.ly/47asOOu>

#### **Children, Youth, and Young Adult Caregivers: Free UW–Madison Knowledge Exchange**

Join UW–Madison for a free documentary screening and panel discussion exploring the experiences, challenges, and joys of children, youth, and young adults who provide care. ❤️

 **Tuesday, November 10, 2026**

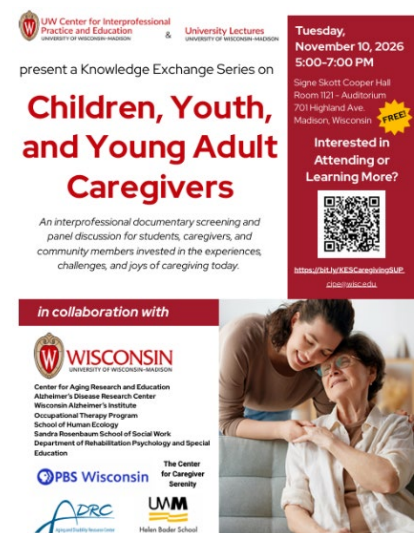
 **5–7 p.m.**

 **Signe Skott Cooper Hall, Room 1121 | 701 Highland Ave., Madison**

 **FREE and open to all!**

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/CaregivingSUP>

**View the flyer:** <https://bit.ly/4zmehDz>



UW Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education & University Lectures  
present a Knowledge Exchange Series on

## Children, Youth, and Young Adult Caregivers

An interprofessional documentary screening and panel discussion for students, caregivers, and community members invested in the experiences, challenges, and joys of caregiving today.

**Tuesday, November 10, 2026  
5:00-7:00 PM**

Signe Skott Cooper Hall  
Room 1121 - Auditorium  
701 Highland Ave.  
Madison, Wisconsin

**FREE!**

Interested in Attending or Learning More?

<https://bit.ly/CaregivingSUP>

[uwmadison.edu](https://uwmadison.edu)

in collaboration with

WISCONSIN  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Center for Aging Research and Education  
Alzheimer's Disease Research Center  
Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute  
Occupational Therapy Program  
School of Human Ecology  
Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work  
Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education

PBS Wisconsin

The Center for Caregiver Seniors

UWM  
Helen Bender School of Social Welfare

## Reminder: Aging Forward Together: A Free Summit for Caregivers of Older Adults

Friday, November 6, from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Waukesha Technical College (WCTC)  
Anthony J. Natalizio Center (Building S),  
800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072

Register by October 23 by going to  
<http://tinyurl.com/AgingForwardTogether>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009174>

Attendees are encouraged to join for the full day, but life can be busy. You are welcome to attend for as much of the day as your schedule allows as long as you register.

Throughout the day, attendees will have opportunities to connect with others in similar situations, visit with local resource providers (available 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.), including the ADRC of Waukesha County, and enjoy a complimentary lunch and refreshments.

This event is sponsored by the ADRC of Waukesha County. If you have any specific questions, please email Sarah at [spfeiffle@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:spfeiffle@waukeshacounty.gov) or call 262-970-6688.



## Fiscal Resources and Data Management

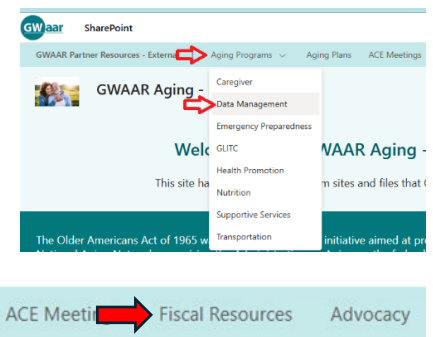
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

### 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



### \*Fiscal Updates\*

- 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- We have received confirmation of approved transfers from the state. Once we have received the amended contract from the state GWAAR will be able to initiate Aging Unit amendment and update the allocations on the September claim form.
- We have also received the 2027 preliminary allocations. Once we receive the contract from the state we will then be able to initiate contracts.

-continued-

### **\*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.

### **“Let’s Talk Data” End-of-Year Webinar Series**

*Thursdays, October 15, 22 & 29 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.*

We will be hosting a weekly webinar on Thursdays 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.

This week’s call will primarily focus on the NFCSP III E Caregiver program. We will also briefly cover how to use August’s information to preview your Variance Report and some additional updates regarding other data errors we are discovering.

### **\*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](mailto: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.

## **Health Promotion**

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

### ***Nice to Know***

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#### **WIHA 2027 Facilitator Training Schedule Released**

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging released their 2027 facilitator training schedule. In 2027, they will be offering more in-person training options and trainings for the Healthy Living with Diabetes and Healthy Living with Chronic Pain programs. This is a great time to look through the training schedule and start planning your 2027 program offerings.

**View the 2027 schedule:** <https://bit.ly/3VChrfC>



#### **Building Partnerships: Partnership Action Guide resource**

Building partnerships can be a great way to make your evidence-based health promotion programs more sustainable with limited resources. Within a given community, there are many potential partners to collaborate with on offering evidence-based health promotion programs. US Aging has put together a four-part Partnership Action Guide that can be helpful as you work to build partnerships within your community. The guide focuses on reducing homelessness, however can be applied to many different program areas, including health promotion.



**View the guide:** <https://usaging.org/housing-partnership-action-guide>

## Medicare Outreach and Assistance

[Stephanie Haas](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

### Nice to Know

#### New Shareable Video: Applying for Medicare with the Social Security Administration at SSA.gov

A new video was created to walk beneficiaries through the process of applying for Medicare online through the Social Security Administration at [SSA.gov](https://www.ssa.gov).

The video provides a step-by-step look at the Medicare application process and can be a helpful resource for beneficiaries who are ready to enroll in Medicare.

**View the video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g74oM-S8HXw>



## Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

### Nice to Know

#### Reminder: October Scam Spotlight focuses on Medicare Open Enrollment

The October Scam Spotlight focuses on Medicare's Open Enrollment Period, which runs from October 15 - December 7 each year. The spotlight provides some red flags to watch for and ways Medicare beneficiaries can protect themselves during this time of year.

**Read the October 2026 Scam Spotlight:** <https://bit.ly/4jHAdkf>