GWaar
Greater Wisconsin
Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting
Advocacy Update
November 11, 2026

ACTION ALERTS:

Ask Congress to Take Action Before the End of the Year

Congress is back in session for just a few more weeks before adjourning and a new Congress is inaugurated. Before they go, there are a few items we'd like addressed! The current continuing resolution (CR) funding the government at FY 2026 levels expires on December 11, and without a final appropriations package or another CR, the government would shut down.

We are asking Congress to act now on our top three priorities now:

- Protect and increase funding in Federal Fiscal Year 2027 for Older Americans Act programs
- Support S. 2120, the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act
- Further delay implementation of a controversial Office of Management and Budget federal grantmaking rule

Complete our action alert asking legislators to act on these three priorities:
https://app.oneclickpolitics.com/campaign-page?cid=hxVAqeYjMmqABQ8jdWZHH

There is a phone and email version that you can easily customize and send off!

Get Involved:

Join WAAN's Advocacy 101 Trainings!

Want to make a difference but don't know how to start?
Join one of our upcoming Aging Advocacy 101 trainings for older adults and family caregivers to learn the basics of advocacy, discover how to make your voice heard, and build the skills to create meaningful change in your community.



You'll learn:

- **Advocacy basics**: Understand what advocacy is and how it creates change.
- **Telling your story**: Learn how to share your story and communicate it with others.
- **Making an impact**: Explore ways to engage with legislators and other policymakers.

You don't need prior experience to be an advocate. These trainings are ideal for someone with little to no experience advocating. During the training, you will have the opportunity to learn skills, practice them with others, and ask questions.

Each training is virtual only on Zoom. You only need to register and attend one.

Training options:

- Monday, November 16 from 9 – 10:30 AM
- Wednesday, December 2 from 5 – 6:30 PM
- Saturday, December 5 from 10 – 11:30 AM ***CAREGIVER FOCUSED***

More information and registration available here: https://gwaar.org/get-ready-to-advocate

State Updates:

Implementation of Medicaid Work Requirements
Individuals enrolled in BadgerCare Plus may be subject to work requirements beginning in 2027, depending on enrollment/renewal date. If you are enrolled in BadgerCare Plus, between the ages of 19 and 64, not disabled, and do not have children under the age of 19 living with you, you may have to meet this requirement. You will receive a notice in the mail informing you if you are required to comply with this mandate.

There are exemptions to the work requirements. You can read more about the requirement, implementation of the requirement, and exemptions at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website. At the website, you'll find a screening tool where members can check whether they may need to comply with the requirements (note: this is not a definitive answer but provides great insight).

Family caregivers caring for a child under age 14 or an individual of any age with an ADA-compliant disability are one exemption to the work requirement. To qualify for this exemption, you must:

- Live with the child or disabled individual and provide care on a regular basis.
- Be related to the child or disabled individual, provide care on a regular basis, but do not live with them.
- Be unrelated to the child or disabled individual, do not reside together, but provide at least 80 hours of care per week.

A handout on with information on this exemption is available here:
https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03809f.pdf

If you believe you qualify for this exemption, contact your local agency and update your ACCESS account and go to "report a change."

The Medicaid work requirement can be confusing. Carefully review the requirements on the DHS website, ensure all of your information is up to date in ACCESS, and, if you have questions, contact your location Income Maintenance agency.

New Specialized Transportation Issue Brief available here:
https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009202

- Asks: increased funding for specialized transportation programs (20% for county programs and 25% for tribes)

        - Increased funding for capital and operating assistance for transportation programs (25% increase)
    - View the recording of our issue brief training on this topic here: https://gwaar.org/get-ready-to-advocate

Save the Date for 2027 Aging Advocacy Day on Tuesday, May 11, 2027!
The tenth anniversary celebration of Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Day will take place on May 11, 2027 at the Best Western Premier Park Hotel and the Wisconsin State Capitol! We are excited for statewide advocates to gather to discuss policy priorities, network with one another, and meet with legislators. Registration will open in early 2027.