GWaar

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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Reminder: GWAAR closed for Thanksgiving holiday

We will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26-27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving!



National Alliance on Caregiving 2026 Caregiver Nation Summit

Last week, members of GWAAR and the Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance attended the National Alliance on Caregiving 2026 Caregiver Nation Summit in Washington, D.C. We learned about opportunities to support family caregivers in our communities and where we can better advocate at the local, state, and federal level for improved programs and services.

We capped our visit off with meetings with our federal representatives, including Senators Baldwin and Johnson, and Representatives Moore, Pocan, Wied, and Grothman. Advocating for both the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and increased appropriations for its title areas is an important way to support family caregivers and older adults in Wisconsin.

We are hopeful that these two items can be accomplished before the end of the year and are grateful that our members of Congress met to hear the stories of how these programs impact the more than 1 million family caregivers in our state.



*Left to right are **Rachel Watkins-Petersen**, Asst. Dir. RCAW, **Beth Fields**, Assoc. Professor, UW-Madison, **Bryn Ceman**, Caregiver Prog. Spec., GWAAR, **Emily Petersen**, Advocacy & Public Policy Dir., GWAAR, and **Melinda S. Kavanaugh**, Professor, UW-Milwaukee*

If you want to join us in advocating for the Older Americans Act, you can use our action alert: https://bit.ly/3UJKrC4

Advocacy

Emily Petersen, Advocacy and Public Policy Director

Need to Know

Action Alert: Contact Your Federal Representatives about the Older Americans Act



Congress needs to address Federal Fiscal Year 2027 funding before the current Continuing Resolution runs out on December 11.

In a final package, they could also include a reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. Your advocacy is needed to ask Wisconsin's legislators to:

- Increase funding for Older Americans Act programs and services
- Reauthorize the bipartisan Older Americans Act
- Delay implementation of a controversial Office of Management and Budget federal grantmaking rule

Use our action alert to email or call your representatives:
https://bit.ly/3UJKrC4

Make sure you review the template to update any customizable fields!

With limited time for Congress to act before December 11, it is important to reach out as soon as possible. If there is action by December 11, there could be a government shutdown, resulting in delayed federal funding. Your advocacy is crucial!

Reminder: Develop Your Advocacy Skills!



The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) is hosting three Aging Advocacy 101 trainings this fall. Are you an older adult or family caregiver who wants to learn how to advocate? This is the perfect opportunity for you! These 90-minute, virtual trainings will teach the basics of advocacy, how to share your story, and explore ways to engage with legislators and policymakers. During the training, you will learn skills, practice them with others, and ask questions. Training dates are:

- Wednesday, December 2 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 5 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.
  CAREGIVER FOCUSED

You only need to register for one of the training dates. Learn more and find the registration form at: gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-101

Nice to Know

Reminder: Training Opportunity: Reframe Aging

Wednesday, December 2, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

From the moment we are born, we are aging. During our lifespan, we will also experience disability, whether that be aging with a disability or aging into disability. The Wisconsin movement to reframe aging and disability affects all of us as we strive to tell a more accurate, whole, and healthy story of aging and disability.

National Center to Reframe Aging
LED BY THE GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
ReframingAging.org

REFRAMING AGING+DISABILITY WISCONSIN

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Working with the National Center to Reframe Aging (NCRA), we are bringing proven communication strategies to Wisconsin. These tools support our goal of eliminating ageism and ableism and creating a healthier Wisconsin where we all can thrive as we age and experience disability!

Register now for this free, virtual introductory training that will introduce evidence-based communication strategies to reframe aging: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tGp41ecNQLKMOqjwJh_p_g#/registration

Reminder: Save the date: 2027 Aging Advocacy Day

Tuesday, May 11, 2027

Join WAAN to celebrate the 10th Annual Aging Advocacy Day on Tuesday, May 11, 2027! Statewide advocates will gather in Madison on May 11 to learn key advocacy tools, network with others in their district, and meet with their legislators/legislative staff on aging policy priorities.

We will meet at the Best Western Premier Park Hotel in the morning for meeting preparations and lunch before walking over to the State Capitol in the afternoon for our meetings. More details, including registration, coming later this year!

Head to gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2027 to learn more.



Family Caregiver Support

Bryn Ceman, Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

Your Work Is Making a Difference! 2025 Wisconsin Caregiver Program Results

Missed the November 11 Statewide Caregiver Coordinator Meeting?

Catch up on Wisconsin's 2025 caregiver program results, including statewide reach, services provided, caregiver needs, satisfaction ratings, and valuable feedback from family caregivers.

Additional highlights include advocacy updates, plans to streamline NFCSP and AFCSP forms, federal funding initiatives, and Wisconsin Trualta resources.

Wisconsin's FamilyCaregiver Support Programs

Review the meeting recording, notes, and attachments for important updates, resources, and a look ahead to 2027: https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls

Next Statewide Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2027, at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Wisconsin's family caregivers!

Fiscal Resources and Data Management

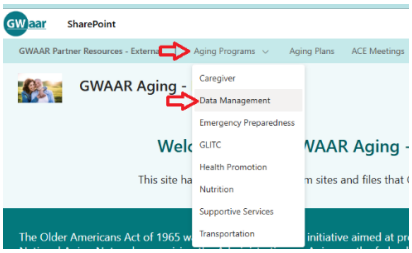
Carrie Kroetz, Data Management and Technology Coordinator

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

Thank you to all Aging Units for submitting your September claim forms on time. This has allowed us to review the forms and provide feedback before combining them for Federal reporting. Each of you have received an email with the results of the review, including any questions or issues that need to be addressed before the rollup. Any fiscal changes to the September claim form must be discussed and submitted by December 1 to allow for an updated September Copy/Paste, which will impact your YTD on the October claim and your Variance report.

Because of the volume of information that needs to be addressed, we are extending the Variance Report deadline to December 11. Once all adjustments to your agency's data and fiscal information are complete, update the Variance Report with the revised information. Then re-evaluate the variances and revise your responses to ensure they are accurate.

PeerPlace Review and Cleanup

GWAAR staff will continue to reach out to Aging Units regarding any remaining data entry errors. Please address these errors as soon as possible. All data for the 25-26 NAPIS will be exported by November 25. No extensions can be granted.

Health Promotion

Evan Ewing, Health Promotion Program Specialist

Nice to Know

Health Promotion Advisory Group

If you're interested in joining the Health Promotion Advisory Group, please let me know and I will add you to the group! This group helps to inform our Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar topics and being a member within the group offers unique opportunities to collaborate with your fellow health promotion colleagues.

We meet quarterly and share successes, challenges, talk through possible solutions, and we have a collaboration platform where you can share ideas, ask questions, and discuss topics between meetings.

If you are responsible for health promotion within your aging unit and are interested, please reach out to me via email at evan.ewing@gwaar.org.