

The Great American Mixing Pot

In recognition of June being National Immigration Heritage Month, we would like to acknowledge the important role immigrants play in our country. Immigrants from diverse backgrounds were expected to blend and assimilate into a single, new American culture, giving up their world identities. The Melting Pot metaphor leaves out the cultural power of many people who lived in the Americas before the European immigrants arrived. American history is layered and even painful and is known as the “American Melting Pot”.

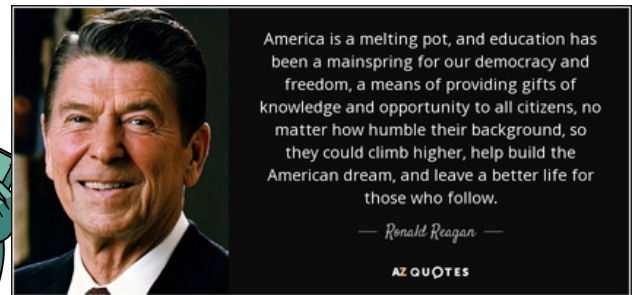
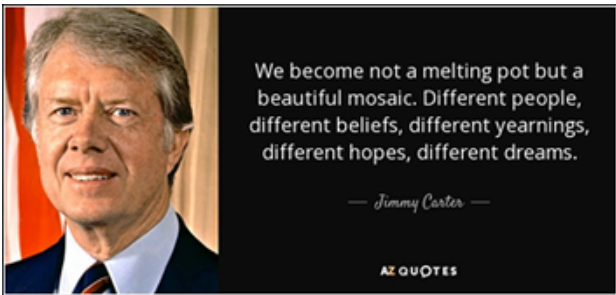


Table of Contents

1	Front Cover	5	Who's Who	9	Assisted Living	13	McCabe's	17	Amtrak
2	WI Immigrant	6	Lingo Buster	10	Sunnyside	14	Caregiver Village	18	Give Blood
3	WI Immigrant	7	We the People	11	Spotlight	15	Adaptive Equipment	19	Events
4	Schemes & Scams	8	I Called the ADRC	12	BeeWell	16	Money Matters	20	Back Cover

Wisconsin Immigrant Benefits

In Wisconsin eligibility for Medicaid, Medicare and FoodShare (SNAP) for immigrants depends on status, often requiring 5+ years of residency or specific, qualified immigrant status (e.g., refugees, asylees). While undocumented immigrants are ineligible, children born in the U.S. can qualify regardless of parental status. Recent 2025 changes may affect eligibility for some, with income requirements for mixed-status households applying.

The five-year residency requirement can begin the day the individual arrives under refugee or asylee status in the U.S. with the intention of establishing a home. It cannot start with visitor status since visitors are assumed to be retaining their foreign residence. Based on records from Department of Homeland Security the Social Security Department determines status of those entering the US. In regard to being lawfully present, it is common for children and adults to be on different plans. Some of these programs have special rules for immigrants and an expert can help you understand your options.

“Qualified” immigrants are:

- (1) Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs);
- (2) Refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation/removal, conditional entry (in effect prior to Apr. 1, 1980), or paroled into the U.S. for at least one year;
- (3) Cuban/Haitian entrants (as defined in 45 C.F.R. § 401.2);
- (4) Battered spouses and children with a pending or approved status
- (5) Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries who have obtained a T visa or whose application for a T visa sets forth a prima facie case;
- (6) Individuals who lawfully reside in the U.S. pursuant to a Compact of Free Association (COFA). COFA immigrants are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau who possess unique legal rights to live, work, and study in the United States indefinitely without visas. As of March 2024, they are considered "qualified non-citizens" eligible for federal benefits like Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF without a five-year wait.

Medicare:

To enroll in Medicare Part A or Part B, individuals must either be a U.S. citizen or have legal permanent residency (green card holders), Cuban and Haitian immigrants, or under the Compact of Free Association (COFA).



We have resources for anyone who need support:



24/7 EMERGENCY IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE
Hotline for Southeast Asian Community Members

1-800-251-1083

- Hmong, Lao, Thai, Vietnamese, Cambodian
- For all callers nationwide
- Please leave message in any language and we will return calls within 24 hours
- All calls confidential
- We are not lawyers but will connect you to lawyers as needed

“Not qualified” immigrants include all noncitizens who do not fall under the “qualified” immigrant categories.

Health Insurance and Care Options for Immigrants who are Lawfully Present

- Health Insurance from a Job
- Immigrants 65 and Older
- BadgerCare Plus
- HealthCare.gov
- DACA Recipients
- Wisconsin Well Woman Program
- Prenatal Care Program
- Free Clinics and Community Health Centers

Healthcare Options for People who are Undocumented

- Free Clinics and Community Health Centers
- Prenatal Care Program
- Wisconsin Well Woman Program
- Emergency Services Program



Emergency Medicaid is available for people who cannot get Medicaid only because of their immigration status and:

- Are 18 years or younger, or 65 years or older.
- Are blind or disabled.
- Are pregnant.
- Are 18–25 years and in foster care or out-of-home care when you turned 18.
- Have children under age 19 in your home.

Below are some common immigration statuses of noncitizens who may qualify for Emergency Services:

- Undocumented
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Temporary Protective Status
- People paroled into the U.S.
- Applicants for Asylum

*****Laws are in flux so please contact the ADRC or Dane County Immigration Affairs Office (IAO) for the most recent info**

IMPORTANT ADRC UPDATE:



ATTENTION! Aging and Disability Resource Center of Dane County hours are changing on April 1st. New hours will be 8:30am – 4:00pm Monday through Friday. This change will affect building hours as well as our phone center.

Schemes & Scams: Crypto ATMs

The FBI reported that in 2025 alone, \$333 million in scam losses were reported involving cryptocurrency kiosks. This edition of Schemes and Scams focuses on cryptocurrency Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) —also known as virtual currency kiosks or Bitcoin Teller Machines (BTMs).

Cryptocurrency is a digital currency that uses extra protections and bypasses traditional banking systems.

Many cryptocurrency ATMs are registered and used legally to convert U.S. dollars to cryptocurrency, or to conduct other cryptocurrency transactions. However, scammers are increasingly using crypto ATMs to facilitate fraud. In fact, investigations have shown that 90% of transactions at crypto kiosks are fraudulent, per AARP WI State Director Raj Shukla. Fraudsters involved in government-imposter scams, employment scams, investment scams, and other counterfeit schemes often direct consumers to use them because they are easy to use, difficult to trace, and funds can be moved quickly and anonymously, often overseas.

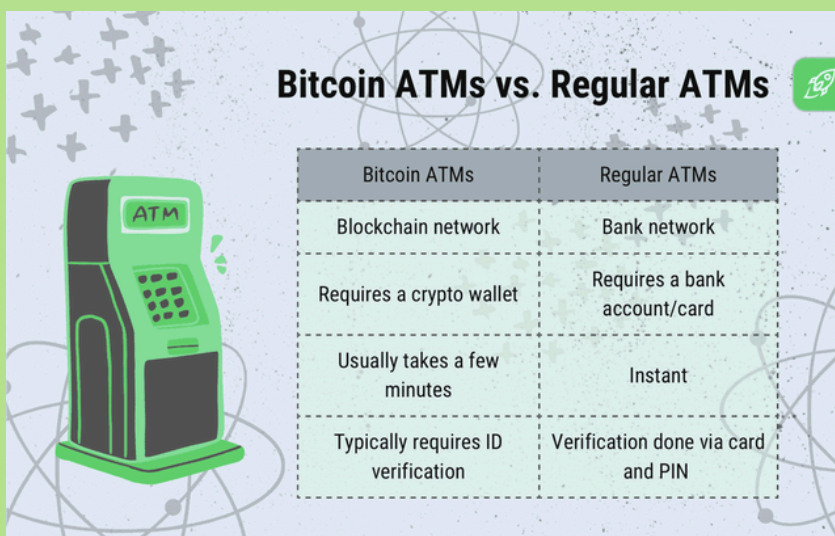
These machines can look very similar to traditional ATMs, and many people may not be able to tell the difference. Typically, these ATMs are colorful kiosks found in heavily trafficked locations (restaurants, gas stations, supermarkets, etc). In Wisconsin alone, there are over 700 crypto kiosks.

The Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions published the following consumer tips from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) regarding cryptocurrency fraud:

- Only scammers demand payment in cryptocurrency.
- Cryptocurrency accounts are not insured by the government.
- Cryptocurrency payments are typically irreversible.
- Cryptocurrency payments lack legal protections found with credit or debit cards.

To combat this, states have begun to implement stronger consumer protections related to crypto ATMs. Wisconsin passed the Money Transmission Law on January 1, 2025, joining 17 states to pass laws protecting consumers from crypto-kiosk-related scams. Fraud-reduction measures in this law include a daily transaction limit of \$2,000 and warnings to alert users to the possibility of fraud (electronically on the screen and through physical signage). Since January, Senate Bill 975/Assembly Bill 968 unanimously passed the Senate and, at the time of this writing, was awaiting Governor Evers to be signed into law. This Bill would put even stricter limits and protections in place. Measures include a \$500 daily transaction limit, required receipts, stronger customer ID verification for each transaction, and refund options for scam victims.

If you feel you have been the victim of a financial scam, contact your local law enforcement agency and/or file a report with the FBI through its Internet Crime Complaint Center: <https://www.fbi.gov/ic3>.



Bitcoin ATMs	Regular ATMs
Blockchain network	Bank network
Requires a crypto wallet	Requires a bank account/card
Usually takes a few minutes	Instant
Typically requires ID verification	Verification done via card and PIN

Articles used:

- 1) <https://dfi.wi.gov/Documents/FinancialServices/LicensedFinancial/VirtualCurrencyKioskGuidance.pdf>
- 2) <https://www.aarp.org/pri/topics/work-finances-retirement/fraud-consumer-protection/cryptocurrency-fraud/>
- 3) <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/crypto-atm/>
- 4) <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/proposals/ab968>
- 5) <https://www.wbay.com/2026/03/20/consumer-first-alert-wisconsin-crypto-kiosk-bill-awaits-governors-signature/>



Who's Who

GET TO KNOW KAITLYN, NEW INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST
AT THE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER DANE COUNTY

Question: *Although you are relatively “new” to the ADRC, you’re not new to this work. Can you tell us more about what brought you to the ADRC in Dane County?*

I have been an ADRC specialist since 2020 working in Walworth County. I really loved the work but I had a 45 minute commute and my husband had a 35 minute commute in the other direction to get to work. So, when the opportunity arose with Dane County, I took it to make both of our commutes more manageable.

Question: *What are the biggest similarities and differences between your roles at Walworth and Dane?*

With both Walworth and Dane counties, when a call comes in you get to keep the work that comes with it rather than delegating it out. This allows for a better connection with the customer and I really enjoy that. The biggest difference is that Dane is so much bigger. I have many more coworkers and how we manage the workload is different due to increased volume of calls coming in.

Question: *What’s your favorite part about the job?*

I love that I learn something new almost every day, even after 6 years of doing this work! Programs and resources are constantly changing and it’s always fun to learn of a new way to help someone.

Question: *What would you like to share about your life outside the ADRC?*

Since I have been given this opportunity, my husband and I moved to Sun Prairie. We are loving exploring the area with our two puppies.



Thanks for joining the Dane County ADRC, Kaitlyn! We are so happy to have your contributions!



Lingo Buster: SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL



And other important terms of our nation

This year on July 4th, we have the 250th birthday of the United States, or as some would call it, the "Semiquincentennial" anniversary!

As it is a very big anniversary for our nation, it's important to remember some other key words and phrases as well. These terms capture the values of our country that were established (almost) a semiquincentennia ago!

Bill of Rights – A term to describe the first 10 amendments of the United States Constitution.

Amendment – A term indicating a change to an existing law or text. We discuss "Amendments" as they are made to our Constitution.

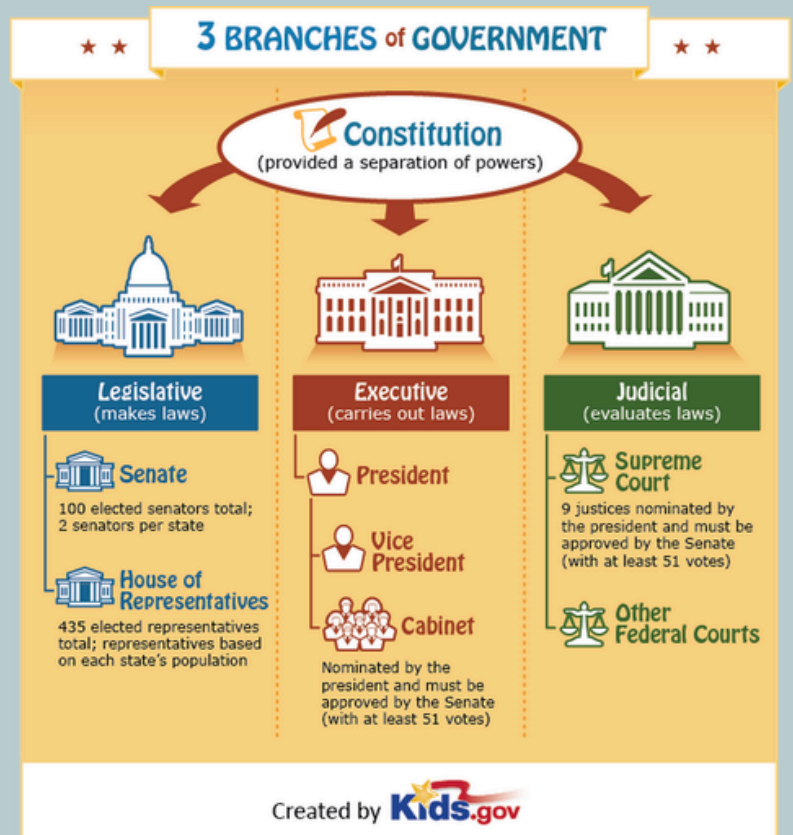
Constitution – A document outlining the framework of the United States government, including the three branches of government, that is the "supreme law" of our country.

Democracy – This describes a governmental system that is run by and for the citizens.

Checks and Balances – This is a term to describe how each branch of the government prevents one from overpowering the other. For example, if Congress passes a bill, it still needs to be approved by the other two branches (Supreme Court and Executive Branch).

We THE PEOPLE: A Three Ring Government

The Patriots who led us to independence from Great Britain did so to escape the controlling grasp of the monarch King James III. They recognized that a singular head of government contained too much power and would allow the voices of supporters to drown out the voices of the people. Their solution was to create three branches of government to ensure no individual or group would concentrate power and revert back to the days of the monarchy – albeit an American monarchy. The goal was for each branch to work with each other – responding to the actions of other branches by providing checks and balances to prevent the abuse of power.



These branches are...

1) The **Legislative** which is made up of the Senate and House of Representatives, called Congress.

The legislative branch's key roles include:

- Drafting proposed laws
- Confirming or rejecting presidential nominations for heads of federal agencies, federal judges, and the Supreme Court
- Surveying the budget
- Having the authority to declare war



3) The **Judicial** which includes the supreme court and other federal courts.

It evaluates laws by:

- Interpreting the meaning of laws
- Applying laws to individual cases
- Deciding if laws violate the Constitution



2) The **Executive** which is made up of the president, vice president and cabinet members.

The executive branch's key roles include:

- President as head of state and commander in chief of the armed forces.
- Vice President to support the president, replace the president if unable to perform duties, and preside over the senate – breaking tied votes as needed.
- Cabinet members are advisors to the president and after nomination by the president, must be confirmed by congress.

Within these roles, each branch can change the acts of the other branches. Presidents can veto legislation. Congress can reject or confirm presidential nominees as well as remove the president from office. Courts can overturn unconstitutional laws w/ the supreme court having the final say.

The hope was that by engaging each other, the government would look at its policies/actions to develop guidance and laws that allow the American population to thrive. During these times of uncertainty, it may be helpful to reflect upon the thinking of our founders. For a more light-hearted take, Schoolhouse Rock produced some enlightening videos.

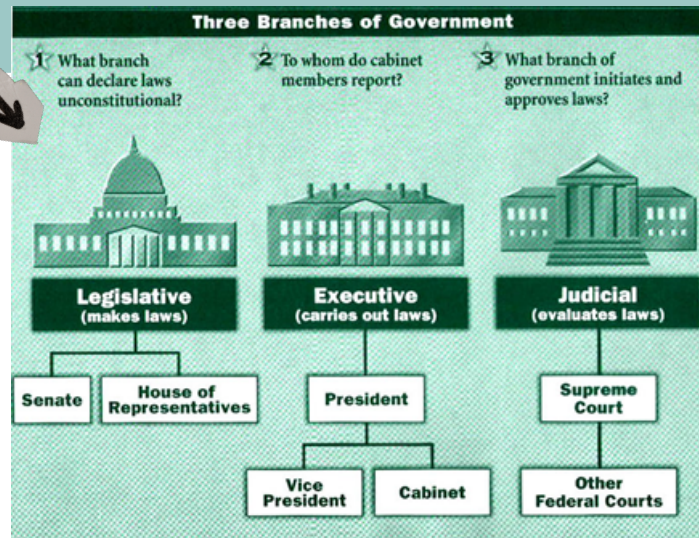
Catch a couple here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EISWIY9bG8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvOZs3g3qlo>



Did you enjoy the article and/or videos? Think you have a good grasp on the powers held by each branch? Try your hand at putting order back into each branch's responsibilities:

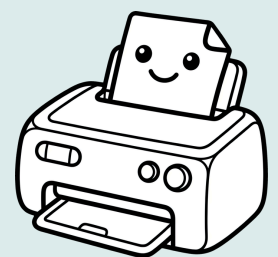


 **I Called the ADRC**

A mother called the ADRC to sort through recent changes to her adult daughter's healthcare. Mom spoke with Information and Assistance Specialist (I&A) Becky asking to simplify her daughter's coverage. The insurance changed from coverage under her mother's employer-provided insurance with Medicaid as a supplement to Medicare and Medicaid. The addition of Medicare added layers of insurance coverage to both provider and prescription plans. The mother was sorting through new Medicare plans, figuring out network coverage, and was ready to cancel whatever she could to get her daughter back to what she had for years. I&A Becky validated her concerns, then explained she would consult with ADRC Disability Benefit Specialists (DBS) to come up with some steps to manage this insurance change. Within one day, Becky collaborated with the DBS and sent Mom an email detailing what was needed. Mom replied to Becky saying she was able get the insurance all figured out with the information sent and included her appreciation with the excerpt: "You guys are such an amazing resource for us/community, thank you, thank you for being there – real people that actually answer the phone and help in real time – so Wonderful, so Helpful!"

In this busy world, finding one less thing to track is a big win. But be warned that home printer ink plans may not be one of those wins. Depending on the company, it may shutdown the printer remotely when it runs out of ink or it may not recognize ink bought outside the plan, expecting the customer to use the ink plan for their refills. So, buyer beware when getting a new printer.

**#Check
It
Out**



Assisted Living

“Assisted Living Facility” is an umbrella term used to describe three different living settings for adults who need help, but who do not require 24 hours of skilled care. Assisted living facilities (ALF) are required to provide services like health monitoring, assistance with medications, information and referral services, leisure times services, and assistance with personal care. The extent to which services are offered vary on facility and on individual needs. Assisted living facilities are regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

ADRC provide free and unbiased assistance on assisted living facilities and help to narrow down options. Please reach out to the ADRC of Dane County for more help M-F 7:45-4:30PM.

<https://www.daneadrc.org/documents/pdf/ALF-Packet-No-Fillable-List.pdf>



Residential Care Apartment Complexes (RCAC): Independent apartments with some additional services offered but no more than 28 hours of services per resident each week. Individuals must be competent and able to sign their own forms and understand a risk agreement upon admission to an RCAC. RCAC sizes vary from 5 to 100 apartments. RCAC facilities that accept public funding are inspected and certified by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) every 2 years and as needed to investigate complaints. RCAC facilities that do not accept public funding are inspected by DHS only as needed to investigate complaints.

Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRF): These facilities range in size from small to large, typically residents a one bedroom or a studio-style apartment. CBRFs cannot provide more than 3 hours of nursing care each week per resident. The level of care a facility provides is based upon how it is licensed. CBRFs are licensed by the Wisconsin DHS, which inspects them every 2 years and as needed to investigate complaints.

Adult Family Homes (AFH): An AFH is a small home-like setting (3 or 4 residents) with additional services offered. An AFH cannot provide more than 7 hours of nursing care per week per resident. They are typically located in a residential setting and care may be provided by shift staff or by the owner who lives at the home. AFH's are licensed by the Wisconsin DHS, which inspects them every 2 years and as needed to investigate complaints. There are also smaller AFH's that serve 1-2 residents and are regulated by County Human Service Departments.



Sunnyside: A Day to Say



If you were walking the streets of Manhattan during the Christmas season in the 1970s, you may have noticed, amongst the many lavish displays in Hallmark's flagship store, an unadorned little pine tree with a simple plaque reading, "I like you just the way you are". A simple message for us all.



This display was created by the man who embodied the neighbor we wished we had, Fred Rogers. Having built his Neighborhood through kindness, respect of others, acceptance of differences and unconditional love, he wished the neighborhood to be a model for communities to grow into the type of neighborhood where all could feel welcome. He realized that what would bond people to the neighborhood was love – both for others and ourselves. The question was, "How could he bring that awareness to others?"



Mr. Rogers was inspired to use 143 in his work by the legend of a lighthouse whose beams of light burst in a series of 1, 4, and 3 – each burst representing a quantity of letters – 1 (I) 4 (Love) 3 (You) – bringing those amidst the turbulent ocean safely home to reunite with their loved ones. In his work he reminded us that we are loved and have love to give. (If in doubt follow his mom's advice of what to do in times of trouble, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.")

May 23rd is the 143rd day of the year and in Mr. Rogers home state of PA, it is a state Holiday encouraging residents to embrace his loving spirit. While many states and nations informally recognize the day, you can help push this day for formal National recognition by contacting your legislators. So, be a good neighbor – introduce yourself to those in your neighborhood, respect boundaries/etiquette, participate in/create support systems, put in the effort to be there, and show gratitude for being part of the neighborhood. How might you do this? As Mr. Rogers said, "Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person,"



"THE WORLD NEEDS A SENSE OF WORTH. AND IT WILL ACHIEVE IT ONLY BY ITS PEOPLE FEELING THAT THEY ARE WORTHWHILE."

-Mr. Rogers



"THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO ULTIMATE SUCCESS. THE FIRST WAY IS TO BE KIND. THE SECOND WAY IS TO BE KIND. THE THIRD WAY IS TO BE KIND."

- MR. ROGERS



SPOTLIGHT:



DANE COUNTY
IMMIGRATION AFFAIRS

This issue's Community Spotlight shines upon the Dane County Immigration Affairs Office (IAO). Founded in 2017, in response to a growing immigrant community presenting with complex situations and language needs beyond existing resources. IAO has filled a service gap to support families and connect them with allowable and available resources, to prevent more dire situations from emerging.

As part of the Prevention and Early Intervention Division of Dane County Department of Human Services, IAO's mission is to foster a safe and welcoming environment for immigrants and their families by connecting them with services that address their unique needs. Through initial screening of need, referral to resources, advocacy, and community engagement, IAO empowers individuals and families.

IAO recognizes that individuals and families need a range of supports, and is working with community partners to provide guidance and education that strengthen the services and resources available to immigrants in Dane County.

The Immigration Affairs Office does this by offering the following services:

- **Initial Screening and Case management**
- **Family Safety Planning**
- **Department of Human Services U-Visa Certification**
- **Referrals to Immigration-Related Services**
- **Referrals to Basic Needs and other Community Services**
- **Community Outreach & Education**
- **Presentations about the Immigration Affairs Office**

Immigration Affairs is composed of bilingual and bicultural social service providers that help immigrants and refugees in Dane County meet their immigration related needs through a holistic approach – serving as guides along the pathways of the immigration journey both by direct action and through connecting immigrants to the appropriate providers.

The IAO is located at 2450 Rimrock Rd. Ste 301 Madison, WI 53713 and can be contacted by phone: 608.895.0650 or e-mail: hsimmigrationaffairs@danecounty.gov To learn more you can visit their website: https://www.danecountyhumanservices.org/Children-Youth-and-Family/Immigration-Affairs?fbclid=IwAR32AaHgKk2EdavneO_aUewqhMoM_8OLEwW8wzwp3JYcFDKcOd-yFtgIO5U

If you see or hear something concerning that regards to your or your neighbors status, please contact the IAO – they can help!



Dane County Public Health confirmed Measles are in our area. To protect children who are too young for the vaccine, the immunocompromised and yourself, please check your vaccination status.

- **If you were vaccinated in Wisconsin:** You can find your records using the [Wisconsin Immunization Registry](#) (link is external) (WIR) or you can call your health care provider.
- **If you were vaccinated somewhere else or have incomplete records:** Reach out to the health department in the jurisdiction where you may have been vaccinated. CDC has a list of [other states' immunization information systems](#) (link is external). You can also request serology from your doctor which is a blood test to see if you have measles antibodies.

The graphic has a light blue background. At the top, the word "Measles" is written in large red letters, followed by the subtitle "IT ISN'T JUST A LITTLE RASH" in smaller black letters. Below this, a green box contains the text "Measles can be dangerous, especially for children." A section titled "MEASLES SYMPTOMS TYPICALLY INCLUDE" lists: High fever (may spike to more than 104° F), Cough, Runny nose, Red, watery eyes, and Rash breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin. An illustration of a child with a rash is shown next to the list. Below the list, a green box contains the text: "If you or your child has symptoms of measles, stay home and avoid having visitors until you have talked with your doctor or clinic. They will tell you if you should come in for a visit." At the bottom, two photographs show children with visible rashes on their faces.

If you confirm you were vaccinated, it's extremely unlikely you will get measles. If you are fully vaccinated, the measles vaccine is 97% effective at preventing illness.

If you are unprotected and were exposed, you need to quarantine.

- Unprotected means you were born in 1957 or after and are unvaccinated or have no laboratory evidence of having had measles.
- Because measles is so infectious, if you were exposed, you will need to quarantine, which means you'll need to stay home and not go to work, school, or any public places from day 7 after your first exposure through day 21 after your last exposure.
- Call Dane County Public Health at 608-266-4821 and tell the operator you are unprotected and were exposed to measles, and we can give you instructions.

If you don't know or are unsure of your vaccination status

- If you don't know whether you've had the measles vaccine, we treat that the same as not being protected, just to be safe. That means you must stay home and avoid others from day 7 after your first exposure through day 21 after your last exposure or until you can confirm your vaccination status.
- During that time, monitor yourself for symptoms and if you start feeling sick, call ahead before going to a clinic or hospital.

Look out for measles symptoms for 7 to 21 days after you were exposed

- If you were exposed, you won't get sick right away. Measles symptoms appear 7 to 21 days after contact with the virus.
- Symptoms typically include high fever, cough, runny nose, and watery eyes. Measles rash appears 3 to 5 days after the first symptoms ([see pictures of the rash](#) (link is external)). The rash usually starts on the head, near the hairline, and then the rash moves down towards the rest of the body.

If you were exposed and have symptoms of measles

- Stay home. If you develop any of these symptoms, stay home and do not go to work, school, shopping, or use public transportation.
- Call your doctor's office or clinic before visiting. Measles is one of the most contagious diseases. It's extremely important that the office or clinic take steps to protect other people before you come to see them.
- If you do not have a provider and are not sure how to contact a clinic, call Public Health at 608-266-4821 (Monday-Friday, 7:45 am to 4:30 pm).

MCCABE'S AT THE MOVIES:

HONORING ROB REINER

Robert Reiner was an American filmmaker and actor who directed acclaimed films spanning comedy, drama, romance, and documentary. Mr. Reiner received a wide variety of accolades including winning two Emmy Awards, Hugo Award, nominations for an Academy Award, a BAFTA Award, and nine Golden Globe Awards. Three of his films have been inducted into the National Film Registry. He was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1999 and received the Chaplin Gala Tribute in 2014.



The American President (1995)

Postcards from the Edge (1990)

A Few Good Men (1992)

Misery (1990)

Throw Momma from the Train (1987)

Ghosts of Mississippi (1996)

Sleepless in Seattle (1993)

The Princess Bride (1987)

Stand by Me (1986)

The First Wives Club (1996)

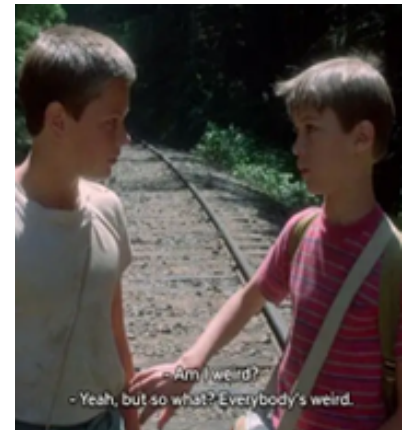
This is Spinal Tap (1984)

The Magic of Belle Isle (2012)

The Wolf of Wall Street (2013)

God & Country (2024)

EDtv (1999)



FYI: Accessible Travel



*Monica Kamal of
Madison SCI on an
Action Track Chair
Photo by Paul A Smith*

Access Ability Wisconsin is an organization dedicated to facilitating and providing the means for individuals with mobility challenges to access and enjoy Wisconsin's natural resources and the experiences that come with doing so. AAW in cooperation with Dane County Pheasants Forever is committed to conservation efforts that have positive benefits on soil, water, plant, wildlife, and people. For more information visit our website: www.AccessAbilityWI.org or call 608-886-9388.

More than 20,000 mobility challenged individuals who reside in Dane County, as well as visitors to the area, will benefit by having these All-Terrain Wheelchairs available. People with mobility challenges will be able to experience Wisconsin's beautiful outdoors including participation in family outings and community events in ways which are presently beyond their physical ability to engage in fully.



Caregiver Village

June is annually recognized as Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, dedicated to raising awareness about all forms of dementia. In 2025, about 63 million U.S. adults, nearly one in four, provided ongoing care for an adult or child with a medical condition or disability. 83% of the help provided to older adults in the United States came from family members, friends, or other unpaid caregivers. Nearly half of all unpaid caregivers (48%) who provided help to older adults, did so for someone with Alzheimer's or another type of dementia ([AARP Caregiving in the U.S.](#)). Worldwide, the number of individuals affected by dementia and, in turn, those needed to care for them, is continuing to rise. No one's dementia journey quite looks the same and we never know the length of time these unpaid caregivers will be providing care. Dementia is a progressive disease and demands continue to increase as time goes on. Many caregivers find solace in connecting with others in similar situations, and educating themselves to what may lie ahead. Caregivers that have pursued educational opportunities often feel it builds their confidence, helps them to learn new skills, improves their ability to manage stress, and adds to their sense of belonging and support.



Below are a few events this year that the ADRC of Dane County and Dementia Friendly Coalitions (Madison and Oregon) will be either hosting or participating in to help provide education on brain healthy lifestyle interventions and caregiver resources:

'Taking Care' Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion

Marcus Palace Cinema (2830 Hoepker Rd, Sun Prairie, WI 53590) – 4/9/26 from 6:30–8 p.m.

Taking Care is a 38-minute film following the journey of acclaimed actors and filmmakers Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen as they navigate the complexities and heartbreak of Lauren's mother's advancing Alzheimer's disease. Panel discussion to follow screening. Refreshments will be provided. *The movie screening is FREE, but you must register to attend. Seating is first come, first served. AARP membership is not required.*



The Younger Brain Blueprint: Through Mind, Meals, Movements, & More

Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce (101 Alpine Pkwy, Oregon, WI 53575) – 4/14/26 from 9:30 a.m.–12:00p.m.

Join us for an inspiring, practical, science backed experience designed to help you stay sharp and reduce your risk of dementia. The Younger Brain Blueprint features proven approaches, supported by the U.S. POINTER Study, showing how engaging your mind, choosing nourishing foods, moving your body, and adopting simple daily habits can strengthen brain resilience for the long term.

Caring Well – Caregiver Education & Resource Event

Pinney Public Library (516 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison, WI 53716) – 6/16/26 from 1–4 p.m.

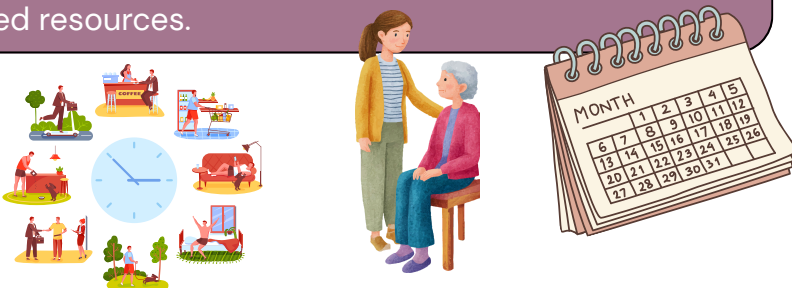
This community education event has a focus on cognitive change and is for family members and other unpaid caregivers who want to help a loved one live at home longer and safer. Learn best practices for daily routines and home safety, along with community-based resources.

Save the Date: Caregiver Appreciation Event – Olbrich Botanical Gardens – Wednesday, October 28th 1:30–4:30 p.m.



The ADRC website has an events calendar for other offerings this year to ensure caregivers feel supported, educated, and equipped in providing care in the community. We see you, and we celebrate you.

<https://www.daneadrc.org/Events?id=12>



ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

April is National Occupational Therapy month. This is a great time to not only honor professionals and educators but also to increase public understanding of the profession's role in helping people build—or rebuild—independence in everyday activities.

Whether due to illness, injury, a disability, or just changes in one's mobility, people sometimes benefit from the use of adaptive equipment to maintain or optimize their independence. Whether with low-tech tools or high-tech assistive technology devices, there are no shortage of options. Here are just a few cost-effective tools that may be worth looking into to help with mobility and transfers.

**An important reminder that when it comes to using devices such as these, it is best to seek professional consultation for proper fitting and recommendations before purchase, as these are not a one-size-fits-all and there can be risks based on your situation.*

Auto Assist Grab Bar



It can be called many things, from handy bar, portable vehicle grab bar, auto assist grab bar, and more. This is a universal, multipurpose tool for vehicle-use. It provides support when exiting a vehicle, by fitting in the door latch. It has a non-slip handle on one end and a pointed metal end on the other that can either cut your seatbelt or safely break window glass in case of an emergency. They often have a 350lb weight capacity and prices typically range from \$13.99-\$58.00.

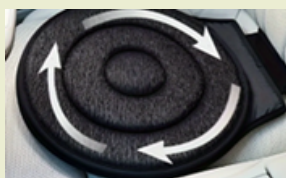
Electric Lifting Cushion



A portable electric lifting cushion with a plush, washable cover that gently assists sit-to-stand transfers for people who have difficulty rising independently. It adds about 2 inches of seat height, fits most armchairs/sofas, and should be used with feet flat on the floor—ideally next to an armrest for stability. Not for everyone, but could be a cheaper alternative to a lift chair for the right individual.

New, this generally ranges from \$190-\$600 depending on the brand, lift capacity and whether it is a plug-in vs battery-operated.

Rotating Seat Cushion



A lightweight, portable rotating seat cushion that turns smoothly 360° in either direction to reduce body twisting, with a textured non-slip base to help prevent sliding during use. These commonly range in price from \$15.00-\$40.00, but can be more depending on the desired diameter of the base, weight bearing capacity, and quality padding.

Fun Fact: These products were just a few of the items purchased by a family last year with Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) grant funds. To find out more about family caregiver grants, visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/caregiver.htm>

PIZZA FOR A CAUSE

The Dane County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) was selected as the non-profit recipient of the January Buck & Honey's Donation Creation. Throughout the month of January, Buck and Honey's featured a different weekly specialty pizza that was called their Donation Creation pizza. \$2 from each pizza sold that month was donated to the selected local non-profit. This was available at each of their 4 locations in Dane County (Monona, Waunakee, Sun Prairie, and Mount Horeb). Thank you Buck & Honey's for selecting the ADRC.

To the right are just a few of the ADRC staff that provide Information and Assistance to you and answer calls during business hours Monday-Friday. This was a great way to continue supporting the ADRC's mission and Buddy Program for mentorship to new staff.



Money Matters: ACA, Medicaid and Medicare Change For Immigrants

The United States has grown and prospered due to the immigration of people from other countries. Many of these immigrants embraced America with open arms and were acknowledged for their efforts with the opportunity to become American Citizens.

Many people immigrated to America because their own countries could not provide the resources to ensure their health and well-being. One honor to those helping to make our country great was the inclusion in our health care system – both for newly made citizens and those striving to become one. Alas, change is ever-present and the perception of what makes America great is in flux. In these inconsistent times, this chart is to help our immigrants better navigate the revisions to healthcare.

Table 1
Eligibility for Lawfully Present Immigrants Under the 2025 Tax and Budget Law

Medicaid and CHIP	Subsidized ACA Marketplaces	Medicare
Groups Maintaining Eligibility		
LPRs (green card holders)		
Cuban/Haitian entrants		
People residing in the U.S. under COFA		
Lawfully residing children and pregnant adults in states that offer coverage		
Groups Losing Eligibility		
Refugees and asylees		
Paroled into the U.S. for at least one year		
Granted withholding of deportation/removal		
Survivors of domestic violence with a pending or approved application for lawful status under the Violence Against Women Act		
Survivors of trafficking with a pending or approved T visa		
Members of a federally recognized Indian tribe or American Indian born in Canada		
Conditional entrants granted before 1980		
People with Temporary Protected Status		
People granted Deferred Action Status or Deferred Enforcement Departure		
People with work visas and other temporary, valid visas		
Applicants for adjustment to LPR status with approved visa petitions		
Certain applicants for asylum		
Applicants for withholding of removal		
Special immigrant juveniles		
People who were granted humanitarian parole in the U.S.		
U visa holders and applicants		
Applicants for certain statuses and anyone else who has been granted employment authorization		
		Other lawfully present immigrants who meet work and age or disability requirements

Amtrak Goes Accessible

The new Airo fleet trains are a result of Amtrak's \$8 billion project. With ridership increasing over the last three years and many trains being over 50 years old – older than the American Disability Act (ADA), Amtrak hopes to make your ride more comfortable! With higher ceilings and large viewing windows, the trains feel more spacious allowing in more light. Seats are firmer and easier to get out of, and only move forward so that the passenger behind you is not inconvenienced. Seat back trays have been adapted for many uses. Seats also use braille numbering for marking. Sound good? It gets better!



Accessibility is at the forefront of design changes – both on board and in the stations. You can now board by using integrated wheelchair lifts and corridors that are 32 inches wider than standard to help travelers with mobility concerns. Entryways and bathrooms provide a 60-inch turning space radius to accommodate a wheelchair. Some seats are designed to allow wheelchair using passengers to sit next to their companion while other seats allow for placement of 2 wheelchairs. Some have extra space for better transferring and there are call and light buttons within easy reach. Bathrooms include handgrips for stability. Food carts are in the plan to make dining access readily available without having to leave your area.

To access these new Airo fleet trains, your trip will need to be on the train lines serving the Cascade Route from Eugene OR to Vancouver BC and the Northeast Corridor from North Carolina to Maine including NY State and Pennsylvania. Look for them to roll out this summer!





DONATE BLOOD
SAVE A LIFE



Donating blood is highly important right now due to severe shortages, including in Dane County, per the American Red Cross. Reports show a 35% drop in supply and high demand across hospitals and trauma centers throughout the United States. In particular type O and negative blood types are in demand.

Why Give Blood?

- Help address the severe shortage and save lives
- Aid people in emergency situations who have experienced burns, accidents and traumatic injuries
- Promote healing for people with medical conditions like cancer and other chronic conditions who rely on blood transfusions and platelets

Impact:

- One donation can help save up to 3 lives
- Help your community maintain blood supply for emergencies

Benefits:

- You get a free health screening – blood screening for diseases, iron levels and blood pressure check
- Promotes a healthier heart and vascular system
- Immunity boost by donating regularly, due to healthy blood cell regeneration
- Check with your employer, as you may be able to get paid time off to donate!

What is a Power Red Donation?

- A double red cell donation is an automated process that collects two units of concentrated red blood cells, while returning plasma and platelets to the donor. Helps twice as many patients!
- Takes 30-45 minutes longer than a typical quick 30-minute donation

Where can I Donate?

- Schedule an appointment with the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 or go to their website to find local drives: Donate Blood, Platelets or Plasma. Give Life | Red Cross Blood (www.redcrossblood.org and enter your zip code)
- Watch local calendars at churches, schools and community centers

June 14th – World Blood Donation Day!

Events



What: Whimsical Tulip Paint Nite at Warm Belly Farm with Tad McLain.

When: April 15, 2026 from 6pm – 9pm. And every third Wednesday of the month.

Where: 4311 Vilas Hope Rd. Cottage Grove, 53527

Why: Whether you're a seasoned artist or just looking for a fun night out, this guided painting experience is all about creativity, connection, and a relaxed atmosphere. Enjoy a cocktail or mocktail from the Warm Belly Bar and light refreshments available for purchase to enjoy during the event.

How: Visit the website: <https://warmbelly.farm/cottage-grove/events/> to purchase a \$49 ticket that includes admission and all supplies. If you can recruit three friends you can get in for free – details on website. You may reschedule or cancel tickets up to 8 hours before the event starts. Paint Nite takes place in our greenhouse, so please dress in layers, as temperatures may fluctuate throughout the evening.

What: Bird & Nature Festival 2026

When: Sunday, April 26th from noon–4pm

Where: Warner Park Community Center (1625 Northport Dr. Madison, WI 53704)

Why: Free, family-friendly event celebrating Madison Bird City, Arbor Day and Earth Day. See live birds by Open Door Bird Sanctuary and visit nature displays throughout the day.

How: Visit their website for more information <https://www.cherokeemarsh.org/event-details-registration/bird-nature-festival-2026>



What: Art-Walk Middleton

When: Saturday, May 16th 10am–5pm

Where: Downtown Middleton (7734 Terrace Ave. Middleton, WI 53562)

Why: Free celebration of local art and culture. Stroll or roll through the outdoor exhibition of paintings, photography, jewelry and more for purchase. Includes demonstrations!

How: Visit their website for more information <https://visitmiddleton.com/event/art-walk-middleton/>



What: A Weekend with Frank Lloyd Wright

When: June 5th–7th

Where: Unitarian Meeting House (900 University Bay Dr. Madison, WI 53705) & Taliesin (5607 County Rd C. Spring Green, WI 53588)

Why: A weekend celebrating Frank Lloyd Wright at a number of locations. Events throughout the weekend vary in cost, including the Unitarian Meeting House's Gala. However, free tours of the Meeting House all weekend.

How: Learn more here <https://www.unitarianmeetinghouse.org/programs>





**2865 North Sherman Avenue
Madison, WI 53704**



The Mission of the ADRC

To support seniors, adults with disabilities, their families, and caregivers by providing useful information, assistance, and education on community services and long-term care options, and by serving as the single entry point for publicly funded long-term care services while at all times respecting the rights, dignity and preference of the individual.

**Web: www.daneadrc.org
Email: adrc@danecounty.gov
Phone: 608-240-7400
TTY: 608-240-7404
FAX: 608-240-7401
Toll Free: 1-855-417-6892**

Call, email, stop in, or request a Zoom Meeting

Hours: Monday–Friday 8:30 am–4:00 pm

- Other hours by appointment
- Bilingual Staff and Interpreters are available upon request
- Our services are free and confidential

We hope you find this newsletter helpful. If you have any feedback or wish to be added to our email distribution list, please send an email to ADRC@danecounty.gov or call us at 608-240-7400