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## Top Story

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### October Is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of age. Each year hundreds of thousands of older persons are abused, neglected and exploited. Domestic violence among older adults is a form of elder abuse and it can turn a home into a place of fear, hopelessness and desperation.

The Administration on Aging joins with other federal agencies and survivors, advocates, and communities around the country to observe October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is a moment to elevate the conversation so the majority of Americans will understand that violence is unacceptable at any age, and in any form.

For more information on Domestic Violence Awareness Month, please visit the Domestic Violence Awareness Project website at <http://dvam.vawnet.org/about/index.php>

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## AoA News

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### Population Data on Older Hispanic Adults Featured in AoA's October Widget

U.S. Census data states that the older population among all racial and ethnic groups will grow in the upcoming decades and the older Hispanic population is projected to grow the fastest. To learn more about this trend, check AoA's statistical widget at [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site\\_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx). You can share this data with visitors to your site by clicking the "Share" button on the widget to access the code of the widget.

While on AoA's website, be sure to check AoA's e-cards on the AoA Social Media page [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/index.aspx). You can send an inspiring e-card with a health message to friends and family. Tips on nutritious foods are featured in AoA's nutrition e-cards [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/eCards/nutrition.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/nutrition.aspx). Information on the benefits of different exercises are available in the Get Active e-cards [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/eCards/active.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/active.aspx).

Do you have a suggestion or comment on AoA's social media? Feel free to send a message to [Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov).

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## **Other HHS News**

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### **CMS Awards Grants to Six States to Combat Abuse and Neglect in Long Term Care Facilities**

In a move aimed at combating abuse and neglect in the nation's long-term care facilities, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has awarded more than \$13 million to six states to design comprehensive applicant criminal background check programs for jobs involving direct patient care. The first round of states to participate in the program are: Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Missouri, and Rhode Island. They each will share a portion of \$13.7 million.

An additional 11 states applied and may be funded beginning in October or November. CMS will also issue a second solicitation in October for those states that did not apply but may still do so.

“The new health care law will help states identify the best, most effective ways to determine which applicants can be trusted with the health and safety of residents and which cannot,” said Donald M. Berwick, M.D., CMS administrator.

Created by the Affordable Care Act, the new National Background Check Program will help identify “best practices” for long-term care providers to determine whether a job seeker has any kind of criminal history or other disqualifying information that could make him or her unsuitable to work directly with residents.

To learn more about these grants, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/10/20101006a.html>

### **Information on Peripheral Arterial Disease Added to NIHSeniorHealth Website**

Information about the risk factors, diagnosis and treatment of peripheral arterial disease, or P.A.D., was added to NIHSeniorHealth, the senior-friendly health and wellness website from the National Institutes of Health. Consumers can visit [www.nihseniorhealth.gov/peripheralarterialdisease/toc.html](http://www.nihseniorhealth.gov/peripheralarterialdisease/toc.html) to learn more about P.A.D., which develops when arteries in the body become clogged with fatty deposits, limiting blood flow. P.A.D. affects an estimated 8 million to 12 million people, most of them over age 50.

Information about P.A.D. is the latest addition to the roster of health topics offered on NIHSeniorHealth. A joint effort of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the website features

research-based, easily accessible information on a range of health issues of interest to older people. Topics include ways to exercise properly, safe use of medicines, and management of diseases such as stroke, diabetes, osteoporosis, and Alzheimer's disease. To improve access for older adults, NIHSeniorHealth includes short, easy-to-read segments of information in a number of formats, including various large-print type sizes, open-captioned videos, and an audio version.

### **HHS Announces the Launch of HealthCare.gov on Facebook**

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced the launch of HealthCare.gov on Facebook. HealthCare.gov on Facebook provides additional resources that allow consumers to take health care into their own hands. It allows people to: Search for insurance coverage using our "Insurance Finder" tool. The tool asks users to fill out two fields with basic information about themselves and the state they live in. Users are then redirected to a page on HealthCare.gov that continues with the insurance finder process based on the information provided. Users are also able to share thoughts and ideas with other members of the HealthCare.gov network and learn more about what the Affordable Care Act means for individuals, families, or small businesses.

To join HealthCare.gov on Facebook, please visit <http://www.facebook.com/Healthcare.gov>, and click the "Like" button at the top of the page.

### **HHS Releases \$101 Million in Emergency Funding to States for Energy Assistance**

US Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced the release of \$101 million in emergency contingency funding to help eligible low-income homeowners and renters meet their home energy needs. These Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) contingency funds will provide states, territories, tribes and the District of Columbia with additional assistance to pay heating and cooling costs. Funds will be allocated to all states based on their regular (*old*) block grant allocations.

To learn more about these grants, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/09/20100920c.html>

For a complete list of state allocations of the funds released please go to [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2010/liheap\\_100m\\_2010.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2010/liheap_100m_2010.html).

Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance should contact their local/state LIHEAP agency. For more information go to

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/> or  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/brochure/brochure.html>

## **Nationwide System to Assist Doctors and Hospitals in Switching to Electronic Health Records Is Completed**

David Blumenthal, M.D., national coordinator for health information technology, recently announced selection of the final Regional Extension Centers (RECs), completing a national system of 62 organizations that will help physicians, clinics and hospitals to move from paper-based medical records to electronic health records (EHR).

Two new awardees were named to cover Orange County, Calif., and the state of New Hampshire. In addition, service areas were expanded for two already-named Florida RECs, completing RECs coverage of all areas of the country.

RECs were created last year under the Health Information Technology Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. HITECH provided approximately \$2 billion in new programs to provide training and technical assistance and to demonstrate the effectiveness of health information technology in supporting improvement in care. Under the HITECH Act, \$677 million is allocated for the next two years to support a nationwide system of RECs.

To learn more about the REC program, please go to  
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/09/20100928a.html>

A complete listing of REC grant recipients and additional information about the Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers may be found at  
<http://www.HealthIT.hhs.gov/programs/REC/>

## **HHS Awards \$68 million in Grants to Support Community Living for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities**

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced \$68 million in grants to help seniors, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers better understand and navigate their health and long-term care options. These grants are being administered collaboratively by HHS' Administration on Aging (AoA) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

In making the announcement, Sebelius remarked "We know how difficult it can be for individuals and caregivers to deal with a sudden illness or chronic disease while at the same time trying to navigate through a complex health care system to figure out where to go to get appropriate help. The Affordable Care Act seeks to give people more control over their own care, while lowering health care costs and improving quality."

The funds will be used to help families: understand their Medicare and Medicaid benefits, including coverage for preventive services; navigate options for long term care including community-based services that can help individuals remain in their homes; and assist those transitioning from nursing or rehabilitation facilities back home to put the supports in place to make that transition successful.

To learn more about these grants, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/09/20100927a.html>

For a full funding chart that includes states and tribes, visit [http://www.aoa.gov/Aging\\_Statistics/Health\\_care\\_reform.aspx#map](http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx#map)

For more information about the Administration on Aging and its programs and services, please visit: [www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov)

For more information about the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, please visit [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)

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## **Federal Funding Opportunities**

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### **Rural Health Network Development Grant Program**

The Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will award 25 grants to support rural providers who work in formal networks, alliances, coalitions or partnerships to integrate administrative, clinical, technological, and financial functions. The ultimate goal of the Rural Health Network Development Grant Program is to strengthen the rural health care delivery system by 1) improving the viability of the individual providers in the network, and/or 2) improving the delivery of care to people served by the network. to expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of essential health care services, and enhance the delivery of health care in rural areas.

The amount of each grant will be \$180,000.00. The application deadline is November 12, 2010, 8:00 PM EST.

To learn more about this funding opportunity, please go to <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=GXswM3HcX8BpmDPbgntkyFGLM7sJ5DGnfTqhp6NXJQQt1h6rGGyY!520440642?oppId=56932&mode=VIEW>

### **Second Opportunity for National Background Check Program Funding**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will give a second opportunity to States and U.S. Territories that did not have adequate time to respond to its June 4, 2010 solicitation for Federal matching grants for a multi-year National Background Check Program for Patient Protection for direct patient access employees of several long term care facilities and providers. This second chance is in response to a number of states that indicated they were interested but unable to meet the August 9, 2010 deadline.

CMS is now giving advance notice that in early October 2010 it will issue a second solicitation to allow those States that did not have adequate time to complete their application an opportunity to participate in the grant program. CMS encourages all States that have not applied, but may be interested in doing so, to take this opportunity to continue their planning efforts.

Further information about the National Background Check Program will be posted to the CMS website in October. It is expected to be nearly identical to the initial solicitation. States may wish to review the initial solicitation, as well as the Questions and Answers document and Pilot Evaluation at: [http://www.cms.gov/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/04\\_BackgroundCheck.asp](http://www.cms.gov/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/04_BackgroundCheck.asp).

If you have any questions about this upcoming opportunity, you may contact the Background Check Program mailbox at [background\\_checks@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:background_checks@cms.hhs.gov).

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## **More News**

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### **NCOA to Fund Benefits Enrollment Centers**

The National Council on Aging's (NCOA) National Center for Benefits Outreach & Enrollment is seeking community-based nonprofits to apply for grants to help seniors and younger adults with disabilities access benefits.

Up to 14 two-year grants of \$130,000 each are available to support organizations as they develop seamless, community-wide, person-centered systems of benefits outreach and enrollment.

Letters of intent are due Oct. 22.

To learn more about this grant opportunity, please go to <http://www.centerforbenefits.org/2010%20BEC%20RFP%20FINAL.pdf>

### **October Is Crime Prevention Month: Learn About Go Direct**

Financial crimes are on the rise, making it more important than ever for senior citizens, people with disabilities and other federal beneficiaries to get their payments electronically. Electronic payments eliminate the risk of lost or stolen

checks, and help protect people from check fraud and other financial crimes. That's why it's so important that we, as Aging Network providers, alert older people about opportunities to switch to electronic payments for their monthly benefits checks. With this simple, smart step, they can help protect their money and improve their financial health.

Senior citizens, people with disabilities and others who receive federal benefits, can sign up for direct deposit by calling the **Go Direct** campaign helpline at (800) 333-1795 or visiting [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org). To sign up for the Treasury-recommended **Direct Express**® Debit Mastercard® card, or to learn about fees and features, call (800) 212-9991 or visit [www.USDirectExpress.com](http://www.USDirectExpress.com).

Free, turn-key materials – such as newsletter copy, PowerPoint presentation slides, website graphics and more – are available, easy to use and can be found in the Crime Prevention Month Electronic Tool Kit available at [http://www.godirect.org/partners/Spotlight\\_on\\_Safety.cfm](http://www.godirect.org/partners/Spotlight_on_Safety.cfm).

Free marketing materials including fliers, pamphlets, posters and pens can be ordered for upcoming events and workshops. Let's help the seniors in our community get on the path toward financial health. Get involved today!

### **October 16 Is World Food Day**

World Food Day (WFD) is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-around action to alleviate hunger. It is observed each October 16th in recognition of the founding of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. The first World Food Day was in 1981. In the United States the endeavor is sponsored by 450 national, private voluntary organizations.

To learn more about World Food Day, including events you can plan for your community, please go to <http://www.worldfooddayusa.org/>

### **USDA Awards Grants to Expand Nutrition Aid for Low-Income Seniors**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded \$3.1 million to three States to increase access and participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) among low-income seniors. The grants fund pilot projects to increase SNAP participation among Medicare's Extra Help population. Extra Help, also known as the Low Income Subsidy, helps low-income individuals or couples with limited resources pay for their Medicare prescriptions.

Winning projects include an outreach effort in Washington State to simplify applications for seniors. Pennsylvania will build on a current partnership that



streamlines the SNAP application and fast-tracks the eligibility process. And New Mexico's pilot standardizes benefits for the Extra Help population. Washington will receive \$1 million to conduct outreach in two counties. Washington's activities include a simplified application for seniors, intensive media campaign, targeted mailings, follow-up through phone calls and home visits, and a mobile SNAP office.

To learn more about the grants, please go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/PressReleases/2010/0469.htm>

For information about FNS and nutrition assistance programs, please go to [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov)

### **UN Report on “Current Status of the Social Situation, Wellbeing, Participation in Development and Rights of Older Persons Worldwide”**

The recently released United Nations Report on “Current Status of the Social Situation, Wellbeing, Participation in Development and Rights of Older Persons Worldwide” includes a section on the United States in its overview.

To read the report in its entirety, please go to <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/whatsnew%20PDF/Ageing%20Comprehensive%20report%202010%202%20September.pdf>

### **Additional National Observances in October**

Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To learn more, please visit the National Cancer Institute Breast Cancer website at <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/breast> or the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month website at <http://www.nbcam.org/search.cfm>

To read the Presidential Proclamation on Breast Cancer Awareness Month, please go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/10/01/presidential-proclamation-national-breast-cancer-awareness-month>

National Physical Disability Employment Awareness Month. To learn more, please visit the Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy website at <http://www.dol.gov/odep/programs/ndeam2010.htm>

To read the Presidential Proclamation on National Physical Disability Employment Awareness Month, please go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/10/01/presidential-proclamation-national-disability-employment-awareness-month>

National Energy Awareness Month. To learn more, please visit the Department of Energy National Energy Awareness Month website at [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/energy\\_aware.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/energy_aware.html)

To read the Presidential Proclamation on National Energy Awareness Month, please go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/10/01/presidential-proclamation-national-energy-awareness-month>

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### **Submit a Story!**

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Do you have a story about ....Click on the link below to share your story with us, and it may appear on our website or in this enewsletter!  
[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/For\\_The\\_Press/medadv/Share\\_Story.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/medadv/Share_Story.aspx)

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### **Conferences**

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Stay up to date with the latest aging meetings and conferences by visiting the AoA events calendar at:  
[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/events/events\\_List\\_Day.aspx#title](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/events/events_List_Day.aspx#title)

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