



News and Info

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National Influenza Vaccination Week – December 4-10

Spread the word, not the flu

Anyone can get Influenza (the flu), and anyone can give the flu to someone else. The flu can be a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. The good news is that according to the CDC, in recent years the highest rates of vaccination have been among those over 65.

But we still need to do more. Older adults with a chronic illness such as diabetes are at greater risk of serious complications from the flu compared with young, healthy adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 90 percent of seasonal flu-related deaths and more than 60 percent of seasonal flu-related hospitalizations in the US each year occur in people 65 years and older.

CDC records indicate that approximately 72 percent of persons 65 and older received the seasonal vaccination in 2010. However, that percentage is not where it should be among groups that have traditionally been hard to reach. Within that percentage, the numbers shift downward dramatically to 52 percent among Asian Americans, 43 percent among non-White Hispanics and not quite 40 percent among African Americans. These numbers are in despite of Medicare's coverage of flu vaccines at no out-of-pocket cost to beneficiaries.

The flu is a vaccine-preventable disease. Reducing disparities in flu vaccination is a health and wellness priority. The Aging Network can be an important vehicle to ensure that older adults get vaccinated. The Federal government website Flu.gov at <http://www.flu.gov> provides an abundance of outreach materials to launch a flu vaccination campaign. At the website visitors can also search the Flu Vaccine Finder to find information about local vaccine sites. You can also learn about what others are doing to prevent the flu in their communities.

To learn more about what you can do this week to promote National Influenza Vaccination Week, go to <http://www.flu.gov/news/nivw.html>

ASA Greenlee to Speak at the HUD LGBT Housing Summit

Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee will give closing remarks at the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) LGBT Housing Summit. The Summit will be held on December 7th, in Washington, DC.

LGBT elders often face discrimination and legal barriers to accessing housing and long-term care and are more likely to age without the benefits of a partner and/or children and other family supports compared to other elders.

Recognizing the housing problems for LGBT older adults of all income levels, the HUD in partnership with the Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights are co-hosting the summit to address this issue.

The summit will bring together advocates and practitioners from across the country to highlight existing barriers, as well as explore future possibilities for promoting current efforts to support housing and long-term care designed for LGBT elders.

To download a copy of the agenda and to view the webcast on December 7th, go to <http://www.huduser.org/lgbtwebcast/index.html>

Funding Opportunities

New Funding Opportunity for Mobility Management

The National Center for Senior Transportation (NCST) is requesting proposals for mobility management projects that demonstrate innovative and effective solutions to enhance transportation options for older adults through person-centered mobility management. Non-profit or local/regional/Tribal governmental agencies that plan, administer or provide aging and/or transportation services may apply. Four categories of projects will be funded:

- Peer-mobility management and employment;
- Mobility management in rural/frontier areas that have limited transportation options;
- Holistic models that integrate mobility management within current practices, including options counseling, information and assistance and/or case management; and
- Mobility management applied to the family of senior transportation options.

The NCST expects to award eight grants with a maximum award of \$50,000 each. Matching funds are not required. Grantees will be expected to complete their work in 9-12 months. The focus of all the grants is on older adults, although projects may also target adults with disabilities. A focus on culturally and ethnically diverse older adults is strongly encouraged.

For more information, join the conference call regarding the application process and selection criteria on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 2 p.m. EST (Call-in number: 1.866.846.3997 & Pass code: 139803).

Applications are due Friday December 23.

For more information on this funding opportunity and to download the application, go to http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST_2_grant_opportunities_2012&autologin=true

Funding Opportunity Reminders

Health Care Innovation Challenge to Award Up to \$1 Billion in Grants

Provided by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, this initiative will fund applicants who propose compelling new models of service delivery and payment improvements that hold the promise of delivering the three-part aim of better health, better health care and lower costs through improved quality for Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollees.

Important Deadlines:

Letter of Intent: December 19, 2011

Applications Due: 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, January 27, 2012

To read the full funding announcement and to download the application, go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=QpbTTFxTvp7JQx6yM721XDHqY7NZHkYB8VBCcCLOPzpy4srPGVQj!-408580364?oppId=130614&mode=VIEW>

AmeriCorps State and National Grants FY 2012

These grants will help organizations implement programs that utilize AmeriCorps members to engage in evidence-based interventions to strengthen communities. Of CNCS's six strategic areas, two should be of particular interest to the Aging Network: Healthy Futures and Veterans and Military Families.

The 2012 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunities may be found at: http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=93. Click on the appropriate grant opportunity to review all of the application materials.

Applications are **due January 18, 2012** at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Successful applicants will be notified by May 31, 2012.

Stay Informed

AoA and CMS to Host Webinars on the Health Care Innovation Challenge

The recently announced Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Care Innovation Challenge will award up to \$1 billion in total grants to applicants who can rapidly implement the most compelling new ideas to deliver better health, improved care and lower costs to people enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP, particularly those with the highest health care needs.

Next week, both the Administration on Aging (AoA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will host webinars to provide guidance on the application process and to respond to general questions about this funding opportunity.

- AoA Webinar on *The Health Care Innovation Challenge*

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2011

Time: 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Eastern

The purpose of this webinar is to give interested potential applicants from the aging and disability networks the opportunity to hear more about the funding opportunity announcement. AoA and CMS Innovation Center staff will provide an overview of the Challenge and answer your questions.

This webinar will continue AoA's series of webinars focused on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (also known as the Affordable Care Act, or ACA) and its impact on the aging network.

To register for the online event

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=669423353>
2. Click "Register".
3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

Once your registration is approved, you will receive a confirmation email message with instructions on how to join the event.

Please note: Space is limited, so please register as early as possible.

This webinar will also be recorded and posted on the AoA web site (http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx) soon after the webinar.

- CMS Webinar on *Health Care Innovation Challenge: Project Design Discussion*

Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. EST

Webcast: <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=83923>

Participants wishing to listen to audio must dial 877-261-8937 and enter code 31613148#. Reminder, participants will only be able to ask questions via chat feature online. A recording will be available following the webinar.

CMS Innovation Center staff will provide guidance on the application process with specific attention towards project proposal design.

A second webinar will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, which will delve deeper into the application process with special focus on quality measurement and financial plans. More information about this webinar will be posted on the [Innovation Center website](#) in the coming days.

For more information, including a fact sheet, FAQs and the Funding Opportunity Announcement, please see the Health Care Innovation Challenge initiative web site at: <http://www.innovations.cms.gov> or send your questions to InnovationChallenge@cms.hhs.gov

NLRC Webinar on *Guardianship Accountability and Monitoring*

Guardians of adults with diminished capacity are accountable to courts, and bound by high standards of care and fiduciary management. Measures for greater guardian accountability and oversight help courts to manage risks, prevent abuse and increase public confidence in the judicial system. The US Government Accountability Office has recently called for more attention to guardian accountability. Find out about guardian screening and standards, learn who is “guarding the guardians” and understand the obstacles to better oversight!

In this Webinar, you will hear national experts report on the latest developments, including guardian background checks, standards of performance and decision-making, status of national and state certification, and promising practices for court oversight, especially through using trained volunteers.

Title: *Guardianship Accountability and Monitoring: Where Do We Stand?*

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Time: 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. EST

To reserve your webinar seat, go to

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/841175792>

Speakers:

Terry Hammond, Guardianship Attorney/Consultant, Terry W. Hammond & Associates, El Paso, Texas

Sally Hurme, Senior Project Manager, AARP Education and Outreach.

Naomi Karp, Policy Advisor, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Office of Older Americans.

Moderator:

Erica Wood, Assistant Director, American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging

This webinar is part of a series of National Elder Rights Training Project webinars for the National Legal Resource Center.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine Conference Call

Please join the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, United States Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin, the HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Office of Minority Health for a conference call with faith, health, and community leaders on seasonal flu vaccination.

National Influenza Vaccine Week, December 4-10, marks a national effort to remind everyone of the importance of influenza vaccine. Faith and community leaders play an integral role in helping to keep their communities and congregations healthy, especially during flu season. As trusted messengers in your community, we need your help to spread important information about healthy practices and the need for flu vaccination.

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Time: 4:00 p.m. EST

Call in number: 1-888-604-9366

Access Code: SEASONAL FLU

To RSVP, go to

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USHHS_270

NCOA Webinars This Week

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) will host three webinars this week, and it is not too late to register.

Making the Most of NCOA's Crossroads

Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Time: 3:00 p.m. ET - 4:00 p.m. ET

Did you ever wish you could ask a colleague's advice and didn't know who to call? Attend this free one-hour webinar on using NCOA's online community, Crossroads. Learn how it can connect you with aging-field professionals nationwide--and help you in your job!

See how Crossroads can help you:

Connect with colleagues.

Share best practices.

Find ways to do your job better--and improve the lives of older adults.

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.ncoa.org/calendar-of-events/making-the-most-of-ncoas-1.html>

CFPB's Office of Financial Protection for Older Americans: Partnering with the Aging Network to Safeguard Seniors

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Time: 3:00 p.m. ET - 4:00 p.m. ET

Older adults often face complicated decisions about their finances, retirement choices and long-term planning. At their worst, these choices can lead to financial exploitation or having to choose between paying for necessities.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Office of Financial Protection for Older Americans is tasked with improving the financial decision-making of seniors and preventing unfair, deceptive and abusive practices targeted at seniors.

Join us to learn:

The financial challenges older adults face.

The role of CFPB in protecting older consumers.

Resources you can share with consumers.

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.ncoa.org/calendar-of-events/cfpbs-office-of-financial.html>

Involvement of State Aging and Disability Advocates in Duals Integration

Date: Friday, December 9, 2011

Time: 2:00 p.m. ET - 3:30 p.m. ET

Approximately 9 million low-income seniors and younger persons with disabilities are enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid (often referred to as "duals"). Many states are pursuing efforts to better coordinate care and

potentially lower costs for this population. Earlier this year, 15 states were awarded design contracts of up to \$1 million each to develop service delivery and payment models that integrate care. More broadly, 38 states and the District of Columbia have submitted letters of intent to pursue opportunities for integration announced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in July.

This webinar will provide a basic overview of the duals population, activity within states, opportunities and concerns, and stakeholder involvement. It is sponsored by the Friday Morning Collaborative, a coalition of national aging and disability organizations working together to protect and strengthen Medicaid home and community based services.

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.ncoa.org/calendar-of-events/involvement-of-state-aging.html>

Webinar Reminders

Webinar on Community Transportation and Travel Counseling in Greater Lynn, MA

Date: Tuesday December 6, 2011

Time: 2:00 – 3:30 EST

To register, go to https://aoa-events.webex.com/mw0306l/mywebex/default.do;jsessionid=k5nLTFhpNmWT83DXdcLJYkbtBF8mkYwqMtH2WJrRYwn6R0hnc0zc!1443071028?nomenu=true&siteurl=aoa-events&service=6&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Faoa-events.webex.com%2Fec06051%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D280008359%26siteurl%3Daoa-events%26%26%26

This webinar will demonstrate how transportation is a fundamental key to developing livable communities and promoting general consumer health and well-being.

Conference Call in Spanish on CuidadoDeSalud.gov for Faith and Community

Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Time: 12:30 p.m. Eastern, 11:30 a.m. Central, 10:30 a.m. Mountain, 9:30 a.m. Pacific

To register, go to

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USHHS_261

Join Mayra Alvarez, Director of Public Health Policy, Office of Health Reform and Mara Vanderslice Kelly, Acting Director of the HHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, for a conference call tour in Spanish of <http://www.CuidadoDeSalud.gov>, the first website in Spanish to provide consumers with both public and private health coverage options tailored specifically for their needs in a single, easy-to-use tool.

Tools & Information

Medicare December 7 Open Enrollment Deadline Nears

Ongoing resources are available for seniors and people with disabilities to compare coverage options.

As the December 7th deadline grows closer for people with Medicare to change or choose their drug and health plan coverage for next year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and its network of partners and advocates are available to assist with counseling and enrolling beneficiaries on their choices for 2012. With just days remaining in the Annual Enrollment Period, beneficiaries, their families and representatives should contact Medicare's consumer resources—<http://www.medicare.gov> and 1-800-MEDICARE—for assistance.

“Before the December 7th deadline, we urge all people with Medicare to focus on Open Enrollment and compare costs, coverage and their satisfaction with their current coverage with options for 2012,” said CMS Administrator Donald M. Berwick, M.D. . “Once you compare plans, if your current plan satisfies your needs for next year, you don't need to do anything. If other options are a better match for your needs, there is still time to change.”

Federal Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development Launched

On November 30th, Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee participated in a webinar hosted by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to announce a new Federal Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development. This task force, of which the Administration on Aging is a member, will work to encourage more and better research on how the arts help people reach their full potential at all stages of life.

The task force is a result of *The Arts and Human Development*, a white paper that proposes a framework for long-term collaboration among federal agencies to build capacity for future research and evidence sharing about the arts' role in human development. The white paper stems from a first-ever convening between the NEA and the Department of Health and Human Services in March

2011 in Washington, DC with NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

The white paper and names of task force members are now available at <http://www.arts.gov/research/convenings.html>

States Receive More Flexibility, Resources to Implement Affordable Insurance Exchanges

More than half of states now creating marketplaces to help millions of families and small businesses buy insurance

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently awarded nearly \$220 million in Affordable Insurance Exchange grants to 13 states to help them create Exchanges, giving these states more flexibility and resources to implement the Affordable Care Act. The health care reform law gives states the freedom to design Affordable Insurance Exchanges – one-stop marketplaces where consumers can choose a private health insurance plan that fits their health needs and have the same kinds of insurance choices as members of Congress.

The Department also released several Frequently Asked Questions providing answers to key questions states need to know as they work to set up these new marketplaces. Critical among these are that states that run Exchanges have more options than originally proposed when it comes to determining eligibility for tax credits and Medicaid. And states have more time to apply for “Level One” Exchange grants.

For more information on the states receiving grants, go to <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2011/05/exchanges05232011a.html>

To read the press release associated with this announcement, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/11/20111129a.html>

Small Steps to Health and Wealth™ Online Challenge Begins January 15

Rutgers University is launching an online *Small Steps to Health and Wealth™* (SSHW) Challenge called “Winter 2012 SSHW Challenge.” This free six-week program is part of *Small Steps to Health and Wealth™*, a national Cooperative Extension program developed to motivate Americans to take action to simultaneously improve their health and personal finances. The Rutgers SSHW Challenge is open to anyone who enrolls online and will be held from Sunday, January 15, through Saturday, February 25, 2012. Prizes will be awarded for participants who report the highest point totals.

To learn more about the SSHW Challenge and to sign up, follow the “Challenges” link on the *Small Steps to Health and Wealth*™ Website at <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/sshw/>

AoA’s December Widget Observes World AIDS Day

December 1st, 2011 marks the 23rd annual World AIDS day and AoA’s statistics widget features recent data on older adults living with HIV in the U.S. You will also find action ideas on how to support people living with HIV on World AIDS day and throughout the year. To view the December statistics widget, go to http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Utilities/Widget/index.aspx. You can also share this data with visitors to your website or blog by clicking the “Share” button on the widget to access the code of the widget.

In addition to widgets, AoA’s social media features a variety of engaging e-cards. Looking for a colorful fun e-card to send to friends and family during the holidays? AoA’s e-cards feature attractive images with links to health information resources. You’ll find e-cards that encourage healthy eating, different kinds of exercise and volunteering. To view all AoA e-cards, visit http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/index.aspx.

Have you visited AoA’s Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/aoa.gov>? If not, we encourage you to visit our page and click the “Like” button. Feel free to share information on our wall, view our photos and videos, and tell your friends to visit AoA’s Facebook page.

We welcome comments and suggestions on our social media content. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov.

You Make a Difference: A Guide for AAA Boards and Advisory Councils

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) recently completed a comprehensive update of *You Make a Difference: A Guide for AAA Boards and Advisory Councils*. The Guide is both a reference and a resource for new and experienced Area Agency on Aging (AAA) board and advisory council members. Included at the end are glossary and information sections that provide additional tools beyond the text.

To download a copy of the Guide, go to http://www.n4a.org/files/FINAL_BOARD_MANUAL_10-27-11.pdf

Conferences

December Conferences

The listing below reflects submissions for posting to the AoA Calendar of Events.

Dec. 6th-7th: *A Lifetime Financial Journey: Helping Women Reach Retirement Security*
Sponsor: Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)

Each year, WISER hosts an annual day-long symposium that brings together experts from women's and aging organizations, financial and retirement communities, policy organizations, and government agencies to discuss issues, policies, and solutions for strengthening women's retirement.

To view the conference agenda, go to
<http://www.wiserwomen.org/images/imagefiles/WISER%202011%20Symposium%20agenda%20.pdf>

To RSVP, email your contact information to Lhinz@wiserwomen.org

Dec 6th-9th: *Fifth Annual International Conference on Positive Aging*
Sponsor: Fielding Graduate University

The Fifth Annual International Conference on Positive Aging is a highly interactive gathering of diverse leaders who are shaping a dynamic future for older adults throughout the world.

To view the conference agenda, go to
<http://www.positiveaging.fielding.edu/conference-program>

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

Please direct submissions to the AoA Calendar of Events to Paulette Nowden at Paulette.Nowden@aoa.hhs.gov

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