



News and Info

Monday, December 19, 2011

*****Happy holidays; you will receive your next AoA News and Info on January 9, 2012*****

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2012 Older Americans Month Theme

Older Americans Month is celebrated each May to honor and recognize older Americans for the contributions they make to our families, communities and society. To assist our National Aging Network and other groups plan for activities during the month of May or throughout the year, the Administration on Aging (AoA) issues a theme for Older Americans Month. This year's theme "**Never Too Old to Play**" encourages older Americans to stay engaged, active and involved in their own lives and in their communities. Additional information coming soon.

Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunity Reminders

- *New Funding Opportunity for Mobility Management*

The National Center for Senior Transportation (NCST) expects to award eight grants with a maximum award of \$50,000 each for mobility management projects that demonstrate innovative and effective solutions to enhance transportation options for older adults through person-centered mobility management. 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.

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=NCST2_grant_opportunities_2012&autologin=true

- *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=QpbTTFxTvp7JQx6yM721XDHqY7NZHkYB8VBCCCLQPzpy4srPGVQj!-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

Roundtable Discussion on Enrolling the Uninsured under National Health Reform

Date: Friday, January 6, 2012

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. ET

To attend in person in Washington, D.C., register at:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2652705313>. (Registration is required.)

To watch the video webcast or a recording, go to

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/urban-institute-events>. (No registration is necessary.)

The national health reform legislation's most basic objective may be covering the uninsured. The Congressional Budget Office predicts that 60 percent of the uninsured will gain coverage once the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), the largest health coverage expansion since the 1960s and perhaps the largest in history, is fully phased in.

Some recent federal health reforms, such as insurance subsidies for laid-off workers, fell far short of their enrollment goals. Others, such as low-income subsidies for Medicare prescription drug coverage, exceeded expectations. Will the ACA reach its target population? How can the federal government help uninsured Americans sign up for health coverage? What stands in the way?

Top experts will analyze past successes and failures, key features of the ACA and the policy choices facing federal officials as they decide how to implement the new law.

Panelists:

Julie Appleby, reporter, Kaiser Health News (moderator)

Stan Dorn, senior fellow, Health Policy Center, Urban Institute

Cindy Mann, director, Center for Medicaid and State Operations, Department of Health and Human Services; former executive director, Center for Children and Families, Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute

Mark McClellan, director, Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform, Brookings Institution; former administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services

Webinar Reminder

- *Webinar on Dementia and Caregiving: Focusing on the Person while Understanding the Progression*

Date: Monday, December 19, 2011

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. PST

This webinar is the third session in a three-part series entitled *Moving Forward with Alzheimer's & Dementia* sponsored by Senior Helpers and Alzheimer's Foundation of America. The series is designed to help professionals provide more effective services and support for older adults with dementia throughout the disease process. The goal is to help caregivers see the positive and "what is," instead of "what was."

This session will focus on detecting and responding to significant changes in abilities that impact the person's engagement in meaningful activities in all areas: self-care, leisure, productive tasks, and rest. Techniques to effectively alter task demands and performance expectations will be discussed.

To register, go to <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/440140022>

Tools & Information

To Your Health! Food Safety for Seniors

The Food & Drug Administration and the US Department of Agriculture recently completed an update of the booklet *To Your Health! Food Safety for Seniors* and transferred the companion 14-minute video to DVD. The booklet and DVD are resource tools on how to prevent illness from mishandled food. It will help you learn more about what many of us call "food poisoning" and -- the experts call "food borne" illness.

To download a copy of the booklet in English, go to <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/Seniors/UCM182784.pdf>

To download a copy of the booklet in Spanish, go to <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/Seniors/UCM182785.pdf>

Go Direct® to Help Prevent Holiday Fraud

There's still time left to give the people you serve the gift of financial safety this holiday season. It's easy! The Go Direct® campaign provides community-based organizations and financial institutions with free materials to promote the safety and reliability of electronic federal benefit payments. Simply download or order materials and share them in your communications. Available materials include newsletter copy, brief tips for social media posts, statement messages, and more. Financial safety is a gift that will keep on giving all year. Share this important information today!

Reminder: by March 1, 2013, everyone getting federal benefits by paper check will need to switch to electronic payments - direct deposit to a bank or credit union account or to the Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card.

To learn more about the Go Direct® campaign, go to <http://www.godirect.org/>

26 Organizations Awarded Hospital Engagement Networks Funding

Affordable Care Act funding will help health providers identify and spread local ideas, improve care, reduce preventable healthcare acquired conditions

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced \$218 million will go to 26 states, regional, national, or hospital system organizations to become Hospital Engagement Networks. With the award, these organizations will have new resources and support to make health care safer and less costly by targeting and reducing the millions of preventable injuries and complications from healthcare acquired conditions. They will help identify solutions already working to reduce healthcare acquired conditions, and work to spread them to other hospitals and health care providers.

“At some point in our lives many of us are going to need hospital care and we need to be confident that no matter where we live, we’re going to get the best care in the world,” said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. “The Partnership for Patients is helping the nation’s finest health systems share their knowledge and resources to make sure every hospital knows how to provide all of its patients with the highest quality care.”

To learn more about this initiative, including the names of the 26 awardees, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/12/20111214d.html>

For more information on the Partnership for Patients, please visit <http://www.healthcare.gov/partnershipforpatients>

New Reports

- *Money Follows the Person: A 2011 Survey of Transitions, Services and Costs*

A total of 44 states, including the District of Columbia, have received federal grant money to transition Medicaid beneficiaries out of institutions and back to their homes or the community through the Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration. Enacted into law in 2006 as part of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) and extended under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), MFP offers states the opportunity to receive enhanced federal matching funds for twelve months for each Medicaid beneficiary that transitions back to a community setting. Over the past year, thirteen states have applied and received funding to begin a MFP demonstration joining the 30 states currently operating MFP demonstration programs. In August 2011, the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (KCMU) surveyed states about the current status of their MFP demonstrations inquiring about trends in enrollment, services and per capita spending. The 2011 annual survey highlights findings based on responses from all 44 MFP states.

To download a copy of the report, go to <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8142-02-2.pdf>

- *Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Programs: Data Update*

More than two decades after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, developing home and community-based services (HCBS) alternatives to institutional care has remained a priority for many state Medicaid programs. While the majority of Medicaid long-term care dollars still go toward institutional care, the national percentage of Medicaid spending on HCBS has more than doubled from 19 percent in 1995 to 43 percent in 2009. Building on previous policy initiatives to rebalance long-term services and supports, the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) provided new opportunities to further state efforts to expand community-based care for seniors and people with disabilities under Medicaid. However, many states continue to wrestle with the ongoing impacts of a struggling economy, creating uncertainties for continued progress. This report, based on annual data tracking conducted by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured

and researchers at the University of California, San Francisco over the past ten years, presents a summary of the main trends to emerge from the latest (2008) expenditures and participant data for the three main Medicaid HCBS programs: (1) optional 1915(c) HCBS waivers, (2) the mandatory home health benefit, and (3) the optional state plan personal care services benefit. It also presents 2010 findings on the policies used in these three programs, including eligibility criteria, provider, service and waiting list data, as well as provider reimbursement rates for the home health benefit and the personal care services benefit.

To download a copy of the report, go to
<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7720-05.pdf>

Family Matters: Multigenerational Families in a Volatile Economy

This report, based on a survey conducted by Generations United from September 27-29, 2011, responds to the question: What motivates Americans to live in a multigenerational household today?

To download a copy of the report, go to
<http://www.gu.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=QWOTaluHxPk%3d&tabid=157&mid=606>

- *New PHI Report on Home Care and Personal Assistance Workforce*

Caring in America, A Comprehensive Analysis of the Nation's Fastest-Growing Jobs: Home Health and Personal Care Aides, a report recently published by PHI, is the first in-depth analysis of the largest and fastest-growing workforce in the nation – the 2.5 million home care and personal assistance aides who provide long-term services and supports to elders and people living with disabilities in home and community-based settings. The report uses the best data and research available today to present the most complete picture of the home care workforce possible.

To download a copy of the report, go to
<http://www.directcareclearinghouse.org/download/caringinamerica-20111212.pdf>

please visit our website at <http://www.aoa.gov>. You can also contact us at 202-619-0724 (phone); 202-357-3555 (fax) or by Email at aoainfo@aoa.gov

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