



## **News from AoA June 2011**

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### **ASA Greenlee Testifies Before Congress**

On May 26, Assistant Secretary for Aging (ASA) Kathy Greenlee testified before the US Senate Special Committee on Aging. On a panel that also included former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, ASA Greenlee addressed the topic of "Meals, Rides, and Caregivers: What Makes the Older Americans Act so Vital to America's Seniors."

In her remarks, ASA Greenlee detailed the important themes the Administration on Aging (AoA) received over the past year from reports on the more than 60 listening sessions held throughout the country regarding reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the online input submitted from interested organizations, seniors and persons with disabilities and their caregivers. She also highlighted for the members the OAA's services priority areas as shared by the thousands of consumers who contributed to the listening sessions or gave input through the Internet.

To read ASA Greenlee's complete prepared testimony remarks, please go to [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Speeches\\_Testimony/archive/2011/docs/HHS\\_Statement\\_Senate\\_OAA052611.pdf](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Speeches_Testimony/archive/2011/docs/HHS_Statement_Senate_OAA052611.pdf)

The webcast of the hearing is accessible at the Committee's website, <http://www.aging.senate.gov/>

### **Older Americans Month Contest Winners Announced**

The U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) is pleased to announce the winners of the Older Americans Month *Connecting Generations Video Challenge* and the *Community Connections Video Game Tournament* contests.

The *Connecting Generations Video Challenge* brought together multiple generations to create videos featuring the roles older adults play in connecting us all. AoA received dozens of inspirational contest entries from intergenerational teams. AoA posted online the ten finalists selected by a panel of expert judges, and the public voted to select the winner.

From among these outstanding submissions, one entry stood out for its moving content and exceptional quality.

The Sunnybrook team entry, *Generation Appreciation*, submitted by Kumar Wickramasingha, highlights the thoughts of a senior services provider in Iowa. The video visually demonstrates the importance of caring for and working with

older Americans, while the voiceover acknowledges the many contributions of the current generation of older adults—from advances in transportation to the initial development of computer technology and putting a man on the moon.

You can view the winning video at

<http://challenge.gov/challenges/142/submissions/2960-generation-appreciation>

The *Community Connections Video Game Tournament* brought older Americans together for invigorating activity and socializing, promoting fitness and fostering connections among seniors in communities across the United States. Nearly 200 teams from 176 senior centers around the country participated in this virtual bowling tournament using the Nintendo Wii video game console. During the month of May, teams participated in two rounds of play. At the end of each round, senior centers submitted the top three scores from that round into an online database. The average of the top scores from each round was used to determine the tournament winners.

AoA, in partnership with the National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC), a program of the National Council on Aging, recognizes the following teams as the winners of the *Community Connections Video Game Tournament*:

In first place with an average score of 290.17 the Flying Eagles of Heritage Senior Center, Dover, PA

In second place with an average score of 285.83 the Top Strikers of Grand Rapids Senior Center, Grand Rapids, MI.

And, in third place with an average score of 283.67 the Wii'uns of St. Clair Street Senior Center, Murfreesboro.

Every May since 1963, people in towns and cities across the country have come together to celebrate the significant contributions of older Americans. Older Americans Month is our chance to show our appreciation and support for older adults as they continue to enrich and strengthen our communities. The theme of this year's celebration—Older Americans: Connecting the Community—pays homage to the many ways in which older adults bring inspiration and continuity to the fabric of our communities.

AoA thanks all of the contest participants who were such an important part of this year's Older Americans Month celebration.

**Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) Program – Role of the Aging Network in Assisting Older Mortgagees**

Over the past few months, through newsletters, teleconferences and webinars, the Administration on Aging (AoA) and our partners have been providing information to Aging Network professionals about the importance of working with US Department of Housing and Urban Development Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) reverse mortgage holders who may be delinquent with property cost payments (insurance, taxes etc.). There are currently 30,000 HECM mortgagees identified as delinquent.

Many of these older mortgagees are being referred to the Aging Network for assistance. We encourage all Aging Network professionals to educate themselves about the issue and how they can assist.

AoA has created a web page designed to assist you in understanding the issue and how you may assist. Resources available on the web page include background information, a summary of the issue, an FAQ that may be used with consumers, and links to additional resources. As new resources become available, they are being added.

To access this new web page, please go to  
[http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/Special\\_Projects/index.aspx](http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Special_Projects/index.aspx)

### **Upcoming AoA Events**

June 14: Webinar on Positive Aging: HIV Turns 30. To register for this event:

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=668461782&t=a>
  2. Click "Register".
  3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".
- NOTE: The event password is "123456"

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.

June 15: Webinar on Aging, Diversity and Mobility Presentation. To register for this event:

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=669360012&t=a>
  2. Click "Register"
  3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".
- NOTE: The event password is "123456"

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.

### **AoA's June Widget Recognizes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

June 15<sup>th</sup> is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). AoA's June statistics widget features information on this global observance and how individuals and organizations can take action to increase awareness of elder abuse. To learn more, view AoA's aging statistics widget at

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site\\_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx)

AoA's Healthy Living Tips widget has an attractive new design. You can view its new colors and design at

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site\\_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx). To access the code for AoA's widgets, click the "Share" button on the widgets.

In addition to widgets, AoA's 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), offers a variety of engaging e-cards that inspire healthy living. New e-cards for caregivers are available. If you have friends who are caring for their parents or older relatives, you can thank them by sending them an e-card. You will also find e-cards that encourage exercise and volunteering. To view all of AoA's health e-cards, please go to

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/eCards/flu.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/flu.aspx)

Also, be sure to visit AoA's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/aoa.gov](http://www.facebook.com/aoa.gov).

Please click the "Like" button for us. Feel free to write comments on our wall and/or share new resources.

If you have any questions or comments on our social media content, feel free to contact [Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov)

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### **Other HHS News**

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#### **HHS Introduces Two New Resource Tools**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health recently released "Partnering to Heal: Teaming Up Against Healthcare-Associated Infections." This is an interactive learning tool for clinicians, health professional students, and family caregivers. The training videos include information on basic protocols for universal precautions and isolation precautions to protect patient, visitors, and practitioners from the most common disease transmissions. The training promotes six key behaviors:

teamwork, communication, hand washing, vaccination against the flu, appropriate use of antibiotics, and proper insertion, use, and removal of catheters and ventilators.

To view the training video, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/partneringtoheal>

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Resources and the National Council on Patient Information and Education recently released a revised guide to help patients learn more about how to take medicines safely. “Your Medicines: Be Smart. Be Safe” is a booklet that includes a detachable, wallet-sized card that can be personalized to help patients keep track of all medicines they are taking, including vitamins and herbal and other dietary supplements. Available in English and Spanish, the guide includes questions that patients can ask their doctors about their medications. To access the guide online, please go to <http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/safemeds/yourmeds.htm>

Print copies are available by sending an e-mail to [ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov)

### **HHS Offers New Tools to Help States Lower Medicaid Costs, Provide Better Care**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced a series of initiatives to work with states to save money and better coordinate care for the 9 million Americans enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid. The new initiatives include better access to Medicare data and better coordination of health care between Medicare and Medicaid. The initiatives will be led by the new Federal Coordinated Health Care Office (the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office), which was created by the Affordable Care Act to help make the two programs work together more effectively to improve patient care and lower costs.

To learn more about these initiatives, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/05/20110511a.html>

### **ACA Gives Providers New Options to Better Coordinate Health Care**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced three Affordable Care Act (ACA) initiatives designed to help doctors, hospitals and other health care providers improve health care for Americans with Medicare by becoming Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs).

1. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) will support a new ACO model that will be available to providers this summer. The Pioneer ACO Model is designed for advanced organizations ready to participate

in shared savings. It is projected to save Medicare up to \$430 million over three years by better coordinating patient care.

Organizations interested in applying to the Pioneer ACO Model must submit a letter of intent on or before June 18, 2011. Applications must be received on or before July 18, 2011. The Pioneer ACO Request for Application, the Letter of Intent form and the Application form may be accessed at <http://innovations.cms.gov/areas-of-focus/seamless-and-coordinated-care-models/pioneer-aco>

The Innovation Center will hold an Open Door Forum to review the Pioneer ACO Model Request for Application on June 7, 2011.

2. The Innovation Center is seeking comment on the idea of an Advance Payment ACO Model that would provide additional up-front funding to providers to support the formation of new ACOs.

More information about the Advance Payment Initiative can be found at <http://innovations.cms.gov/areas-of-focus/seamless-and-coordinated-care-models/advance-payment/>

The Innovation Center will accept comments on the Advance Payment Initiative, if submitted prior to June 17, 2011. Comments should be submitted via email to [advpayACO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:advpayACO@cms.hhs.gov)

3. Provider groups interested in learning more about how to coordinate patient care through ACOs can attend free new Accelerated Development Learning Sessions. The first session is scheduled for June 20-22 in Minneapolis. The plenary session will be available to all interested organizations through a webcast and all materials from the sessions will be publicly available. More details on the webcast will be forthcoming.

Individuals wishing to attend the June Accelerated Learning Development Session in person may register at <https://acoregister.rti.org/>. Register is on a first come, first served basis.

To learn more about these initiatives, please read the fact sheet at the Healthcare.gov website, <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/accountablecare05172011a.html>

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## **Funding Opportunity**

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**Nationwide Program for National and State Background Checks for Direct Patient Access Employees of Long Term Care Facilities and Providers**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is inviting proposals from States and U.S. territories to be considered for inclusion in the legislatively mandated National Background Check Program. CMS is conducting a nationwide program that will identify efficient, effective and economical procedures for long-term care facilities and providers to conduct background checks on prospective direct patient/resident access employees. Eligible facilities and providers include skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospice care providers, long-term care hospitals, personal care service providers, adult day care providers, residential care providers, assisted living facilities, intermediate facilities for the mentally retarded (ICFs/MR) and other entities that provide long-term care services, as specified by each participating State.

The application deadline is June 30, 2011. To learn more about the funding opportunity, please go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/synopsis.do;jsessionid=2MHTNcTKdBwc0dJOR5tMcF6lJ60GkH137fLSR2h14TjHfCG1pPg2!1762745116>

### **\$100 Million in Affordable Care Act Grants to Help Create Healthier US Communities**

The US Department of Health and Human Services recently announced the availability of over \$100 million in funding for up to 75 Community Transformation Grants. Created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), these grants are aimed at helping communities implement projects proven to reduce chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease. By promoting healthy lifestyles and communities, especially among population groups experiencing the greatest burden of chronic disease, these grants will help improve health, reduce health disparities, and lower health care costs.

The application deadline is July 15, 2011. To learn more about this funding opportunity, please go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=VGvQNWlfgQWHQvhSygCxjVX8fyQmYRyH5v06NyVzThSLY7wgcL5C!1177254955?oppId=93873&mode=VIEW>

### **ORR Funding Opportunity Announcement: Targeted Assistance Grant Discretionary Program (TAG-D)**

The Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is pleased to announce the publication of the Targeted Assistance-Discretionary (TAG-D) grant announcement.

The 2011 Discretionary Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) Program will make \$4.8 million dollars available to State Governments and non-State agencies that administer a state refugee program under 45 CFR 400.5. The new



Discretionary TAG program will begin on September 30, 2011. The project period will be for two years, with two 12-month budget periods. The purpose of Discretionary TAG is to assist newly arrived refugees and specific refugee populations with compelling situations who have been unable to make the transition to self-sufficiency.

Examples of special populations may include, at a minimum, youth or young adults, without parents or permanent guardians who have spent an unusually long period under refugee camp conditions; single refugee mothers; refugees experiencing social or psychological conditions; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) refugees; or refugees suffering from medical conditions that may impede their ability to readily find employment.

The Discretionary TAG funding opportunity announcement seeks to promote the facilitation of professional certification, subsidy employment programs, and training for refugee women who are illiterate in their native language.

The application deadline is July 6, 2011. The full announcement can be found at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2011-ACF-ORR-RT-0161>

### **Funding Opportunity from CDC**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) recently awarded grants to State Public Health Departments in Colorado, New York and Oregon to reduce the burden of older adult falls by integrating evidence-based practices and interventions with the community and clinical care practice. The awards are part of a NCIPC Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program funding opportunity, which also included four other components:

Base Integration Component  
Regional Network Leader  
Surveillance Quality Improvement  
Motor Vehicle Injury Prevention MVP

This funding opportunity requires a team approach and partnership with the Aging Network. Management and implementation teams at state and local levels will comprise representatives from the state health department, state and local falls prevention coalitions, State Units on Aging (SUA) and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), relevant community-based organizations, leaders in physical activity promotion, health care providers and insurers, and businesses. An integrated team approach is central to a successful program.

To learn more about when the awardees will receive the grants and the NCIPC Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program, please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/stateprograms/index.html>

The Administration on Aging congratulates these grantees, and we support the effort to create a strong state infrastructure to reduce falls in older adults.

### **2011 Excellence in Economic Education Funding Opportunities**

The Council on Education is seeking sub-grantees for the US Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement Excellence in Economic Education Program to promote economic and financial literacy among all students in kindergarten through grade 12.

The application deadline is June 10, 2011. To learn more about this funding opportunity and to access the online application, please go to <http://www.councilforeconed.org/ea/program.php?pid=23>

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### **More News**

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#### **Health Indicators: Advancing Healthy Aging in your Community**

The Natural Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) Blueprint Program of the United Hospital Fund of New York City is pleased to announce the addition of a new section to its website.

The new section, Health Indicators – Advancing Healthy Aging in your Community, can help community-based organizations collect important information about their clients to identify key health risks in the community. It is a free, easy-to-use toolkit that includes a survey, database, report formats, and training materials. The 72-question survey has been designed to help organizations document and understand:

1. The demographics of the older adults surveyed,
2. Their access to and use of health care services,
3. Their use of prevention and screening services and engagement in health promotion activities, and
4. The kinds of health conditions they have and how well they feel those conditions are being managed.

All senior-serving community-based organizations—Area Agencies on Aging, NORC programs, senior centers, case management agencies, and others—can use Health Indicators to plan and prioritize programs, leverage resources from local health care providers, and make an effective case to potential funders. To

learn more about this new resource, please visit the webpage at <http://norcb Blueprint.org>

Free introductory webinars are being held to explain how to implement Health Indicators on:

Tuesday, June 7 at 12:00 p.m. (EST)

Wednesday, June 29 at 3:00 p.m. (EST)

Thursday, July 21 at 10:00 a.m. (EST)

To participate, please email your name, organization, and choice of date to [norcb Blueprint@uhfnyc.org](mailto:norcb Blueprint@uhfnyc.org)

To learn more about the NORC Blueprint Program, please visit <http://norcb Blueprint.org>

### **Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Initiative**

On Wednesday, May 25, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), US Department of Homeland Security, launched the Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Initiative. This effort represents USCIS's growing commitment to engage the public with proactive messages about the benefits of citizenship, and the role that shared citizenship rights and responsibilities play to unify all Americans.

The initiative will run during the summer across the country on more than 250 radio stations, 400 websites and through national and local print advertisements, in this first phase of a planned multi-year effort. Messages will run in Spanish, English, Chinese, and Vietnamese – languages spoken in the top 10 countries of origin for permanent residents. Nearly 8 million permanent residents are currently eligible to apply for citizenship and most reside in California, New York, Texas and Florida.

To learn more about this initiative, please visit

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=52a5711a9b220310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=68439c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD>

To view the video public service announcement, visit the USCIS YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/uscis>

For more information on the initiative, to view and download the materials and to learn how you can share in this effort, please visit <http://www.uscis.gov/citizenshipawareness>

### **NCOA Promotes Four Keys to a Successful Older Adult Volunteer Program**

At a recent summit in Washington, DC, the National Council on Aging (NCOA) explored “Successful Models for Nonprofits Looking to Tap Volunteers Aged 55+.” The four keys to successful older adult volunteer programs – impact, effectiveness, sustainability, and replicability—were addressed in each presentation.

Sponsored by NCOA’s Multi-Generational and Civic Engagement Initiative (MGCE), the summit presenters represented grantees tapped by MGCE to replicate their model programs in additional communities where need and interest existed. The six organizations included:

Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey in Toms River, NJ  
Easter Seals Oregon in Portland, OR  
Family Resource Centers of Crestwood in Rochester, NY  
Haywood Community Connections in Waynesville, NC  
Mather LifeWays in Evanston, IL  
United Way of Westmoreland County in Greensburg, PA

To learn more about the summit, please go to the NCOA-MGCE website at <http://www.ncoa.org/strengthening-community-organizations/community-action-volunteering/generations-helping.html>

### **National Observances**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. To read the 2011 Presidential Proclamation, please go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/31/presidential-proclamation-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-pride-mon>

Caribbean American Heritage Month. To read the 2011 Presidential Proclamation, please go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/31/presidential-proclamation-national-caribbean-american-heritage-month>

Cataract Awareness Month. Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in the world. There are close to 22.3 million Americans age 40 and older with cataracts. More than half of all Americans will have cataracts by age 80. To learn more, please visit the Prevent Blindness America website at <http://www.preventblindness.org/>

Home Safety Month. To learn more, please visit the Home Safety Council website at <http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/index.asp>

Men’s Health Month. The purpose of Men’s Health Month is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys. This month gives health care

providers, public policy makers, the media, and individuals an opportunity to encourage men and boys to seek regular medical advice and early treatment for disease and injury. Men's Health Week June 13-19. To learn more about Men's Health Month and suggestions for activities you can plan for Men's Health Week, please visit the Men's Health Network website at <http://www.menshealthmonth.org/week/index.html>

World Sickle Cell Day on June 19. To learn about activities you can sponsor in your community, please visit the African American Blood Drive and Bone Marrow Registry for Sickle Cell Disease Awareness website at <http://aablooddriveandmarrowregistry4sicklecellawareness.webs.com/>

World Refugee Day on June 20. Sponsored under the auspices of the UN Refugee Agency (UNCHR), World Refugee Day honors the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence. To learn more, please go the UNCHR website at <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

National HIV Testing Day on June 27. To learn how you can spread the word, please visit the National Association of People with AIDS website at <http://www.napwa.org/>

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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)

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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