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**AoA Awards Grants to Enhance State Alzheimer's Services**

*Four states to develop model systems for delivering services to people with disabilities*

Ohio, New York, Georgia and Minnesota recently received funding to help older adults and people with disabilities remain independent and healthy in their communities.

Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee announced last week that the four states will use a total of \$12.8 million in grants to accelerate development of comprehensive, integrated systems that can serve as models for other states. The models will demonstrate how to enhance state systems to provide consumers, including individuals with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia, or their caregivers with simplified, streamlined access to needed services.

To read the entire press release on these awards, please go to

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/For\\_The\\_Press/pr/archive/2011/September/2011\\_09\\_28.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/pr/archive/2011/September/2011_09_28.aspx)

### **AoA Awards Expansion Supplement Grants under the 2011 Lifespan Respite Care Program**

Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee recently announced Lifespan Respite Care Program Expansion Supplement Grant awards totaling more than \$1.1 million to eight states. All of the states initially received grant awards in 2009 or 2010 to provide respite services and expand program development activities.

Grant awards were made to the following states: Delaware, District of Columbia, Nevada, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

The primary focus of these one-year Expansion Grants will be the provision of respite services to eligible populations. Additionally, grantees may use some of the funds to further enhance volunteer recruitment, training and retention activities and to further enhance outreach and dissemination activities, in order to facilitate the provision of respite services across the state.

For more information about the implementation of the Lifespan Respite Care Program and to learn more about the key activities of each of the grantees, please visit the AoA web site at: [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/HCLTC/LRCP/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/LRCP/index.aspx)

### **ASA Greenlee Visits Senior Connections**

Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee closed out this year's observance of National Senior Center Month with a visit to the Atlanta-based Senior Connections, a home and community-based provider of senior services. While at the site, she toured Senior Connections' 5,000 square foot kitchen where 3,000 meals are prepared daily. ASA Greenlee also had the opportunity to talk with many seniors participating in a SPARC (Sickness Prevention Achieved through Regional Collaboration) event funded by the Atlanta Regional Commission and DeKalb County. Every year, Senior Connections teams up with medical and social services partners and hosts SPARC events throughout DeKalb County. The events offer preventive health services and screenings, including flu and pneumonia vaccinations, blood pressure and blood glucose screenings, hearing and vision checks, nutrition screenings and more.

To learn more about Senior Connections, please visit the website at

<http://www.srconn.org/>

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**Funding Opportunity****Funding Opportunity for MLK Day of Service Activities**

Youth Service America (YSA) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) are proud to support up to 16 MLK Day Lead Organizers to coordinate Martin Luther King (MLK) Day of Service (January 16, 2012) activities.

The goal of the MLK Day Lead Organizers program is to engage youth and adult volunteers on Martin Luther King Day of Service and throughout the year by encouraging families to serve together. Together, youth ages 5-25 and their families will focus on some of the nation's most pressing issues, such as education, health, environment, economic opportunity, and disaster relief.

This grant program is open to nonprofit organizations, K-12 schools, and colleges & universities in all 50 states and DC. 16 grantees will receive \$4,000 planning grants as well as significant training and technical assistance from YSA.

The application deadline is Friday, November 18. To learn more at this funding opportunity, please go to <http://www.YSA.org/grants/MLKDay>

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**Stay Informed****NCOA to Offer Open Enrollment Webinar**

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) National Center for Benefits Outreach & Enrollment will host an Open Enrollment webinar on three different dates this month. The training will address an array of issues, including:

What's new for 2012.

How to help your clients be savvy consumers in choosing plans and understanding costs.

Important dates, such as the Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period.

What mailings your clients may already be receiving from Social Security, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and their current plan?

How the low-income subsidy (LIS)/Extra Help program redetermination and reassignment processes work.

The webinar dates and times are:

Tuesday, October 11, 2-3:30 p.m. ET

To register, please go to

<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=y1k78kafk763>

Wednesday, October 12, 2-3:30 p.m. ET

To register, please go to

<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=nmzs3ghm1jev>

Monday, October 17, 2-3:30 p.m. ET

To register, please go to

<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=5hxfqsmh1lwr>

*Note from NCOA: 150 audio lines will be available for each training. We ask that you carefully consider whether or not you think you will actually be able to attend a webinar before you register. The spaces may fill up quick and as a consequence people will be turned away. Yet, for past webinars we typically have 50 to 75 “no-shows.” Thank you for helping us to accommodate as many people as possible.*

### **ACA 101 Conference Call**

The next Health and Human Services (HHS) conference call to discuss the benefits and provisions of the Affordable Care Act is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4 at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

To register for this call, please go to

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USHHS\\_248](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USHHS_248).

Dial-in information will be provided after receipt of your RSVP.

To view the PowerPoint Presentation, please go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/resources/aca101faithcommunities.pdf>

If you have any additional questions or difficulties registering for this call, please send an email to [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov)

The remaining discussion dates are: October 18, November 1, and December 6.

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<b><i>Tools &amp; Information</i></b>
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### **New ACA Initiative to Strengthen Primary Care**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently launched a new initiative, made possible by the Affordable Care Act, to help primary care practices deliver higher quality, more coordinated and patient-centered care. Under the new initiative, Medicare will work with commercial and state health insurance plans to offer additional support to primary care doctors who better coordinate care for their patients. This collaboration, known as the Comprehensive Primary Care initiative, is modeled after innovative practices developed by large employers and leading private health insurers in the private sector.

The voluntary initiative will begin as a demonstration project available in five to seven health care markets across the country. Public and private health care payers interested in applying to participate in the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative must submit a Letter of Intent by November 15, 2011.

This support will help doctors:

Help patients with serious or chronic diseases follow personalized care plans;

Give patients 24-hour access to care and health information;

Deliver preventive care;

Engage patients and their families in their own care;

Work together with other doctors, including specialists, to provide better coordinated care.

CMS will pay primary care practices a monthly fee for these activities in addition to the usual Medicare fees that these practices would receive for delivering Medicare covered services.

To learn more about this new initiative, please read the entire press release at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/09/20110928a.html>

### **ACA Initiative Helps Create Healthier Communities. Fight Chronic Disease**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced grants to 61 states and communities with over 120 million residents to fight chronic disease, which is the leading cause of death in Americans. Created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Community Transformation Grants help states and communities tackle the root causes of chronic disease such as smoking, poor diet and lack of physical activity. Grantees will use these funds, which total more than \$103 million, to transform where their residents live, work, play, and go to school so that they can lead healthier, more productive lives.

All grantees will work to address the following priority areas: 1) tobacco-free living; 2) active living and healthy eating; and 3) quality clinical and other preventive services, specifically prevention and control of high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Grantees may also focus on creating healthy and safe environments. Grantees will have an additional focus on reducing health disparities since, in addition to lacking access to the health care they need, many lower-income Americans, racial and ethnic minorities, and other underserved populations often have higher rates of disease.

To learn more about the Community Transformation Grant program, including a complete list of the 61 funded states and communities and the work being done by each grantee, please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/communitytransformation/>

### **Long-Term Care Residents' Rights**

*A person living in a long-term care facility maintains the same rights as an individual in the larger community.*

The rights of long-term care residents are guaranteed by the Federal 1987 Nursing Home Reform Law. The law requires nursing homes to “promote and protect the rights of each resident” and places a strong emphasis on individual dignity and self-determination.

Nursing homes must meet federal residents' rights requirements if they participate in

Medicare or Medicaid.

This year, Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week has been expanded to a month. This gives an entire month of October to call attention to the very important topic of residents' rights. The goal of throughout the month is to educate the community about residents' rights and to increase community involvement with residents. The theme for Residents' Rights Month 2011 is, *Welcome Home: Creating Connections between Residents and the Community*.

To learn more about this observance, please go to the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center website at <http://www.ltombudsman.org/issues/residents-rights>

### **Crime Prevention Month –Time to Remember Go Direct**

October is Crime Prevention Month, and it is a good time for providers to remind Federal beneficiaries who receive benefit payments by check that they must switch to an electronic payment method by March 1, 2013. Also, individuals currently applying for federal benefits receive their payments electronically from day one.

Receiving federal benefit payments electronically means senior citizens, people with disabilities, veterans and others can experience significant advantages compared to paper checks, including:

**Safety** – No risk of lost or stolen checks.

**Ease** – No need to make a special trip to cash or deposit a check.

**Reliability** – Payments are on time, every time.

**Cost-Savings** – Saves taxpayers \$120 million each year.

The *Go Direct* campaign provides free fliers, posters, newsletter copy, web banners and more to make it easy for you to share this important information. To learn more and to download the resource materials, please go to the *Go Direct* website at <http://www.godirect.org/partners/toolkits/community/crime-prevention-tool-kit/>

### **National Prescription Take Back Day**

Help older adults in your area empty their medicine cabinets of unwanted or expired medications at the third National Prescription Drug Take-Back day. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and its national and community partners are giving the public a chance to prevent accidental overdose, abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

On Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, from 10am – 2pm, DEA and local partners will hold their third National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day at sites nationwide. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

To find your state point of contact or a collection site near you, or to register your organization as a National Prescription Take Back Day location in your community for persons to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs, please go to the National Prescription Take Back Day website at

[http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html)

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## Observances

### October Observances

#### ***Domestic Violence Awareness Month***

In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year marks the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989 Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and such legislation has passed every year since.

To learn more about Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to download resource materials to promote the observance, please go to <http://dvam.vawnet.org/>

#### ***National Breast Cancer Awareness Month***

For more information, including helpful resources, please visit the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month website at [http://www.nbcam.org/about\\_nbcam.cfm](http://www.nbcam.org/about_nbcam.cfm)

#### ***World Mental Health Day (October 10<sup>th</sup>)***

For more information, including helpful resources, please visit the World Mental Health Day website at <http://www.wfmh.org/00WorldMentalHealthDay.htm>

#### ***World Food Day (October 16<sup>th</sup>)***

World Food Day is a worldwide effort designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed year-round action to alleviate hunger. For more information, including helpful resources, please visit the World Food Day website at <http://www.worldfooddayusa.org/>

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## Conferences

### October Conferences

#### ***4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: Northern Plains Conference on Aging & Disability***

Sponsor: Minnesota State University Morehead Continuing Studies

Website: <http://www.northernplainsconference.com/html/information.html>

#### ***16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: Aging with Passion: Third Biennial Conference on Aging***

Sponsor: University of Nebraska @ Omaha

Website: <http://www.northernplainsconference.com/html/information.html>

#### ***26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>: 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Arkansas Aging Conference***

Sponsor: Arkansas DHS Division of Aging and Adult Services

Website:

<http://www.daas.ar.gov/agingconf.html?ID=2&Source=https%3A/ardhs.sharepointsite.net/HCBS/default.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)

Please direct submissions to the AoA Calendar of Events to Paulette Nowden at [Paulette.Nowden@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:Paulette.Nowden@aoa.hhs.gov)

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