



News and Info

Monday, January 9, 2012

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Message from Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

January 16, 2012 will mark the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) federal holiday. This milestone is a perfect opportunity for Americans to honor Dr. King's legacy through service. The MLK Day of Service is a part of [United We Serve](#), the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans

from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: "What are you doing for others?" Each year, Americans across the country answer that question by coming together on the MLK Holiday to serve their neighbors and communities. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community.

Whether it's serving a meal to a hungry senior, running errands for those who are homebound or just spending some time with those who are alone and isolated, these gestures make a big difference in their lives. No matter what sort of service you choose to do, the important thing is to get involved, inspire others and show everyone in your community that service is one of America's greatest traditions and has the power to change lives.

The MLK Day of Service website will help you find or plan a project in your community. Just fill in your zip code in the [Find a Project](#) box to locate a volunteer opportunity in your community or [plan your own project](#).

Funding Opportunity

HRSA Funding Opportunity

The Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration Area Health Education Center (AHEC) programs consist of interdisciplinary, community-based, primary care training programs wherein academic and community-based leaders work to improve the distribution, diversity, supply, and quality of health personnel, particularly primary care personnel in the health care services delivery system and more specifically in delivery sites in rural and other underserved areas. This funding opportunity announcement solicits applications for a five-year project period for AHEC Infrastructure Development awards and AHEC Point of Service Maintenance and Enhancement awards. Successful applicants will be awarded cooperative agreements to establish and advance statewide or multi-county AHEC programs.

The application deadline is February 15, 2012.

To learn more and to download an application, go to <https://grants.hrsa.gov/webexternal/FundingOppDetails.asp?FundingCycleId=58DB07A1-7ED2-429C-9879->

B4A8B8B95C1A&ViewMode=EU&GoBack=&PrintMode=&OnlineAvailabilityFlag=True&pageNumber=1

Stay Informed

Webinar on *Prevention and Health Reform: Bringing Health to Where We Live, Learn, Work, Pray, and Play*

Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Time: 1:00 p.m. EST

Host: HHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

You must RSVP to attend. Please RSVP [here](#) no later than Monday, January 9 at 1:00 pm EST.

Call-In information will be provided 24 hours prior to the call ONLY to those who RSVP.

PowerPoint slides are available [here](#) (Prevention and Health Reform Slides under “Resources”).

Please submit any questions you have in advance of the call to ACA101@hhs.gov

Tools & Information

HHS 2011 Year in Review

In 2011 the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) took a number of steps that have improved the lives, health and security of Americans. In the video “HHS 2011 Year in Review” HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius outlines the many accomplishments of the Department over the course of 2011. To view the video, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/secretary/index.html>

Recent HHS Announcements

CMS Announces Innovation Advisors

On January 4, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it has selected 73 individuals from 27 States and the District of Columbia for its Innovation Advisors program.

The initiative, launched by the CMS Innovation Center in October 2011, will help health professionals deepen skills that will drive improvements to patient care and reduce costs. After an initial orientation phase, Innovation Advisors will work with the CMS Innovation Center to test new models of care delivery in their own organizations and communities. They will also create partnerships to find new ideas that work and share them regionally and across the United States.

To view the list of selectees and to learn more about the program, go to <http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/factsheet.asp?Counter=4240>

Pioneer Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) Initiative

Thirty-two leading health care organizations from across the country will participate in a new Pioneer Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) initiative made possible by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Pioneer ACO Initiative will encourage primary care doctors, specialists, hospitals, and other caregivers to provide better, more coordinated care for people with Medicare and could save up to \$1.1 billion over five years.

Under this initiative, operated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center (Innovation Center), Medicare will reward groups of health care providers that have formed ACOs based on how well they are able to both improve the health of their Medicare patients and lower their health care costs.

The initiative will test the effectiveness of several innovative payment models and how they can help experienced organizations to provide better care for beneficiaries, work in coordination with private payers, and reduce Medicare cost growth. These payment models will allow organizations that are successful in achieving better care and lower cost growth to move away from a payment system based on volume under the fee-for-service model, towards one where the ACO is paid based on the value of care it provides.

To view the final list of participating Pioneer ACOs and to learn more about the Pioneer ACO Model, go to http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp or <http://innovations.cms.gov/initiatives/aco/pioneer>

Independence at Home Demonstration

Created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and launched last month, the new Independence at Home Demonstration greatly expands the scope of in-home services Medicare beneficiaries can receive. The Independence at Home Demonstration will provide chronically ill patients with a complete range of primary care services. Participation in the Demonstration is voluntary for Medicare beneficiaries.

The Demonstration will reward healthcare providers that show a reduction in Medicare expenditures through an incentive payment if they succeed in providing high-quality care while reducing costs. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will use quality measures to ensure beneficiaries experience high quality care.

Medical practices eligible to participate in the Demonstration must include physicians or nurse practitioners who have experience delivering home-based primary care. Up to 50 practices will be selected and each must serve at least 200 Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions and functional limitations. Practices in the demonstration will be responsible for coordinating patient care with other health and social service professionals.

Applications and Letters of Intent, if applicable, are due by February 6, 2012. Additional information, including how to apply, can be found at <https://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/factsheet.asp?Counter=4230>

Best Intergenerational Communities: Generations United and MetLife Foundation

Think your community stands out because it works hard to acknowledge and serve all ages? Then Generations United and MetLife Foundation want to hear from you as we launch the first-ever "Best Intergenerational Communities Awards." Judges will select five communities based on standard criteria that take into account a community's own demographics, services, programs, and organizational structure. We'll recognize winning communities for their specific intergenerational successes, not as compared to other applicants.

Applications are due January 31, 2012. To download the application and to learn more, go to <http://www2.gu.org/OURWORK/Programs/BestIntergenerationalCommunitiesAwards.aspx>

AARP Report on Dual Eligibles

In an effort to improve care and hopefully reduce costs, states and the federal government are seeking new ways to provide services to dual eligible—people eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Missing from the discourse are the voices of dual eligibles themselves. Changes to the way their care is organized and delivered could have profound effects on their health, quality of life and satisfaction. The recent AARP report, *Experienced Voices: What Kind of Care Works Best for Dual Eligibles?*, is intended to complement state and federal efforts to develop innovative approaches to serving dual eligibles by offering consumer perspectives on what duals want from their models of care.

To download a copy of the report, go to <http://www.aarp.org/health/medicare-insurance/info-12-2011/dual-eligibles-focus-group.html>

AoA's January Widget Highlights Resources to Live a Healthier Life in 2012

A new year has come and AoA's January widget encourages reflection on how to live a healthier life in 2012. January's widget features exercise statistics, which show that older adults 75 plus tend not to exercise regularly. When you use the widget, you'll get a listing of resources to help you live a healthier life in 2012. To learn more, check AoA's statistics widget at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Utilities/Widget/index.aspx. If you'd like to add AoA's widget to your site or blog, select the "share" button on the widget and the code of the widget will display.

In addition to widgets, AoA's social media page at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/index.aspx offers free e-cards with tips on healthy living. You'll find e-greetings with information on the healthiest foods to eat, the best exercises for staying fit and resources for finding volunteer opportunities. We also feature e-cards for caregivers. If you want to thank a caregiver for the time they spend caring for a loved one, you can find e-cards for caregivers at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/caregiver.aspx.

Also, be sure to visit AoA's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/aoa.gov>. Please use the "Like" button for us and tell your friends to "like" us. Also, feel free to write comments on our wall and share information and resources.

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

A New Year of Healthy Possibilities

The New Year has long been a time for reflection on the personal changes we want to make as we look forward to a year of healthy possibilities. But, sometimes we may not know where or how to begin. A number of tips are provided at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website. You will find ways to get and keep a Healthy You, Healthy Family, Healthy Home, Healthy Community, and Healthy Workplace. To get started, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HealthyNewYear/>

New Financial Scam Targets Bhutanese Refugees

The Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has been alerted to a new telephone scam apparently targeting Bhutanese refugees. The caller, from a Washington, DC-based telephone number, advises recently resettled refugees that they are eligible to receive \$10,000 in assistance. But, to claim the money, they must first submit a \$650 processing fee in the form of a money order.

So far, reports are localized in Texas, but ORR advises everyone to be aware of this scam and avoid giving any personal information or payments to unknown callers.

As a reminder, the federal government does not demand processing fees or security deposits from grant recipients. If you are the target of a suspicious request, please contact your local police or resettlement agency for further assistance.

Observances

January Observances

The listing includes observances that are associated with aging-related issues.

National Glaucoma Awareness Month

More than 2.2 million Americans age 40 and older suffer from glaucoma. Nearly half do not know they have the disease—it causes no early symptoms.

For more information, visit the Prevent Blindness America
<http://preventblindness.org/>

Conferences

Conferences

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

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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