



## News and Info

Monday, January 23, 2012

### **2012 Older Americans Month Theme: *Never Too Old to Play!***

#### **In This Issue:**

[HHS Releases More Than \\$863 Million to Help Low-Income Households with Energy Costs Stay Safe and Healthy](#)

[Health Affairs Publishes HHS Health Literacy Article](#)

[Beverly Foundation's 2012 STAR Awards Program](#)

[Housing Counseling Training Program](#)

[AoA Webinar on \*Graying of HIV/AIDS: Community Resources for the Aging Services Network\*](#)

[AoA Webinar on \*Transitions and Long-Term Care: A Look at the Minimum Data Set 3.0 Section Q and Money Follows the Person\*](#)

[Health Care Conference Calls](#)

[NCOA January Webinars](#)

[Seasonal Flu Call for Latino Faith and Community Leaders](#)

[White House 2012 ACA Progress Report](#)

[Ten Attributes of a Health Literate Organization](#)

[New England Pension Assistance Project Begins 2012 with a Major Milestone](#)

[January Observances](#)

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### **HHS Releases More Than \$863 Million to Help Low-Income Households with Energy Costs Stay Safe and Healthy**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently released more than \$863 million to grantees to help low-income households with their heating

and other home energy costs under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP assists low-income households, including families with children and seniors, with their home energy needs such as heating in the winter, cooling in the summer, and insulating their homes to make them more energy-efficient and to reduce their energy costs. The \$863 million in regular block grant funds is in addition to the \$2.6 billion released since October 2011. In all, grantees will receive a total of \$3.4 billion in LIHEAP block funds for Fiscal Year 2012.

For a complete list of additional funds available to grantees, visit [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2012/FY2012LIHEAP\\_GrossAlloc.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2012/FY2012LIHEAP_GrossAlloc.html)

Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance should contact their local/state LIHEAP agency.

For more information, go to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap> or <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/brochure/brochure.html>

### **Health Affairs Publishes HHS Health Literacy Article**

The journal *Health Affairs* last week released the article, “New Federal Policy Initiatives to Boost Health Literacy Can Help the Nation Move Beyond the Cycle of Costly ‘Crisis Care.’” The authors—led by Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Health Howard Koh, former Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Director Don Berwick, and HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Director, Carolyn Clancy—conclude, “The time is right to accelerate our national commitment to providing the American people with clear, understandable and actionable science-based health information. At the same time, the promises of medical research, health information technology and advances in health care coverage and delivery cannot be realized if our nation does not simultaneously address the challenge of limited health literacy. The federal initiatives of the past few years, combined with a growing commitment to health literate organizations and systems change, can help the nation tackle health literacy and ultimately help us all lead longer, healthier lives.”

The article will appear in *Health Affairs*' February 2012 issue. For the next week you can download the article free of charge at <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/early/2012/01/18/hlthaff.2011.1169>

### **Funding Opportunity**

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#### **Beverly Foundation's 2012 STAR Awards Program**

This year the Beverly Foundation will award up to 18 senior transportation services program grants of \$10,000 each. Previous applicants (including past STAR Award winners) will be eligible for a cash award. For-profit transportation services will be eligible for a non-cash award. The Eligibility criteria for a 2012 STAR Award are:

- (1) delivery of transportation services to senior passengers;
- (2) at least three years of senior transportation service delivery experience;
- (3) knowledge of your organization's transportation service data (e.g. miles driven, number of drivers, number of vehicles, cost per ride, number of senior passengers, etc.);
- (4) ability to describe your good practices in delivering transportation services to senior passengers; and
- (5) submission of a complete application. Senior transportation programs that mobilize (or plan to mobilize) volunteer drivers will be looked upon favorably.

The application deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>.

To download the application, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012STARAward>

To learn more about the application guidelines, go to <http://beverlyfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/STAR-Award-Application-Guidelines.pdf>

The Beverly Foundation's mission is to foster new ideas and options to enhance mobility and transportation for older adults. The Foundation's STAR Search program has gathered information on more than 1,400 services that provide transportation to older adults in communities across America. In 2011 alone, its survey of 281 programs identified the delivery of 5,000,000 rides to 300,000 senior passengers.

To enter your senior transportation program or service in the Beverly Foundation Resource Library or to read recent STAR Search/STAR Awards reports, go to the website at <http://beverlyfoundation.org/>

### **Housing Counseling Training Program**

This funding opportunity is available through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Funds are available to provide training activities designed to improve and standardize the quality of counseling provided by housing counselors employed by agencies participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Counseling Program.

Applicants must be public or private nonprofit organizations and must have “tax exempt” status under section 501(a) pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 USC 501(a) and (c)(3).

The last day to apply is March 5, 2012.

To read the full announcement and to download the application, go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=wKDtPN6PQN4C5YLTZWZncLQLmdYynfrQbW3yyXttcjSktB6xWnWY!347337819?oppId=137033&mode=VIEW>

## Stay Informed

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### **AoA Webinar on *Graying of HIV/AIDS: Community Resources for the Aging Services Network***

In the last 30 years since the first diagnosed cases of HIV/AIDS, the epidemic has changed and older adults are at greater risk than ever. On Wednesday, January 25, the Administration on Aging (AoA) will hold a webinar on HIV/AIDS and aging to explore community programs and resources associated with positive aging and prevention.

Title: *The Graying of HIV/AIDS: Community Resources for the Aging Services Network*

Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Eastern. Presentations will last 60 minutes with a question and answer session to follow.

Description:

The misconception that older adults do not have sex and cannot get HIV has led to a lack of HIV testing among this population. HIV risk doesn't stop at 50. In fact, men and women over age 50 account for 17 percent of all new HIV and AIDS diagnoses. In 2009, people aged 50 and older accounted for 23 percent of AIDS diagnoses in the United States. Yet older adults are often overlooked in the ongoing HIV/AIDS conversation. Lack of public education about HIV/AIDS targeted at older people means this demographic is less knowledgeable about how to protect themselves against infection. Join us for the Graying of HIV/AIDS; because together we can: educate, empower, prevent.

Speakers:

- Dr. Charles Emlet, Professor of Social Work, University of Washington & affiliate faculty member with the University of Washington Center for AIDS Research
- Joan DeVaughn, Healthy Aging Project Director, Area Agency on Aging PSA9
- Diana Travieso Palow, Chief, HIV Education Branch, Division of Training and Technical Assistance, HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA
- Aisha Moore, Communications Director, AIDS.gov
- Carol Crecy, Director, Office of Outreach and Consumer Information, AoA

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To register for the online event  
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1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=668855062>
2. Click "Register".
3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

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>) soon after the webinar.

***AoA Webinar on Transitions and Long-Term Care: A Look at the Minimum Data Set 3.0 Section Q and Money Follows the Person***

On Monday, January 30, the Administration on Aging (AoA) will continue its 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, beginning a multi-webinar series on transitions and long-term supports and services.

Title: Transitions and Long-Term Care: A Look at the Minimum Data Set 3.0 Section Q and Money Follows the Person

Date: Monday, January 30, 2012

Time: 3:00-4:30 pm Eastern

Description:

This month we begin a multi-webinar series looking at transitions and long-term supports and services. Our January 30 webinar will focus on the Minimum Data Set (or MDS) 3.0 Section Q and the Money Follows the Person demonstration, both of which help people living in institutions transition back into their homes or the community. This webinar will include both policy and programmatic updates from federal agencies working on these programs, and a practical look at how these programs work – and interact – in the field.

Speakers:

- Trish Farnham, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Raleigh, NC
- Becky Kurtz, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC
- MaryBeth Ribar, Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD
- John Sorenson, Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD

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To register for the online event  
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1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=663905636&t=a>
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](http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx)) soon after the webinar.

### **Health Care Conference Calls**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Partnership Center is continues its series of interactive conference calls discussing the benefits and provisions of the health care reform law. All calls are open to the public and include a question and answer session where participants can ask HHS staff

any questions they may have about the Affordable Care Act. Participants are encouraged to submit questions via email to [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov)

To participate in one of the January conference calls, please select your preferred date from the list below and enter your email address to be registered. Call-in information will be sent to registered callers 24 hours in advance of the calls.

[January 24, 2:00 pm EST](#) – *ACA 101 in Spanish*

[January 31, 12:30 pm EST](#) – *ACA 101*

### **NCOA Webinars**

*Webinar: Community Mapping*

Date: January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.ncoa.org/enhance-economic-security/center-for-benefits/events/webinar-community-mapping-jan-23.html>

*Prescription for Life: Building Community Partnerships to Promote Physical Activity and Social Engagement for Older Adults*

Date: January 26<sup>th</sup>

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.ncoa.org/calendar-of-events/prescription-for-life.html>

### **Seasonal Flu Call for Latino Faith and Community Leaders**

Sponsors: HHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships,  
HHS Office of Minority Health,  
HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Time: 4:00 p.m. EST

RSVP by clicking [here](#)

Call-in information will be sent to registered callers 24 hours in advance of the call.

If you have any questions, email [partnerships@hhs.gov](mailto:partnerships@hhs.gov)

## **Tools & Information**

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### **White House 2012 ACA Progress Report**

It's been nearly two years since President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law. The *White House 2012 ACA Progress Report* gives an overview of accomplishments and an update on the steps many states have taken to establish by 2014 Affordable Insurance Exchanges – State-based one-stop marketplaces where consumers can choose a private health insurance plan that fits their health needs. Exchanges will offer consumers the same kinds of insurance choices that members of Congress now have. And millions of middle class families will get tax credits to make it easier to buy insurance in the Exchanges. The report highlights 28 States that have already taken important steps toward establishing their own Exchanges.

To download a copy of the report, go to

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/01-18-12\\_exchange\\_report.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/01-18-12_exchange_report.pdf)

### **Ten Attributes of a Health Literate Organization**

Participants in the Workgroup on Attributes of a Health Literate Organization of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Roundtable on Health Literacy have developed a discussion paper that identifies ten attributes of a health literate organization. A health literate organization makes it easier for people to navigate, understand, and use information and services to take care of their health. The brief paper articulates a rationale for these attributes, and identifies the organizations that should use them. There is also a list of resources for organizations interested in taking action.

To download a copy of the discussion paper, go to

<http://www.iom.edu/Activities/PublicHealth/~media/Files/Activity%20Files/PublicHealth/HealthLiteracy/Discussion%20Papers/Attributes%20of%20a%20Health%20Literate%20Organization.pdf>

### **New England Pension Assistance Project Begins 2012 with a major Milestone**

This month, the New England Pension Assistance Project, part of the Pension Action Center at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, celebrates a significant milestone: \$40 million in recovered pension income since opening its doors in 1994. Hundreds of retirees in New England have more money to live on today as a result of the Center's work.



“Pensions enable individuals to remain financially secure in retirement, helping them stay out of poverty,” said Ellen Bruce, director of the Center.

“Unfortunately, complex pension laws and corporate red tape sometimes make it difficult for people actually to receive the pensions they have earned. The New England Pension Assistance Project is here to ensure that workers and retirees receive what they have earned.”

Assistance from the New England Pension Assistance Project is available free of charge to current residents of any of the New England states, and to people whose pension plans or former employers are based in: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The Project handles a variety of issues relating to retirement income benefits, including eligibility and vesting, problems with 401(k) or other retirement savings plans, survivor benefits, and problems in finding pensions that have become lost due to corporate changes and bankruptcies.

The New England Pension Assistance Project is part of Administration on Aging (AoA) Pension Counseling and Information Program. The program currently serves 29 states.

To learn more about the New England Pension Assistance Project, go to <http://www.umb.edu/pensionaction/>

To download the AoA Pension Counseling and Information Program Factsheet, go to [http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press\\_Room/Products\\_Materials/fact/pdf/Pension\\_Counseling.pdf](http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/Products_Materials/fact/pdf/Pension_Counseling.pdf)

## **Observances**

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### **January Observances**

#### ***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/>

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