



News and Info

Monday, March 5, 2012

2012 Older Americans Month: *Never Too Old to Play.*

For more information and downloadable materials, go to

http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/Observances/2012/Older_Americans.aspx

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\$1.3 Billion to Improve the Health and Independence of America's Older Adults

Grants of more than \$1.3 billion to every state, the District of Columbia and five territories to continue implementing programs that help older adults live healthy, safely and independently in their communities were awarded last week by Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee.

The grants will help older adults avoid institutional care through home and community-based supportive programs with an emphasis on prevention and wellness, nutrition, family caregiver and respite services.

To read more about these grants, go to

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/pr/archive/2012/March/2012_03_02.aspx



National Nutrition Month –Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program

As part of National Nutrition Month, the Administration on Aging (AoA) joins the national aging services network in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program. In communities across the country, older adults join friends at a congregate site to enjoy well balanced meals, while homebound seniors are able to receive a meal delivered to their home.

Millions of older adults suffer from hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity. For many, the meal they receive from the OAA Nutrition Program is their only meal of the day. Hunger does not discriminate; it targets individuals of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, and socio-economic levels. In 2010, the United States Department of Agriculture found that about 4.6 million older adults experienced some form of food insecurity. Also in 2010, an AoA survey of program participants found that twelve percent of home delivered meals recipients and six percent of congregate meal participants had to choose between buying food and paying for their rent or utilities.

Since the program's implementation in 1972, eight billion meals have been served to older Americans, helping them to eat more healthfully and allowing them to remain active in their homes and communities. The OAA Nutrition Program provides the opportunity for individuals to socialize with their friends, volunteer to help others and check on their neighbors to see if they are okay.

To read Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee's entire message on the 40th Anniversary of the OAA Nutrition Program, go to http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/Observances/2012/Nutrition_Month.aspx

To learn more about the AoA Nutrition Program, go to the Nutrition Services web page at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/Nutrition_Services/index.aspx

To download materials from the AoA-sponsored National Resource Center on Nutrition, Physical Activity & Aging Florida International University <http://nutritionandaging.fiu.edu/index.asp>

Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Reminders

2012 Administration on Aging SMP Funding Opportunity
--Application due this month

The Administration on Aging is announcing a funding opportunity to compete to continue Senior Medicare Patrol Program (SMP) projects for the next three years. The eligible states/territories are: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

SMP projects recruit retired professionals as volunteer resources to Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers about how to prevent, detect and report health care fraud, error and abuse in the Medicare program.

The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. March 19, 2012.

For more information on the Senior Medicare Patrol Program (SMP) and to review the program announcement, please go to:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/docs/2012/FY_2012_SMP_PA.pdf

Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Grants

For the second round of the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) grant program, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is making \$25 million of Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities funds, as well as approximately \$5 million of Section 5312 Research Program funds available. FY 2012 VTCLI grants can consist of two separate awards.

Each applicant may request up to \$2 million in 5309 funds for One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Center capital costs and Up to \$50,000 in 5312 funds for support costs such as marketing, outreach and coordinated planning to demonstrate the successful implementation of a One-Call/One-Click Center. Requests for S5312 funding will not be considered without a S5309 capital project proposal.

The application deadline is 11:59pm April 19, 2012.

For more information on the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative, including eligibility and evaluation criteria, a list of the previously selected projects and instructions on how to apply, go to please visit the VTCLI webpage: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/veterans>

In addition, the National Resource Center on Human Services Transportation Coordination (NRC) has created a [Veterans Transportation Bookshelf](#) with a wealth of resources including a “Military Community Transportation Needs Overview.”

HHS Health IT Challenge

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) new health IT challenge, *Discharge Follow-Up Appointment Care Transitions Challenge* challenging software developers to create an easy-to-use web-based tool that will make post-discharge follow-up appointment scheduling a more effective and shared process for care providers, patients and caregivers.

Total Prizes for this challenge is \$5,000 + extras.

The deadline is April 30, 20102.

To learn more about the *Discharge Follow-Up Appointment Care Transitions Challenge*, go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/01/20120126b.html>

Stay Informed

NLRC Webinar to Address Older Americans Coping with Medical Debt

This webinar, sponsored by the National Legal Resource Center (NLRC), will provide attorneys and other aging service advocates with a primer on assisting clients faced with overwhelming medical debt. It will cover available resources, state law protections for medical debtors, common law defenses, and potential avenues under the Affordable Care Act (healthcare reform law).

Title: *Helping Older Americans Cope with Medical Debt*

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT

To register, go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/785313577>

Free Webinar on AHRQ Quality Indicators Toolkit for Hospitals

In response to the high demand for a recent Webinar about the *AHRQ Quality Indicators™ Toolkit for Hospitals*, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is repeating this popular event. Participants will hear live presentations about the toolkit from its developers and learn from a quality expert at a hospital that tested it.

The toolkit is a free resource to guide hospitals through the process of using the AHRQ Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs) and Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs) to improve care.

Date: Tuesday, March 13

Time: 3:00-4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Register at:

http://meet63385651.adobeconnect.com/hospitaltoolkitregistration2/event/event_info.html

(Note: If you registered for the first Webinar but could not participate, you can register for the repeat Webinar by simply entering your email address and password.)

The Webinar will cover:

The purpose of the toolkit.

How it was developed.

How it is organized for easy use.

How a hospital has used it to assess performance on the indicators, identify priorities, and implement changes to improve quality and safety.

Download the *AHRQ Quality Indicators™ Toolkit for Hospitals* at:
<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/qitoolkit/>

More information on the AHRQ Quality Indicators is available at:
<http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/>

AARP Webinars on Social Security

Social Security and Taxes

Date: Thursday, March 8, 2012
Date: 7:00 p.m. ET

Find out what you need to know before you file your tax return by April 15. Your questions will be answered by an expert in the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program.

The webinar is free but registration is required. To register, go to
<http://bit.ly/x9oNSg>

Social Security Facts

Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012
Time: 7:00 p.m. ET

AARP will cover the most frequently asked questions about Social Security retirement benefits, then turn the conversation over to participants. This is your chance to ask questions of AARP experts.

The webinar is free but registration is required. To register, go to
<http://bit.ly/yE7pt1>

In addition to the webinars, AARP recently released results of a survey that show while many Americans approaching retirement have a basic understanding about the Social Security benefits they can expect to receive, they remain unaware of different claiming approaches that could have a significant impact on their income. For more details about the survey and other resources, click on this link:

<http://www.aarp.org/about-aarp/press-center/info-02-2012/new-aarp-survey-shows-many-unaware-of-social-security-claiming-strategies.html>

Tools & Information

You Gave, Now Save Campaign

Through Benefits Check Up it has been found that older adults are eligible but not receiving over \$1.2 billion in benefits. Likewise, “financial benefits” is the number one reason people call the Eldercare Locator. To address this growing need to inform older adults about benefits and other support services that are available to them, n4a and NCOA have partnered to launch a national campaign, “*You Gave, Now Save.*”

A number of resources have been developed, including a guide book for seniors and their caregivers to inform them about benefits available to help defray the costs of daily living and a data brief that highlights the need to educate people about benefits and their impact on helping seniors age in their homes and communities.

To learn more about the campaign and to download the *You Gave, Now Save Guide to Benefits for Seniors*, go to the Administration on Aging *You Gave, Now Save* web page at

http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/Observances/2012/You_Gave_Now_Save.aspx

Success stories on the campaign are desired and can be submitted through the campaign Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/YouGaveNowSave>

For additional information, please call Maria Gonzales Jackson at 202.872.0888 or Brandi Bauer at 202.600.3126.

NIDA Creates Easy-to-Read Website on Drug Abuse

New site for adults with limited literacy skills, with audio versions of each page

A new, easy-to-read website on drug abuse designed for adults with a low reading literacy level (eighth grade or below) was recently launched by the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](http://www.nida.nih.gov) (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health. The site, which provides plain language information on neuroscience, drug abuse prevention and treatment, is also a resource for adult literacy educators. It has a simple design with a large default text size, motion graphic videos and other features that make it easy to read and use.

To access the website, go to <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/feb2012/nida-21.htm>

New Resource to Help Seniors Make the Most of their Home Equity in Retirement

Older adults looking for answers on how to make the most of their biggest financial asset – their home – now have a new educational tool at their disposal, <http://www.HomeEquityAdvisor.org>, sponsored by the National Council on Aging.

This user-friendly website is designed to help older middle- and low-income homeowners make sound decisions when using their home equity to achieve a wide range of financial goals. The tool helps when considering an immediate financial challenge or when planning ahead for the future.

The site is managed by the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and made possible by a grant from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation.

Nominees Wanted for Maryland Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Secretary of Aging Gloria Lawlah will recognize outstanding contributions made by older Marylanders, and groups or organizations that serve them. The awards will be presented at the Fifth Annual Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards ceremony to be held May 3-5, 2012.

Nominations for the Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards are now being sought in three categories:

Trailblazer. An individual, community group, business or organization that has demonstrated leadership in advocacy or developed an innovative program, research or training for seniors.

Visual or Performing Arts. An individual, 60 years of age or older, or a group (members must be 55 years of age or older), who has demonstrated excellence in the visual or performing arts.

Health and Vitality. An individual, 60 years of age or older, who has demonstrated a commitment to healthy living, and who serves as a role model for others.

The public is invited to nominate individuals, groups, or organizations that meet the criteria. The nomination form can be found on the Maryland Department of Aging website, <http://www.aging.maryland.gov>

The deadline for receipt of nominations is March 30, 2012.

For more information about the Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards, or to obtain a nomination form, contact Wesley Wood at the Maryland Department of Aging at 410-767-2075 or toll free: 1-800-243-3425.

Search Begins for America's Outstanding Oldest Worker

Experience Works, the nation's largest organization serving older workers through the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), announces its search for America's Outstanding Oldest Worker for 2012.

The annual recognition, now in its 14th year, is part of a national effort to raise awareness of the contributions older individuals make in today's workplace and provide inspiration to older workers seeking employment.

Nominees must be 100 years of age or older and working at least 20 hours each week in paid employment.

The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2012.

To download the nomination form and to learn more about the award, including information on the 2011 winners, go to <http://www.experienceworks.org>

Submit Your Creative Expressions

Imagine a world unpaved, where bicycling, walking and non-polluting public transportation options are primary features of our everyday lives—where plants and natural materials are an integral part of our homes, neighborhoods, schools, offices and businesses. What would it take to create communities that are no longer paved with concrete and asphalt, but instead are designed to nurture our health and well-being and that of our communities for generations to come?

Creative artists of all ages and levels of experience are invited to submit creative expressions that transform parking lots and other paved areas into healthy, sustainable environments. Winning submissions will be available for viewing at the *Healthy Environments Across Generations Conference* to be held June 7-8, 2012, at the New York Academy of Medicine.

Submissions and questions should be sent to info@healthandenvironment.org

Notes:

- Submissions must be emailed with attachments in PDF form or sent via a YouTube link (Please include full contact information).

- Artists do not have to attend the conference in order to make a submission.

Deadline for submission: May 15, 2012

After the conference, the compositions will be posted to the conference website, <http://www.healthandenvironment.org>

Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest

2012 is the 40th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, and this year's Sense of Wonder contest, sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency and partners, will focus on water. To honor this anniversary, the contest has been renamed the Sense of Water Contest for 2012.

Share your love for water through a creative project that captures water around us. Capture what you hear, see, feel, and taste as you explore and study water. Contestants will work across generations to share their own interactions with and reflections about the sense of water.

The deadline for entries is June 1, 2012.

For further information, please go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/index.htm>

Save the Date: National Summit on Nutrition and Aging – August 23, 2012

In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the inclusion of Senior Nutrition Programs in the Older Americans Act, the AoA-MOWAA National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging will host a National Summit on August 23, 2012 at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center near Washington, DC.

The National Summit will provide a unique opportunity to bring together a broad array of thinkers and doers – representatives from all levels of the aging network, as well as policymakers, leaders of other national organizations with an interest in nutrition and wellness, scholars and the general public – for a day of celebration, reflection and future-building. While the Summit will begin with a retrospective that honors past successes and the people and programs responsible for achieving them, the focus will be on creating a plan for the next 40 years. Building the future will involve collaboration and innovation and courage. It should involve you and your organization. So, save the date!

What: Perspectives on Nutrition and Aging: A National Summit

Why: To celebrate 40 years of success and ensure 40 more

When: August 23, 2012

*Where: Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street,
National Harbor, MD 20745*

Observances

March Observances

National Nutrition Month®
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
<http://www.eatright.org/nnm>

To learn more about healthy eating, go to the US Department of Agriculture Choose My Plate web page at <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>

Save Your Vision Month
American Optometric Association
<http://www.aoa.org/>

Women's History Month
2012 Theme: Women's Education – Women's Empowerment
National Women's History Project
<http://www.nwhp.org//whm/index.php>

To read HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius' statement on Women's History Month, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/03/20120301a.html>

National Poison Prevention Week (March 18-24)
Poison Prevention.org
<http://www.poisonprevention.org/poison.htm>

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (March 10)
HHS Office of Women's Health
<http://womenshealth.gov/nwghaad/events/>

National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (March 20)
National Native American AIDS Prevention Center
<http://www.nnaapc.org/news/awareness-day.htm>

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