



## News and Info

Monday, March 12, 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](http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/Observances/2012/Older_Americans.aspx)

### **In This Issue:**

[\*\*Medicare Redesigns Claims and Benefits Statement\*\*](#)

[\*\*Research Grants on SSA's Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Program\*\*](#)

[\*\*Funding Opportunity Reminders\*\*](#)

[\*\*Let's Move! Conference Call\*\*](#)

[\*\*Health Care Conference Calls in March\*\*](#)

[\*\*Webinar Reminders\*\*](#)

[\*\*AoA's March Widget Celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Nutrition Program\*\*](#)

[\*\*New CDC Campaign Aims to Stem HIV Crisis among Black Women\*\*](#)

[\*\*SAMHSA Now Accepting Nominations for 2012 Voice Awards\*\*](#)

[\*\*AHRQ Tools Help Foster Communication between Patients and Clinicians\*\*](#)

[\*\*SAGE Launches the Spousal Impoverishment Protections Initiative\*\*](#)

[\*\*National Plan on Dementia and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities\*\*](#)

[\*\*Senate Hearing on the Dental Crisis in America\*\*](#)

[\*\*Next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: April 28, 2012\*\*](#)

[\*\*US Treasurer Kicks off One-Year Countdown to All-Electronic Social Security Payments\*\*](#)

[\*\*New Reports\*\*](#)

[\*\*Reminders\*\*](#)

[\*\*March Observances\*\*](#)

[\*\*Share this on Facebook\*\*](#)

[\*\*Tweet this to a friend\*\*](#)

[\*\*Email this to a friend\*\*](#)

## **Medicare Redesigns Claims and Benefits Statement**

*Empowers seniors with clear information on health care services used*

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Acting Administrator Marilyn Tavenner recently announced the redesign of the statement that informs Medicare beneficiaries about their claims for Medicare services and benefits.

The redesign Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) includes several features not currently available to Medicare beneficiaries with the current MSN:

- A clear notice on how to check the form for important facts and potential fraud;
- Clearer language, including consumer-friendly descriptions for medical procedures;
- Definitions of all terms used in the form;
- Larger fonts throughout to make it easier to read;

To see a side-by-side comparison of the former and redesigned MSNs, go to [http://www.cms.gov/apps/files/msn\\_changes.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/apps/files/msn_changes.pdf)

The redesigned MSN is available to beneficiaries on [my.medicare.gov](http://my.medicare.gov), Medicare's secure online service for personalized information regarding Medicare benefits and services. In early 2013, paper copies of the redesigned MSN will start to replace the current version being mailed.

This MSN redesign is part of a new initiative, "Your Medicare Information: Clearer, Simpler, At Your Fingertips," which aims to make Medicare information clearer, more accessible and easier for beneficiaries and their caregivers to understand. CMS will take additional actions this year to make information about benefits, providers, and claims more accessible and easier to understand for seniors and people with disabilities who have Medicare. This MSN redesign reflects more than 18 months of research and feedback from beneficiaries to provide enhanced customer service and respond to suggestions and input.

## **Funding Opportunity**

---

### **Research Grants on SSA's Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Programs**

On March 1, 2012 the Social Security Administration (SSA) issued a Request for Application (RFA) soliciting applications for a cooperative agreement to be awarded in FY 12. The cooperative agreement is for a new extramural research initiative called the Disability Research Consortium (DRC). Applications are due by no later than April 30, 2012.

The mission of the DRC is to produce and disseminate program and policy-relevant research to assist policymakers in improving services and benefits provided by SSA's Disability Insurance Program (DI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. The DRC will also study other federal programs that provide targeted benefits or services to people with disabilities. These other programs generally fall under the administration and supervision of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Services. These programs are of interest to the DRC because they have different definitions of disability, serve different target populations and offer different packages of cash and in-kind benefits compared with SSA's DI and SSI programs. Emphasis will be placed on programmatic research and evaluation with the goal of improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of these programs.

Because these programs do not serve people with disabilities in a vacuum, the DRC will support research to better understand how federal programs for people with disabilities intersect and interact with each other and with other programs that provide services and benefits to people with disabilities.

For more information please go to the web link below or [view this .pdf file.](#)

### **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.

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](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.

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>

### *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, 2012.

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**

---

### ***Let's Move! Conference Call***

You are invited to a national Let's Move! Conference Call for faith and community leaders about the *Communities on the Move Video Challenge* with Sam Kass, White House Senior Policy Advisor for Healthy Food Initiatives

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. Eastern

On Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Eastern, Sam Kass, White House Senior Policy Advisor for Healthy Food Initiatives, will join with faith and community leaders by conference call to invite participation in the *Communities on the Move* Video Challenge. The Video Challenge encourages faith-based and neighborhood organizations to create one-to-three minute videos highlighting their work to make their communities healthier. Winners will be invited to visit Washington, DC to share their videos with the First Lady at the White House.

Organizations have until Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> to enter the Video Challenge. The Challenge is part of *Let's Move Faith and Communities*, which engages congregations and neighborhood organizations in the effort to end childhood obesity within a generation.

We encourage you to join the *Let's Move Faith and Communities* network of supporters by [signing up online!](#)

You do not need to RSVP for this call. If you have questions, please email [collaborate@usda.gov](mailto:collaborate@usda.gov)

### **Health Care Conference Calls in March**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Partnership Center continues to host a series of interactive conference calls discussing the benefits and provisions of the health care law, the Affordable Care Act.

All calls are open to the public and include a question and answer session where you can ask HHS staff any questions you may have about the health care law. You may submit questions you would like to have answered on the calls to [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov)

To participate in one of the conference calls, please select your preferred date from the list below and submit the necessary information. Call-in information and PowerPoint slides will be made available 24 hours in advance.

[March 14 at 3:30 pm ET – The Health Care Law and Wellness](#)

[March 21 at 2:00 pm ET - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act](#)

[March 27 at 2:00 pm ET - The Health Care Law 101 \(in Spanish\)](#)

### **Webinar Reminders**

*NLRC Webinar to Address Older Americans Coping 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*

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](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.)

*AARP Webinar on Social Security Facts*

Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012

Time: 7:00 p.m. ET

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

## **Tools & Information**

---

### **AoA's March Widget Celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Nutrition Program**

March is National Nutrition Month and the March statistics widget recognizes the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AoA's Nutrition Program. Since 1972, 8 billion healthy meals have been served to older Americans in senior centers or delivered to their homes through AoA's Nutrition Program. You can view AoA's statistics widget at [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site\\_Utilities/Widget/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Utilities/Widget/index.aspx). If you want to add AoA's widget to your site or blog, click the "share" button on the widget and the code of the widget will display.

Would you like to send an e-card that encourages your friends to live healthy? AoA offers free e-cards with tips on healthy eating, different kinds of exercise and volunteer opportunities. We also feature e-cards for caregivers. You can view and select an AoA e-card for a friend at [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/eCards/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/index.aspx).

Connect with AoA on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube! AoA is now tweeting about health issues and resources. You can follow us by visiting our Twitter

page at <http://www.twitter.com/aoagov>. AoA is also on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/aoa.gov> and our YouTube channel is online at <http://www.youtube.com/user/AoA25>. Please click the “Like” button for us on Facebook and view and share our videos on YouTube. We recently added several videos in which caregivers talk about their experiences caring for their loved ones.

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).

### **New CDC Campaign Aims to Stem HIV Crisis among Black Women**

To combat the high toll of HIV and AIDS among black women in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently launched *Take Charge. Take the Test.*, a new campaign to increase HIV testing and awareness among African-American women. The campaign – which features advertising, a website and community outreach – is being launched in conjunction with National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in 10 cities where black women are especially hard-hit by the disease.

“At current rates, nearly 1 in 30 African-American women will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetimes,” said Kevin Fenton, M.D., director of CDC’s National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention. “To help reduce this toll we are working to remind black women that they have the power to learn their HIV status, protect themselves from this disease, and take charge of their health.”

The program is being launched in Atlanta; Chicago; Detroit; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Houston; Memphis, Tenn.; Newark, N.J.; New Orleans; Hyattsville, Md.; and St. Louis.

To learn more about this campaign, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/TCTT2012PressRelease.html>

### **SAMHSA Now Accepting Nominations for 2012 Voice Awards**

The Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is now accepting nominations for its 2012 Voice Awards. The Awards honor leaders in the field of behavioral health, as well as leaders in the entertainment industry, who play a vital role in educating the public about the real and uplifting experiences of people in recovery. This year’s winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony at Paramount Studios in Hollywood, Calif. on Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Nominations are open to all and submission is free. There is no limit to the number of nominations an individual can submit. Self-nominations are welcome.

To submit 2012 Voice Awards nominations, visit <http://www.voiceawards.samhsa.gov>

Consumer/peer leader nominations must be submitted by Friday, March 30, 2012.

Entertainment nominations must be submitted by Friday, April 27, 2012.

For more information on the Voice Awards, go to <http://www.voiceawards.samhsa.gov>

### **AHRQ Tools Help Foster Communication between Patients and Clinicians**

*Questions Are the Answer*, a new public education initiative from the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), encourages patients and their clinicians to engage in effective two-way communication to ensure safer care and better health outcomes.

To promote safer care, AHRQ offers the following free tools that health care providers can use with their patients:

A 7-minute [video](#) featuring patients and clinicians who give firsthand accounts on the importance of asking questions and sharing information—this tool is ideal for a patient waiting room area and can be set to run on a continuous loop.

A new brochure, titled [Be More Involved in Your Health Care: Tips for Patients](#) that offers helpful suggestions to follow before, during and after a medical visit.

[Notepads](#) to help patients prioritize the top three questions they wish to ask during their medical appointment.

An interactive [Question Builder](#) tool that enables patients to create, prioritize and print a personalized list of questions based on their health condition.

For more information about this new initiative, go to <http://www.ahrq.gov/questions>

To request free copies of the DVD, brochure and notepad, email [AHRQpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:AHRQpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov) or call 800-358-9295 and include the following reference numbers:



DVD: AHRQ Pub. No. 10-(12)-0094-DVD  
Brochure: AHRQ Pub. No. 10(11)-0094-A  
Notepad: AHRQ Pub. No. 10(11)-0094-1

### **SAGE Launches the Spousal Impoverishment Protections Initiative**

In response to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) groundbreaking memo from last summer announcing that state Medicaid Directors may now provide certain spousal impoverishment protections to same-sex couples, SAGE recently launched the Spousal Impoverishment Protections Initiative. The initiative will support aging advocates around the country in ensuring that all 50 states provide spousal impoverishment protections to same-sex couples.

Through the initiative, SAGE and our partner organizations will:

- Provide policy guidance to advocates interested in implementing these protections in their unique states;
- Connect state advocates to each other to share best practices and exchange ideas;
- Host a range of training sessions on these issues at upcoming conferences and events;
- Develop a range of online activist tools that support state leaders in this advocacy; and
- Highlight the individual stories of same-sex partners affected by this inequity, as well as stories from advocates nationwide who successfully helped to extend these protections.

To learn more about this initiative and to download a copy of the brochure, go to <http://www.sageusa.org/spousalimpoverishment>

### **National Plan on Dementia and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities**

The National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices recently issued a plan for improving the community care of adults with intellectual disabilities affected by dementia. The Group's report, *My Thinker's Not Working': A National Strategy for Enabling Adults with Intellectual Disabilities Affected by Dementia to Remain in Their Community and Receive Quality Supports*, summarizes and addresses some of the challenges facing the nation due to the increasing rate of dementia found in older people with intellectual disabilities. The report offers recommendations for the improvement of services and suggests that its findings and recommendations be considered and integrated into the reports and plans being developed by the

federal Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services -- under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

To read the entire press release, go to <http://aadmd.org/articles/national-plan-dementia-and-adults-intellectual-disabilities>

The report and its 'Action Plan' are available at two websites:

<http://aadmd.org/ntg/thinker>

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

### **Senate Hearing on the Dental Crisis in America**

The Health Education Labor & Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging recently held a hearing, "Dental Crisis in America: The Need to Expand Access." Witnesses highlighted the barriers older Americans face in accessing dental health care.

A new report was released at the hearing which found that more than 47 million people live in places where it is difficult to access such care, more than 130 million Americans do not have dental insurance and one quarter of adults ages 65 or older have lost all of their teeth.

To view the report, click [here](#). To learn more about the lack of oral health access millions of low-income and middle class Americans face, visit the [Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging website](#)

### **Next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: April 28, 2012**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 28, 2012, from 10:00 am. to 2:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events, or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs to safely dispose of those medications. The [Partnership Toolkit](#) is available to help advertise the event in your community.

Americans that participated in the DEA's three prior Take Back Days, together with the DEA, and its state, local, and tribal law-enforcement and community partners have removed 995,185 pounds (498.5 tons) of medication from circulation in the past 13 months.

To learn about how to help older adults remove unwanted or expired medications from their homes, please visit:

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

## **US Treasurer Kicks off One-Year Countdown to All-Electronic Social Security Payments**

Last week, Treasurer of the United States Rosie Rios started an official countdown clock, marking one year until the March 1, 2013 deadline when all federal benefit recipients must receive their Social Security and other federal benefit payments electronically. Treasurer Rios urged remaining paper check recipients to switch now and help taxpayers save \$1 billion over 10 years.

Currently, about 90 percent of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments are being made electronically. As this deadline approaches, the remaining 10 percent of federal benefit recipients who still receive a paper check are urged to make the switch to electronic payments as soon as possible.

With one year left until the March 1, 2013 deadline, your organization's involvement in the *Go Direct*<sup>®</sup> campaign is vital. To help your organization urge people to switch from paper checks to electronic federal benefit payments ahead of the deadline, the campaign has developed [new materials](#) for your use, including:

- Newsletters Text
- Social Media Tips
- Fliers and Posters
- Countdown Clock Widget
- Education Video
- Public Service Announcement

For more information, contact a campaign representative at (952) 346-6055 or [GoDirect@webershandwick.com](mailto:GoDirect@webershandwick.com)

### **New Reports**

*Keeping Baby Boomers Mobile: Preserving the Mobility and Safety of Older Americans*

[http://www.tripnet.org/docs/Older\\_Drivers\\_TRIP\\_Report\\_Feb\\_2012.pdf](http://www.tripnet.org/docs/Older_Drivers_TRIP_Report_Feb_2012.pdf)

Published by:

TRIP, a national transportation research group

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

*Measures of Health and Economic Well-Being among American Indians and Alaska Natives Aged 62 or Older in 2030*

<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/rsnotes/rsn2012-02.html>

Published by:

Social Security Administration

*Pensionomics 2012: Measuring the Economic Impact of DB Pension Expenditures*  
[http://www.nirsonline.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=69&Itemid=48](http://www.nirsonline.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=69&Itemid=48)

Published by:  
National Institute on Retirement Security

## **Reminders**

### *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.

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 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*

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](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

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*

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>

## **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 Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* (March 20)

National Native American AIDS Prevention Center

<http://www.nnaapc.org/news/awareness-day.htm>

AoA News and Info is an electronic newsletter distributed by the AoA Office of Outreach and Consumer Information. Its contents are for informational purposes. For information on AoA, please visit our website at <http://www.aoa.gov>. You can also contact us at 202-619-0724 (phone); 202-357-3555 (fax) or by Email at [aoainfo@aoa.gov](mailto:aoainfo@aoa.gov).

Use of trade names and commercial sources is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by AoA. References to non-AoA sites on the Internet are provided as a service to AoA News and Info readers and do not constitute or imply endorsement of these organizations or their programs by AoA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. AoA is not responsible for the content of pages found at these sites. URL addresses listed in AoA News and Info were current as of the date of publication.