



News and Info

Monday, March 26, 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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A Healthier America Begins Today: Join the Movement!

2012 National Public Health Week focuses on prevention and wellness

National Public Health Week (NPHW) is a time to unite around a critical public health issue and focus our collective energy on the singular goal of helping people live longer, happier, healthier lives. NPHW is sponsored by the American Public Health Association (APHA) and observed each year in the first week of April. This year NPHW is April 2-8 and the 2012 theme is *A Healthier America Begins Today: Join the Movement!*

Every year, chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes are responsible for millions of premature deaths. Americans miss 2.5 billion days of work because of these illnesses, and all of that lost productivity adds up to more than \$1 trillion. Catching and preventing these illnesses before they develop is an important key to improving our nation's health. There are so many small steps we can take to begin leading healthier lives; sometimes it just takes a little motivation.

Uniting around this year's theme we can work to encourage more Americans and their communities to take preventive measures to help improve their lives. Little steps can lead to big changes.

The success of National Public Health Week lies with each and every organization and individual who takes up the cause of public health and seeks to improve health in their communities. To help get us started, APHA has developed a number of free resource materials that are available for download at its website. Included are:

- Daily prevention themes for Monday, April 2 – Friday, April 6, with a fact sheet and suggested activities
- NPHW Toolkit and Planning Materials
- Online Calendar of Community Events
- A sample action alert that you can use to contact your senators asking them to cosponsor the 2012 National Public Health Week Resolution.

To access the above materials, go to the APHA National Public Health Week webpage at <http://www.nphw.org/>

Take Note

APHA will host a live online Twitter chat discussing ways that each American can live a healthier and longer life on Monday, April 2, at 1 p.m. EDT. The chat will feature APHA's Executive Director Georges Benjamin among other health leaders. Use #NPHWchat for the chat and to post comments, ask questions, and share ideas – all are welcome to join!

To learn more about the American Public Health Association, visit its website at <http://www.apha.org>

Funding Opportunity

CMS Funding Opportunities

Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration Solicitation

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced a call for applications for a new Affordable Care Act (ACA) initiative designed to strengthen primary care in the United States. Under the Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration, CMS will provide hospitals working with nursing schools to train advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) with payments of up to \$200 million over four years to cover the costs of APRNs' clinical training.

APRNs—whether they are nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, or nurse midwives—play a pivotal role in primary care. This new initiative will provide funds to eligible hospitals to increase the availability of clinical training settings that will bolster the skills and supply of APRNs.

Payments to the participating hospitals will be linked directly to the number of additional APRNs that the hospitals and their partnering entities are able to train as a result of their participation in the demonstration.

The deadline for submission of all proposals is 5 p.m. eastern standard time on May 21st, 2012.

For more information including how to apply, visit the Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration website at <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/gne/>

New Initiative to Reduce Costly and Avoidable Hospitalizations Announcement of Request for Applications

In March 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a request for applications to participate in the Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents. This new effort aims to improve the quality of care for people residing in nursing facilities.

Through this initiative, CMS will partner with eligible, independent, non-nursing facility organizations (referred to as “enhanced care & coordination providers”) to implement evidence-based interventions that reduce avoidable

hospitalizations. Eligible organizations can include physician practices, care management organizations and other public and not-for-profit entities.

Organizations interested in applying to participate in this initiative must submit a proposal by June 14, 2012.

The Request for Applications is available by searching for CFDA Number 93.621 at <http://www.grants.gov>

Applicants must include letters of support from the relevant State Medicaid Director and State Survey & Certification Director and letters of intent from at least 15 nursing facility partners in the same State. Notices of Intent to Apply are due April 30, 2012.

For more information on this funding opportunity, go to <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/rahnfr/>

Fed Challenges Web Developers

HHS sponsors contest for Web app to identify local health trends

Federal officials are challenging developers to design Web-based applications that use Twitter to track health trends in real time. Health officials may be able to use knowledge of these trends as an early indicator of emerging health issues and a warning of public health emergencies in a community.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) recently issued the challenge, a developers' contest called Now Trending - #Health in My Community. The person or team developing the best application will:

- receive \$21,000 from ASPR as well as a \$1,000 travel stipend to attend an event announcing the winner,
- be invited to present the winning tool at a Fusion Forum, a discussion series sponsored by ASPR's Fusion Cell for state and local health officials to help identify pioneering ways to move from open source information into use as a public health response and
- have its application made available to state, territorial, tribal and local health agencies across the nation for use in their communities.

The online challenge runs through June 1, 2012.

To learn more and to register to participate in the Now Trending - #Health in My Community Developer Challenge, visit <http://challenge.gov/HHS/334-now-trending-health-in-my-community>. Upon submission participants must warrant that they are the sole authors and owners of the final product.

Note: Federal employees, federal contractors and recipients of federal grants may not participate in the challenge using time paid by federal funds. Winners must be at least 18 years old, U.S. citizens, permanent U.S. residents or businesses incorporated in and maintaining their primary place of business in the United States.

National Service Agency Announces RSVP Funding Opportunities

On March 19th, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) announced the availability of federal funding for the agency's RSVP program, part of Senior Corps.

This competition will award funds to new RSVP programs in the agency's six focus areas outlined in the CNCS's Strategic Plan: disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families. CNCS will invest in organizations in geographic areas where RSVP projects were voluntarily discontinued by the previous sponsor. The effected geographic service areas can be found in the Senior Corps Notice of Funding Opportunity.

The competition also will provide grant augmentations to current existing RSVP sponsors to incorporate activities that support veterans and military families into their portfolio. A broad description of each of these areas is outlined in the Senior Corps Notice of Funding Opportunity.

The deadline for applications is May 15, 2012, 5:00 p.m. EDT. All applications must be submitted via egrants, CNCS's grants system at <https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp>

CNCS will host six technical assistance calls and/or workshops to answer questions about this funding opportunity, including how to submit an application. Calls for new grant applicants are taking place on March 26, at 2:00 pm Eastern; April 9, at 1:00 pm Eastern; or April 11, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Calls for existing RSVP grantees interested in augmentation grants will take place on March 27, at 2:00 Eastern; April 10, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern; and April 12, 2:00 p.m. Eastern.

Funding Opportunity Reminders – April Deadlines

A Call for "What's Working"

The National Resource Center for Engaging Volunteers, funded by the Administration on Aging, has a [new website](#), and is seeking "What's Working - Effective Practices." Share your effective practices for engaging older adults

through volunteer initiatives and receive an opportunity for funding to replicate “What's Working.”

The deadline to submit an application is April 2, 2012.

For further information, go to http://www.n4a.org/pdf/What%27s_Working-ALL_3_Documents.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>

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.

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

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

Two Partnership for Patients Opportunities: Community-based Care Transitions Program Webinar and Patient Safety Congress

On March 14, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced 23 additional participants for the Community-based Care Transitions Program (CCTP). These participants will join seven other community-based organizations already working with local hospitals and other health care and social service providers to support high-risk Medicare patients in maintaining the healing process as they transition from hospital stays to home, a nursing home, or other care setting.

The Community-based Care Transitions Program will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday, March 27th, from 3:00pm-4:30pm EDT, to allow stakeholders to hear directly from some of the newly selected sites. CMS Innovation Center staff will provide additional information about the program and will be available to answer questions.

WHAT: Community-based Care Transitions Program Webinar

WHEN: Tuesday, March 27th 3:00pm-4:30pm EDT

WHERE: <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=85800>

*Participants are strongly encouraged to use the web link for full access to the presentation. If you are unable to hear audio via your computer speakers or would prefer to listen via the telephone, please dial **877-249-8016** and enter code **31613148#**.*

If you are unable to join the webinar, the slides, audio recording and transcript will be available on the [Innovation Center website](#)

[Learn more about the 23 additional CCTP participants.](#)

The CCTP is an initiative of the Partnership for Patients, a nationwide public-private partnership that aims to cut preventable errors in hospitals by 40 percent and reduce preventable hospital readmissions by 20 percent over a three-year period. CCTP's goals are to reduce hospital readmissions, test

sustainable funding streams for care transition services, maintain or improve quality of care, and document measureable savings to the Medicare program.

More information on the CCTP is available at:

<http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Partnership-for-Patients/CCTP/index.html>

Webinar Series on the Impact of Trauma on Women and Girls across the Lifespan

It is not too late to register for the next session in the webinar series, The Impact of Trauma on Women and Girls across the Lifespan. All health and social service providers are welcome, including medical care providers, dentists, social workers, teachers, mental health workers, substance use disorder treatment providers, corrections officers, and community program staff, to name a few.

Topic: Disaster Behavioral Health: Lessons from Large Scale Disasters and Incidents of Mass Violence

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. Eastern

To register, go to <https://services.choruscall.com/links/womenshealth.html>

After participating in this webinar participants will:

- Be able to identify three of the four domains where behavioral health distress symptoms may appear as a result of a disaster experience.
- Be able to identify the federally funded disaster behavioral health response programs available to states in the aftermath of a federally declared disaster.
- Be able to report where to go on the internet for at least two disaster behavioral health resources and specifically a free training on Psychological First Aid, the evidence-informed disaster response model of intervention.

This webinar will be recorded, archived and available for viewing at the registration link, <https://services.choruscall.com/links/womenshealth.html>, after March 30, 2012.

Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services (OAA Title IIID) Webinar

While the aging network has been moving towards evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion programs for the past several years, the FY-

2012 Congressional appropriations now require that Older Americans Act (OAA) Title IIID funding be used only for programs and activities which have been demonstrated to be evidence-based. The full final appropriations along with additional guidance, including the Administration on Aging's (AoA) tiered set of criteria for defining evidence-based health promotion interventions, can be found at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/Title_IIID/index.aspx

Description:

Have you reviewed the AoA guidance related to the new evidence-based Title IIID requirement, including the frequently asked question section on the [OAA Title IIID Webpage](#), yet you still have questions? If so, please join us for a webinar outlining the new Title IIID evidence-based requirement and exploring the most recently asked questions by fellow Aging Services Network professionals for additional clarification. Two communities will give a brief overview of their Title IIID programs, one meeting the minimal criteria and the other meeting the highest-level criteria as outlined in the [new AoA evidence-based health promotion definition](#)

Date: Thursday, April 5, 2012

Time: 2:00 -3:00 p.m. Eastern.

Presentations will last 30 minutes with a question and answer session to follow.

Moderator:

Greg Case, Director of the Office of Home and Community Based Services

Speakers:

Edwin Walker, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Operations

Danielle Nelson, Aging Services Program Specialist

To register for the online event

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1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=661219991&t=a>
 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/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/Title_IIID/index.aspx) soon after the webinar.

Webinar and Conference Call Reminders

ACA Webinar Series

On Tuesday, March 27, 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).

Title: Transitions and Long-Term Care: Reducing Preventable Hospital Readmissions among Nursing Facility Residents

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Eastern

Description:

This month we continue our webinar series on transitions and long-term services and supports, focusing on transitions between hospitals and long-term care facilities. Our March 27 webinar will present an overview of an upcoming initiative from the CMS Innovation Center and the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office which will test a series of interventions to improve the health of and health care for nursing facility residents and reduce the frequency of preventable hospital admissions and readmissions. We will also take a closer look at INTERACT II ("**I**nterventions to **R**educe **A**cute **C**are **T**ransfers"), a quality improvement program designed to improve the identification, evaluation, and communication about changes in resident status.

Speakers:

Tim Engelhardt, Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Washington, DC

Joseph Ouslander, M.D., Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Geriatric Programs

Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Moderator:

Marisa Scala-Foley, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC

To register for the online event

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=668507106>
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) soon after the webinar.

SSA Webinar on Providing Effective Communication for Individuals with Mental or Cognitive Disabilities

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will host a webinar titled *Providing Effective Communication for Individuals with Mental or Cognitive Disabilities*. The webinar is a part of SSA's ongoing Section 504 self-evaluation. Additional information about Section 504 is available at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/accessibility/504_faq.html

Date: Monday, March 26, 2012
Time: 1:00 p.m. EDT

During this webinar, Social Security will review how we communicate with individuals with mental or cognitive disabilities. At the end of the webinar, we will ask you to complete a survey to obtain your ideas on the subject.

To view the webinar, we ask that you RSVP no later than March 25, 2012. Please [click here](#) to register.

Health Care Conference Calls in March

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Partnership Center continues its 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

To participate in the next conference call please click on the link below and submit the necessary information. Call-in information and PowerPoint slides will be made available 24 hours in advance.

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

Tools & Information

TASC Planning Zone

The Administration on Aging (AoA) funds a number of resource centers designed to provide information to consumers and technical assistance to professionals on a variety of topics.

AoA funds the National Association for States United on Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) for the TASC Planning Zone. The TASC Planning Zone is a one-stop source for state and local planning, designed specifically to support the development of comprehensive State and Area Plans on Aging. The focus of the site is to assist states in developing their State Plan on Aging by stimulating thinking on: the state's vision and mission; AoA's strategic vision and initiatives; local, state and federal priorities; new challenges and priorities within the state; demographic and program data; and quality assurance and improvement efforts.

The TASC Planning Zone also has helpful links to current State Plans on Aging, performance measurements and AoA State Plan guidance.

Information about the TASC Planning zone can be found on their website – http://www.nasuad.org/tasc/tasc_index.html

If you would like to know more about the Resource Centers that AoA funds, you can find information at: http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Resource_Centers/Index.aspx

AoA will be featuring the other resource centers in future newsletters.

Introducing MyCare

When the Affordable Care Act was signed into law two years ago on March 23, 2010, Americans began to take their health care into their own hands. MyCare is an initiative to educate Americans about new programs, benefits and rights under the health care law.

The MyCare website features new videos by and about people from across the country who have been affected by the law.

You can share your video story or watch videos of others at <http://www.healthcare.gov/mycare>

You can also post your story on twitter with the hashtag #MyCare, or share your story at [Facebook.com/HealthCareGov](https://www.facebook.com/HealthCareGov)

Disaster Distress Helpline

The Disaster Distress Helpline, funded by a Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant, was launched to respond to calls from individuals, families and communities in need of emotional assistance. Building on the infrastructure of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a network of 147 crisis centers from across the country, the Disaster Distress Helpline's leading team of mental health crisis and technology experts, in collaboration with its local crisis center network members, provides support to those affected by disasters.

The Helpline routes callers to a regional crisis call center, where trained staff answer calls and texts and provide assistance to those in need.

The Distress Helpline (1-800-985-5990) provides crisis counseling, support and information & referral services to individuals and their families who are struggling to recover from any natural or man-made disaster, incident of mass violence, or any event that can cause significant psychological distress. The Helpline, available 24/7, year-round, assists other service providers with localized outreach efforts in states and localities before, during and after significant or major disasters.

You can also text the Helpline by texting TalkWithUs to 66746; Spanish-speakers can text 'Hablanos'. It is also available through Facebook and Twitter.

To learn more about this resource, go to <http://www.distresshelpline.org/>

Information Reminders

NCOA Virtual Advocacy Day

March 28: Bring the voices of older adults to Congress!

It's an election year, and there's no better time to educate Congress about critical issues facing America's seniors, especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Join the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and hundreds of your fellow aging advocates on March 28 as they ask Congress to:

- Protect and invest in funding for aging programs and services
- Support Older Americans Act reauthorization
- Protect and strengthen health care

To register your participation go to <http://www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/virtual-advocacy-day.html>

To get logistic details to help plan your visit to Capitol Hill, go to <http://www.asaging.org/how-prepare-visits-congress>

Those who are unable to visit Congress can download the advocacy toolkit at <http://www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/advocacy-toolkit/>

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.

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>

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