



**ACL**

Administration for  
Community Living

Monday, May 14, 2012

**2012 Older Americans Month: *Never Too Old to Play.***  
For more information and downloadable materials, go to  
[www.olderamericansmonth.aoa.gov](http://www.olderamericansmonth.aoa.gov)

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## **7th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

Elder abuse, like domestic violence and child abuse, comes in many forms. It is recognized by experts as a public health crisis for which there are no socio-economic borders. Millions of older Americans are abused, neglected, or exploited each year, with an estimated 84% of cases going unreported. However, June provides a great opportunity to shed light on the problem of elder abuse and generate support for your programs and services. June 15<sup>th</sup> has been designated as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, with 2012 marking the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Day.

This year the White House Office of Public Engagement, in collaboration with federal partners from the Administration for Community Living/Department of Health and Human Services, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Department of Justice, is hosting a day-long symposium in recognition of the 7th annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The event is being held the White House on June 14, 2012 to highlight the problem of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This historic event will bring together public and private partners with key roles in addressing financial exploitation from across the nation, including the unique role that financial exploitation plays in the wider problem of elder abuse.

This White House event provides a wonderful opportunity for your organization to host your own World Day event. The day will be divided into four sessions to be webcast live on the White House website (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/live>), and will include social media-based interactive question and answer sessions on Twitter and Facebook. The day will feature speakers from the federal government, national banking institutions, and leading elder abuse experts from around the country. As part of your World Day commemoration, please consider hosting a "Watch Party" to broadcast any of the four sessions: 9-9:45-*Opening Session*; 9:45-11:30-*Panel on Prevention of Financial Exploitation*; 1:30-3:15-*Panel on Responses to Financial Exploitation*; and 3:30-4:00-*Closing Session*.

Looking for other ways to commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day this year and take a stand against elder abuse? To support the ongoing work that you're doing to protect the rights of older people, the National Center on Elder

Abuse (NCEA) has made available a virtual ‘toolkit’ that includes creative ways your state and local communities can get involved in raising awareness of this issue, as well as support materials such as factsheets that can be handed out during your World Day activity. These materials are available at:

[http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main\\_Site/About/Initiatives/Take\\_A\\_Stand.aspx](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main_Site/About/Initiatives/Take_A_Stand.aspx)

And don’t forget to let the NCEA know what you’re planning this year to commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day! You can report your event, as well as see what others are planning, here:

[http://ncea.aoa.gov/NCEAroot/Main\\_Site/About/Initiatives/WEAADform.aspx](http://ncea.aoa.gov/NCEAroot/Main_Site/About/Initiatives/WEAADform.aspx)

On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, individuals and organizations from across the world are urged to raise awareness of the various types of abuse to which older individuals are subjected. We hope that you will join us in making this year’s recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day a rounding success in the United States. This year, take a stand in the fight against elder abuse and take a stand for dignity and respect of our elders.

### ***New York Times* Blog Highlights SMP Efforts in Detecting Medicare Fraud**

In her *New York Times* May 9<sup>th</sup> article “A Benefits Statement You Can Read,” author Susan Jaffe reminds the approximately 36 million Medicare beneficiaries who are routinely confounded by their quarterly Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) that change is on the way. Starting next year, Medicare officials will begin using a new consumer-friendly format. It is already available online at [www.mymedicare.gov](http://www.mymedicare.gov). While some of the puzzling procedure codes remain, the new format replaces descriptions containing baffling abbreviations and medical terms with an easy-to-understand explanation of each service in larger type.

This new format will go a long way in helping beneficiaries to scrutinize their notices more closely for inaccuracies and fraud. Medicare officials are betting that beneficiaries and their caregivers can be even better fraud detectives if only they understand what they’re reading. The change also comes with an incentive for reading the notice more carefully. Medicare will offer rewards of up to \$1,000 for tips that lead to uncovering fraud. Last year, Medicare recovered a record \$4 billion in fraudulent payments with help from people who reported questionable charges.

As Ms. Jaffe points out in her article, contributing to Medicare’s success in recovering fraudulent payments is the work of the many SMP volunteers across the country. Two quotes in the article by Anne Fredrickson, Project Manager for the Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol in Cincinnati, underscore why it is important for Medicare beneficiaries to thoroughly examine their notices and the value of SMP volunteers who ensure that they do:

- “Sometimes providers “upcode” treatment, describing, say, a toenail clipping procedure for a diabetic patient as something more expensive, like foot surgery, to inflate revenue.”
- “If Medicare is paying for something you never received, that’s throwing Medicare dollars out the window and if you don’t protect the dollars that are used for your Medicare services, it may not be around in a few years.”

Click the link to see [a side-by-side comparison on the Medicare Web site](#)

To read Ms. Jaffe’s entire article, go to <http://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/05/09/a-benefits-statement-you-can-read/#more-12617>

### **Recent HHS Announcements**

#### *HHS Finalizes New Rules to Cut Regulations for Hospitals and Health Care Providers*

Last week, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced significant steps to reduce unnecessary, obsolete, or burdensome regulations on American hospitals and health care providers. These steps will help achieve the key goal of President Obama’s regulatory reform initiative to reduce unnecessary burdens on business and save nearly \$1.1 billion across the health care system in the first year and more than \$5 billion over five years.

To learn more about these changes, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/05/20120510a.html>

#### *Health Care Innovation Awards*

Last week Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the initial recipients of the Health Care Innovation Awards. The awards total \$122.6 million. Made possible by the Affordable Care Act, the awards will support 26 innovative projects nationwide that will save money, deliver high quality medical care and enhance the health care workforce. The preliminary awardees expect to reduce health spending by \$254 million over the next 3 years.

The new projects include collaborations of leading hospitals, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, technology innovators, community-based organizations, and patients’ advocacy groups, among others, located in urban and rural areas. These organizations will implement projects in communities across the nation that aim to deliver better health, improved care and lower costs to people

enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, particularly those with the highest health care needs.

The next batch of preliminary awardees will be announced in early June 2012.

To learn more about this program and the first 26 awardees, go to <http://innovations.cms.gov/initiatives/Innovation-Awards/Project-Profiles.html>

### *Proposed Rule Would Increase Payments to Doctors for Primary Care*

Primary care physicians serving Medicaid patients would see their Medicaid payments rise under a proposed rule announced last week by Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Through the Affordable Care Act, the increase would bring Medicaid primary care service fees in line with those paid by Medicare. The boost would be in effect for calendar years (CY) 2013 and 2014. States would receive a total of more than \$11 billion in new funds to bolster their Medicaid primary care delivery systems.

The proposed rule would implement the Affordable Care Act's requirement that Medicaid reimburse family medicine, general internal medicine, pediatric medicine, and related subspecialists at Medicare levels in CY 2013 and CY 2014. The increase in payment for primary care is paid entirely by the federal government with no matching payments required of states.

To learn more, go to <http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=4358&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500&sr>

## **Funding Opportunity**

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### **Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program**

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program offers free tax help to individuals who are age 60 or older. Tax return preparation assistance can be provided to elderly taxpayers during the usual period for filing Federal income tax returns, from January 1 to April 15 each year as well as program activities required to ensure that elderly taxpayers receive efficient and quality tax assistance year-round.

Eligible applicants include federally recognized Native American tribal governments and nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.

The application deadline is May 31, 2012.

To learn more about this funding opportunity and to download an application, go to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). The Funding Number is TCE-2013-001.

### **Services to Older Refugees**

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) invites applicants responsible for refugee programs to submit applications requesting funds to ensure the provision of social and supportive services to older refugees, defined as refugees and other ORR-eligible populations who are age 60 and above.

The applicant should:

- (a) Establish and/or expand a working relationship with the State Agency on Aging and the local community Area Agency on Aging to ensure all older refugees in the community will be linked to mainstream aging services in the community,
- (b) Provide appropriate services to all older refugees who are not currently being provided for in the community,
- (c) Demonstrate that the proposed purposes are related to linking older refugees with appropriate services in the community to help increase independent living, and
- (d) Develop services for or link older refugees to naturalization services, with special attention to newly-arrived older refugees and those who have lost or are at risk of losing Supplemental Security Income and/or other Federal benefits.

The application deadline is June 26, 2012.

To learn more about this funding opportunity and to download an application, go to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). The Funding Number is HHS-2012-ACF-ORR-RL-0319.

### **Stay Informed**

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#### **Brain Health at Extreme Ages**

While about half of people age 85+ years have Alzheimer's disease, the other half do not. This webinar will discuss these people that apparently have a resistance to dementia. Both environmental and genetic factors that clearly play a role in these dynamics will be discussed, particularly for those surviving beyond the age of 100 years.

This webinar is a part of the American Society on Aging MindAlert Program sponsored by MetLife Foundation.

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2012  
Time: 1:00 p .m. Eastern

Participants in this web seminar will:

Understand epidemiology of cognitive impairment at extreme age  
Discover risk factors for cognitive impairment at older ages  
Learn about current research and promising future directions

Presenter:

Dr. Tom Perls, Director of the New England Centenarian Study, Geriatrician,  
Boston Medical Center and Associate Professor of Medicine, Boston University  
School of Medicine

**Register Now**

***Webinar on Providing Culturally Competent Services to Lesbian, Gay,  
Bisexual, and Transgender Clients***

This webinar will focus on basic information about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and  
Transgender (LGBT) older adults unique needs. It will also provide potential  
approaches for improving quality of services provided to LGBT older adults.

Date: Tuesday, May 22, 2012  
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (EDT)

Presenters:

Hilary Meyer, National Resource Center on LGBT Aging at Services and  
Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)

Sherrill Wayland, Executive Director, SAGE Metro St. Louis

Moderator:

David Godfrey, Senior Attorney, American Bar Association Commission on Law and  
Aging)

For more information or to register, click [here](#)

**Webinar Reminders**

*Meet Volunteers Where They're At: Designing an Onboarding Process that  
Catalyzes Commitment*

This webinar is the third session in a three-part series sponsored by the National Center for Engaging Volunteers in the Aging Network, an AoA-funded project. In this discussion, participants will learn about:

What drives volunteer satisfaction  
How volunteer motivation and needs change as they progress  
Volunteer orientation “must haves”

Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

To register, go to <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/931005847>

A call recording and slides for the webinar will be available shortly following the discussion. Please visit [here](#) to access these materials, as well as additional webinars, factsheets, and other resources related to older adult behavioral health.

#### *Alcohol and Psychoactive Medication Misuse/Abuse Prevention*

This webinar will discuss the prevalence of, risk factors for, and impact of alcohol and prescription medication misuse/abuse on older adults. This webinar is supported through a partnership between the HHS and is available free of charge.

Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST

Sponsor(s): HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration and the HHS Administration for Community Living

To register, please go [here](#)

#### **Tools & Information**

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#### **Social Security Statement Now Available Online**

An online version of the Social Security Statement is now available at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). The new online Statement provides eligible workers with secure and convenient access to their Social Security earnings and benefit information. It also provides estimates for disability and survivors benefits, making the Statement an important financial planning tool.



To get a personalized online Statement, people age 18 and older must be able to provide information about themselves that matches information already on file with Social Security. In addition, Social Security uses Experian, an external authentication service provider, for additional verification.

For more information about the new online Statement, please go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement)

### ***Ten Conversations to Plan for Aging with Dignity and Independence***

The SCAN Foundation recently released *Ten Conversations to Plan for Aging with Dignity and Independence* in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). This guide offers ten key areas for conversation starters that can help older adults and their loved ones begin planning for the future they want as they grow older.

This publication is the second in a series of tools designed to empower individuals and engage everyone in the process of aging with dignity and independence.

### **Recent Reports**

*Medicaid Rate-Setting Strategies to Promote Home- and Community-Based Services*

[http://www.thescanfoundation.org/sites/scan.lmp03.lucidus.net/files/CHCS\\_Incentivizing\\_HCBS\\_in\\_MLTS-5-12.pdf?utm\\_source=5-2-12%3A+10+Conversations%3B+CHCS&utm\\_campaign=May+Eblast&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.thescanfoundation.org/sites/scan.lmp03.lucidus.net/files/CHCS_Incentivizing_HCBS_in_MLTS-5-12.pdf?utm_source=5-2-12%3A+10+Conversations%3B+CHCS&utm_campaign=May+Eblast&utm_medium=email)

Date: May 2012

Source: The SCAN Foundation

*Health Benefits of Volunteering for Older Americans: A Review of Recent Research*

[http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/healthbenefits\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/healthbenefits_factsheet.pdf)

Date: May 2012

Source: Corporation for National and Community Service

*Changing Investment and Savings Behavior of Nurses*

<https://www.wiserwomen.org/images/imagefiles/wiserNurseInvestorRptMay2012final.for%20email.pdf>

Date: May 2012

Source: WISER (Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement)

### **Observances**

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**May Is Stroke Awareness Month; Know Your Risks**

*Strokes can affect people of all ages and backgrounds; learn how to safeguard yourself against stroke*

Every 40 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke. In 2008 alone, more than 133,000 Americans died from stroke—or one person every four minutes— making it the fourth leading cause of death in the United States.

Strokes often lead to serious, life-changing complications that include:

Paralysis or weakness on one side of the body.

Problems with thinking, awareness, attention, learning, judgment, and memory.

Problems understanding or forming speech.

Difficulty controlling or expressing emotions.

Numbness or strange sensations.

Pain in the hands and feet.

Depression.

Demographic factors such as family history, age, sex, and race/ethnicity can all play a role in an individual's stroke risk. Regardless of your background, however, there are several things you can do to lower your chances of having a stroke. To learn what steps you can take to prevent a stroke and how to spot a stroke if one occurs, visit the following websites:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HighBloodPressure/>

HHS Millions Hearts™ Initiative: <http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/index.html>

### **Other May Observances**

*Arthritis Awareness Month*

Sponsor: Arthritis Foundation

To learn about observance events and programs in your community, go to <http://www.arthritis.org/arthritis-awareness-month.php>

*Asthma Awareness Month*

Sponsor: Environmental Protection Agency

To learn more or to download a toolkit, go to <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/>

*Mental Health Awareness Month*

Sponsor: Mental Health America

To learn more or to download a toolkit, go to

<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/may>

*National Physical Fitness and Sports Month*

Sponsor: President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports

To learn more or to download materials, go to <http://www.fitness.gov/>

May 13 to 19: *National Women's Health Week*

Theme: *It's Your Time*

Sponsor: HHS Office on Women's Health

To learn more or to search for events in your community, go to the National Women's Health Week web page at <http://www.womenshealth.gov/whw/>

May 19: *National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day*

Sponsor: The Banyan Tree Project

To learn more or to download materials, go to

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

May 25: *Heat Safety Awareness Day*

Sponsor: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service

To learn more, go to <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/index.shtml>

May 27 - June 2: *National Hurricane Preparedness Week*

Sponsor: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service

To learn more, go to <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

May 30: National Senior Health & Fitness Day®

Sponsor: Mature Market Resource Center

Theme: "Get Moving...Start Improving!"

To get event and registration materials, go to <http://www.fitnessday.com/>

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(phone); 202-357-3555 (fax) or by Email at [aoainfo@aoa.gov](mailto:aoainfo@aoa.gov)

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