



Newsletter

Monday, February 11, 2013

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White House to Host Meetings on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and the Affordable Care Act

The White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) is hosting a series of regional meetings on the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS). The purpose of these meetings is to better understand local- and state-level efforts as they relate to the implementation of the NHAS and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The goal is to engage key stakeholders about ongoing challenges and successes of NHAS/ACA implementation.

The meetings are free and open to the public, but if you wish to attend, you must [RSVP](#). Once you submit your RSVP, you will receive a detailed confirmation letter via e-mail.

Meeting Schedule:

Date: Thursday, February 14, 2013
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (PST)
Site: Los Angeles Music Center
135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2013
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST)
Site: Friday Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
100 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27599

If you have questions about registration or other logistics, please contact Marjorie Burdetsky at mab@cmpinc.net.

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DOJ and HHS Announce Record-Breaking Recoveries Resulting from Joint Efforts to Combat Health Care Fraud

Government Teams Recovered \$4.2 Billion in FY 2012

Attorney General Eric Holder and Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today released a new report showing that for every dollar spent on health care-related fraud and abuse investigations in the last three years, the government recovered \$7.90. This is the highest three-year average return on investment in the 16-year history of the Health Care Fraud and Abuse (HCFAC) Program.

These findings, released today in the [FY2012 Health Care Fraud and Abuse \(HCFAC\) Program Report](#), are a result of President Obama making the elimination of fraud, waste and abuse, particularly in health care, a top priority for the administration.

The success of this joint Department of Justice and HHS effort was made possible by the Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team (HEAT), created in 2009 to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs and to crack down on individuals and entities that are abusing the system and costing American taxpayers billions of dollars. These efforts to reduce fraud will continue to improve with new tools and resources provided by the Affordable Care Act.

To fight fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, the Obama Administration has continuously added new resources and significantly expanded funding for others, including the Administration for Community Living's [Senior Medicare Patrol Program](#) (SMP)—groups of senior citizens who educate and empower their peers to identify, prevent and report health care fraud. In 2012, HHS Secretary Sebelius awarded 54 states and territories with funding to support SMP programs. Last year, these programs taught more than 2 million beneficiaries how to look for Medicare fraud. Since 1997, more than 1.5 million seniors and their caregivers have contacted the Senior Medicare patrol to ask questions or report potential fraud.

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More than Valentine's Day: Taking Care of Our Hearts

Healthcare.gov Blog by Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services

February 4, 2013

February is American Heart Month, which makes this a good time to talk about the ways the Affordable Care Act helps us take better care of our hearts.

Right now, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Every year, it takes the lives of more than half a million Americans: These are

our grandparents, our parents, our siblings, our friends, and our neighbors. Although many people think of [heart disease](#) as a man's problem, women can and do get heart disease. This epidemic kills more women than diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, and lung cancer combined. In the United States, [a woman suffers a heart attack every 90 seconds](#).

The good news is that most of the risk factors for heart disease—including obesity, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and smoking—are preventable and controllable. Now, because of the health care law, millions of Americans with private plans can get life-saving preventive services like high blood pressure screening and help to quit smoking, without paying a penny out-of-pocket. And seniors and people with disabilities who have Medicare can now get recommended preventive services like obesity counseling and cholesterol screening free of charge.

The law also invests in programs like the [Million Hearts](#) initiative, which aims to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes over five years. And it invests in the [Prevention and Public Health Fund](#), which helps fight the causes of chronic illnesses like heart disease by, among other things, controlling the obesity epidemic, tackling health disparities, and reducing tobacco use.

[Continue reading.](#)

New HHS Heart Attack Awareness Campaign Targets At-Risk Latinas

The Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health (OWH) last week launched its new heart attack awareness campaign targeting Spanish-speaking women age 50 and over.

The [“Haga La Llamada, ¡No Pierda Tiempo!” campaign](#) builds on OWH's successful [“Make the Call, Don't Miss a Beat” campaign](#), that began in 2011. The new Spanish-language campaign aims to educate and empower Spanish-speaking women to call 9-1-1 when they experience any of the seven symptoms of a heart attack and to do the same for their mothers, sisters and friends.

[Read more.](#)

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ACL Webinar on Caregivers as Partners and Clients of Behavioral Health Services

In the US today, approximately 48 million people serve as caregivers to someone age 60 and over with chronic health and/or behavioral health

conditions. Caregivers play a critical role in caring for older adults with mental health and substance use disorders.

This [free webinar](#) will discuss:

- The role of caregivers in caring for older adults with behavioral health problems, such as depression, anxiety and alcohol and prescription drug misuse/abuse
- Explore the mental health impact that the caregiving role has on lives of caregivers themselves
- Provide examples of evidence-based programs and resources that address the behavioral health needs of caregivers.

This webinar is supported through a partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging and the HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMSHA), and was developed in collaboration with SAMHSA Older Adult Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Center and the American Psychological Association.

Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

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

[Register.](#)

If you experience difficulty registering or signing on, please contact Donna Siu at JBS International, Inc. at dsiu@jbsinternational.com or 240-645-4898.

Once the host approves your registration request, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the meeting. Please register no later than one day prior to the webinar.

You will receive audio call-in information when you log-on to the webinar.

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ACL Conference Call for Those Working in the Field of Aging, Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, or Intellectual Disabilities, Including Down Syndrome

Presented by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), this conference call is part of the Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP) Technical Assistance Call Series. The purpose of these calls is to provide helpful, current, and applicable information for professionals who work with people with dementia and/or their caregivers.

Participants will learn about:

- The impact of caring for a family member with dementia and an intellectual disability
- Community living providers and their work with people with dementia and intellectual disabilities
- The perspectives of a family caregiver on the challenges of caring for a family member with dementia and Down syndrome

Presenters:

- Seth Keller, MD, Co-Chair, National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices and Immediate Past President, American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry
- Madeleine Will, Director of the National Policy Center and Vice President for Public Policy of the National Down Syndrome Society

Date: Thursday, February 14, 2013

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Eastern

Registration Required:

[Online Registration](#)

Phone Registration: [\(888\) 869-1189](tel:8888691189) or [\(706\) 643-5902](tel:7066435902)

Notes:

- Space is limited, so please register as early as possible.
- Call materials and your personal dial-in information will be sent via email after registration is complete.
- This call will also be recorded and posted on the AoA website under [Resources and Useful Links](#)

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ACL Webinar Series on the Affordable Care Act

On Tuesday, February 26, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will continue its series of webinars on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (also known as the Affordable Care Act, or ACA) and its impact on older adults, people with disabilities and the aging and disability networks, focusing on integrated care and managed long-term services and supports.

Title: *Managed Long-Term Services and Supports: Measuring Outcomes*

Description:

Outcomes measurement is critical to the implementation of state managed long-term services and supports systems to ensure that the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities are being met. This month we will examine core principles and criteria for selecting measures, possible data sources, and methods for building infrastructure capacity to monitor the quality of managed long-term services and supports.

Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2013

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

To register for the online event

1. [Click here](#).
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.

Notes:

- Space is limited, so please register as early as possible.
- This webinar will also be recorded and posted on the ACL [Affordable Care Act: Opportunities for the Aging Network webpage](#) soon after the webinar.

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Administration Issues Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Recommended Preventive Services Policy

The Obama administration recently issued proposed rules for public comment regarding contraceptive coverage with no cost sharing under the health care law. The proposed rules provide women with coverage for preventive care that includes contraceptive services with no co-pays, while also respecting the concerns of some religious organizations.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking reflects public feedback received through the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued in March 2012. In addition, these proposed rules are open for public comment through April 8, 2013.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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Medicare Regulatory Reforms to Save Millions

Reforms to Medicare regulations identified as unnecessary, obsolete, or excessively burdensome on hospitals and health care providers would save nearly \$676 million annually and \$3.4 billion over five years, through a rule proposed recently by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The proposed rule supports President Obama's call on federal agencies to modify, streamline regulations on business.

The proposed rule is designed to help health care providers to operate more efficiently by getting rid of regulations that are out of date or no longer needed. Many of the rule's provisions streamline the standards health care providers must meet in order to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs without jeopardizing beneficiary safety.

[Click here](#) to read about other provisions in the proposed rule.

The projected savings would be in addition to the savings from [final rules made in May 2012](#) to also reduce burdensome or unnecessary regulations for hospitals and additional health care providers. Those rules are saving nearly \$1.1 billion across the health care system in the first year and are projected to save more than \$5 billion over five years.

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Medicaid.gov FAQ Now Includes Answers to ACA Questions

Responses will aid states in implementing the Act

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provides a steady flow of information and guidance to aid states in implementation of the Affordable Act (ACA). As states continue to move forward with the ACA implementation process, CMS has received questions from states and other stakeholders regarding the Act. CMS continually updates its Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section of Medicaid.gov with the questions it receives and the answers. The most recent update of the [Medicaid.gov FAQs](#) section occurred last week.

CMCS staff is also available to help states with any questions they might have on the information provided in the FAQs and working closely with its state partners as important changes occur. Questions should be sent to CMCSPPACAQuestions@cms.hhs.gov

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National Health Service Corps Expands the Primary Care Workforce

Physicians to practice in communities that need them most

The National Health Service Corps awarded more than \$10 million in funding for loan repayment to 87 medical students in 29 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, who will serve as primary care doctors and help strengthen the health care workforce, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently.

Made possible by the Affordable Care Act, the National Health Service Corps' Students to Service Loan Repayment Program provides financial support to fourth year primary care medical students in exchange for their service in the communities that need them most.

The Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Students to Service pilot program provides loan repayment assistance of up to \$120,000 to medical students in MD and DO programs in their last year of education in return for their commitment to practice in the communities that need them most upon completion of their primary care residency.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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Funding Opportunities

AMA Foundation Announces 2013-14 Healthy Communities/Healthy America Grant Guidelines

The [American Medical Association Foundation](#) is accepting Letters of Interest for its 2013 Healthy Communities/Healthy America program. This year, the program will address diabetes management and education projects for free clinic patients nationwide.

The foundation supports the efforts of physicians and other volunteers working at physician-led free clinics to provide quality, affordable health care. Healthy Community grants, which range between \$10,000 and \$25,000, support program-related expenses at clinics in communities where there is little government funding or support.

All Letters of Interest are due no later than March 15, 2013

[Link to Complete RFP](#)

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Implementation Support for State Demonstrations to Integrate Care for Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to solicit applications for eligible states to participate in a Cooperative Agreement to support the effective implementation of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved designs to integrate care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees. Funding under this Announcement is only available to States that received a design contract for a *Demonstration to Integrate Care for Dual Eligible Individuals* and also have a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CMS) to implement their demonstration design.

The application deadline is 3:00 p.m. EST, April 1, 2013

[Click here](#) for more information and to download the application.

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Stay Informed

This Week's Quick Facts

In 2010, about 3.6 million people aged 15 and older (2 percent) used a wheelchair and 11.6 million (5 percent) used a cane, crutches, or walker to assist with mobility.

States with the largest total populations generally had the most centenarians. California had the largest number of centenarians (5,921), followed by New York, Florida and Texas. Alaska had the fewest centenarians (40), followed by Wyoming (72), Vermont (133) and Delaware (146).

Webinar on *Caring for the Entire Senior: Mind Body and Soul* – Two Opportunities to Participate

This webinar is part of the American Society on Aging Family Caregiver Support Series, sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care.

It's critical to learn about the physical and emotional signs of aging, such as loss of energy or changes in mood that can inadvertently increase the risk of an older adult losing their independence. This webinar will outline these signs, as

well attention signals and environmental clues that might point to cognitive decline. Suggestions to engage an older adults' mind, body and spirit will also be covered, as well as the fears older adults have about aging and how to address them.

Participants in this web seminar will be able to:

- Identify 3 warning signs, both physical and mental, of failing health in older adults.
- List at least 5 common fears related to aging.
- Discover how to ward off frailty in the following areas: mind, body and soul.

Presenters:

Dr. Amy D'Aprix, Executive Director of the DAI Foundation, a nonprofit organization established to meet the needs of caregivers and President of Dr. Amy Inc., a company dedicated to family caregiver wellness

Mary Alexander, Director of Strategic Alliances with Home Instead Senior Care

Choose one of the dates below to participate (the webinar content will be the same on both days).

Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m. PT/11:00 a.m. MT/12:00 p.m. CT/1:00 p.m. ET

[Register Now for February 13](#)

Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m. PT/11:00 a.m. MT/12:00 p.m. CT/1:00 p.m. ET

[Register Now for February 20](#)

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February NASUAD I&R/A Support Center Call

The next National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities I&R/A Support Center Call is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2013 beginning at 3:00 p.m. ET.

This call will focus on mental health. The featured presenters will be:

- Kimberly Williams of the MH Association of NYC, who will discuss:
 - Mental Health Advocacy
 - Coalition Building

- Consumer Perspective/Voice
- Resources and Changes to the Co-pay Rules
- Rachel Weiner, Director of the State Options Counseling Program in Massachusetts, who will review
 - State examples of successful partnerships between the Aging/Disability Network and the Mental Health Network

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NEA Interagency Task Force Hosts Public Webinar about Research on the Arts and Aging

As the U.S. population ages, it faces more age-related diseases. How can the arts serve to treat, prevent, or improve these conditions?

In the next public National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Interagency Task Force webinar, representatives from the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the University of California will discuss current investigations on the arts and aging, including new resources for researchers and arts practitioners.

Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., EST

This webinar is free but [registration](#) is required.

During the webinar, NEA will debut a new publication on arts and aging research based on a convening at the National Academy of Sciences last fall.

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Webinar on *Federal Deficit Debates: What's at Stake for Senior Services and Benefits*

Debates about reducing the federal budget deficit have dominated Congress' agenda in recent years. In an effort to curtail spending, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the Older Americans Act are all being targeted for cuts. These are benefits and services that seniors—particularly the most vulnerable—rely on to make ends meet, pay for health care, and remain independent in their own homes and communities.

In this webinar, sponsored by the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and IlluminAge, you will learn about what deficit reduction proposals have already

been enacted, what else could happen to senior programs this year, and what can be done to influence the outcomes of these upcoming budget battles.

Speakers:

Howard Bedlin, NCOA Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy
Marci Phillips, NCOA Director of Public Policy and Advocacy

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2013

Time: 1:30 p.m. - 02:30 p.m. ET

[Register.](#)

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Webinars in February Sponsored by the HHS Partnership Center

The Department of Health and Human Services Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (HHS Partnership Center) continues to host a series of webinars for faith and community leaders. All webinars are open to the public and include a question and answer session where you can ask HHS staff any questions you may have. We also encourage you to submit questions you would like to have answered on the webinars to ACA101@hhs.gov.

To participate in one of the webinars, please select your preferred topic from the list below and submit the necessary information. Please click on the title of the webinar and fill out the registration form. After registering you will receive an e-mail confirmation containing information about joining the webinar.

Please contact us at ACA101@hhs.gov if you have problems registering or if you have any questions about the health care law.

[The Health Care Law 101](#): February 12 at 2:00 p.m. ET

A presentation on the main provisions in the Affordable Care Act, the health care law, and how to access care in your community.

[Tour of HealthCare.gov](#): February 21 at 12:30 pm ET

An online tour of [HealthCare.gov](#) that will help you and those in your congregation and community access health care, provide information on the Health Insurance Marketplace (Exchanges and Medicaid Expansion) and understand the main provisions of the health care law.

[The Health Care Law 101 \(in Spanish\)](#): February 26 at 3:00 p.m. ET

A presentation on the main provisions in the Affordable Care Act, the health care law, and how to access care in your community in Spanish.

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Webinar Reminders

Care for the Caregiver: Valentine's Day Webinar

Sponsored by the National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA), this webinar is designed for the health care professional to learn self-care techniques through the creative arts – practices that can be used to ease the daily and cumulative stresses of caregiving.

Burnout, compassion fatigue, encounters with death, caregiver grief, and preserving self-integrity while caring for others will be explored through the transformative power of art.

Date: February 14, 2013

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET

Cost: Free for NCCA members; \$35.00 for others

[Register Now](#)

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Tools & Information

FDA Offers New Guidance on Developing Drugs for Alzheimer's Disease

Draft proposal focuses on treatments for the early stage of the disease

On February 7th, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a proposal designed to assist companies developing new treatments for patients in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, before the onset of noticeable (overt) dementia.

The draft guidance titled, "[Guidance for Industry, Alzheimer's Disease: Developing Drugs for the Treatment of Early Stage Disease](#)," explains the FDA's current thinking about the way researchers can identify and select patients with early Alzheimer's disease, or those who are at risk of developing the disease, for participation in clinical trials. In recent years, the research community has tried to find ways to identify these patients using criteria that are based on biological indicators (biomarkers). Researchers have also tried to develop sensitive clinical measures that can detect subtle mental decline.

FDA is seeking public comment on the draft guidance for 60 days. Instructions on how to submit comments are included in a related [Federal Register notice](#) also issued on the 7th. In finalizing the guidance document, the agency will consider the information received from the public.

[Read more.](#)

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New AHRQ Resource Can Help Prevent Patient Falls in Hospitals

Each year, between 700,000 and 1,000,000 people in the United States fall in the hospital. A fall may result in fractures, lacerations, or internal bleeding, leading to increased health care utilization. Research shows that close to one-third of falls can be prevented. Fall prevention involves managing a patient's underlying fall risk factors and optimizing the hospital's physical design and environment.

The US Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) new online [toolkit](#) *Preventing Falls in Hospitals: A Toolkit for Improving Quality of Care* focuses on reducing falls that occur during a patient's hospital stay. This toolkit addresses overcoming the challenges associated with developing, implementing, and sustaining a fall prevention program.

The Toolkit is organized under six major areas that address hospital readiness, program management, choosing fall prevention practices, implementation, measurement, and sustainability.

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Only 21 Days Remain Until the Federal Beneficiaries Electronic Payments Deadline

With the **Go Direct** electronic payments deadline closing in fast, partners can still use the time remaining to encourage check recipients to make the switch before March 1.

Beneficiaries have three ways to sign up for electronic payments:

- By phone through the [U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center](#),
- Online at [GoDirect.org](#) (direct deposit only)
- At their local bank or credit union.

If beneficiaries don't sign up before the deadline, they will be out of compliance and may receive the **Direct Express**[®] Debit MasterCard[®] card at some point in the future.

Tip of the Month:

Share **Go Direct** [educational videos](#) that answer frequently asked questions about the transition to all-electronic federal benefit payments.

Free Campaign Materials:

Go Direct campaign fliers and posters are still in stock – but not for long. To [order free materials](#), visit the [Partners section](#) of the **Go Direct**[®] campaign website.

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Flu Risks for People with Heart Disease

Heart disease can make your body too weak to fight off the flu. In recognition of American Heart Month, Flu.gov wants to give you the information you need to fight illness this flu season. If you have heart disease, you are at increased risk of having a heart attack if you get the flu. Heart disease also increases your risk of experiencing flu-related complications such as pneumonia.

The best protection is to get the [flu vaccine](#). [People with heart disease](#) should get the flu shot, not the nasal spray.

In addition to getting vaccinated, follow our [everyday steps](#) to keep yourself healthy this flu season.

[Learn more about CDC's Million Hearts initiative.](#)

[Video: How do I treat the flu?](#)

[Find a place to get the flu vaccine in your area](#)

Everybody can do their part to help prevent the spread of germs and protect themselves from the flu. Follow Flu.gov on [Twitter](#) (@FluGov) for a different flu tip each Friday (#FluTips).

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EAPA Call for Proposals – The Deadline Is Approaching

The Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA) is still accepting proposals to present at its 2013 World EAP Conference, October 16-19, in Phoenix, Arizona. **The deadline is this Friday, February 15.**

The 2013 conference theme is *"EAP Heats Up: Flourishing into the Future."* EAPA's conference program planning panel is looking for forward-thinking presentations that highlight innovative ideas and practices that EA professionals and their collaborative partners from all service delivery models are adopting in the post-recession environment. A special emphasis is on evidence-based practices that can be applied in or adapted to EAP settings world-wide. Proposals should be educational rather than promotional and exemplify state-of-the-art knowledge, research, or skills in one of the specific focus areas for this year's program.

2013 Conference Program Focus Areas:

- Crisis, trauma and distress in the workplace.
- The EAP/affiliate provider partnership.
- Learning from EAPs in other countries.
- Making the EAP case: defining and demonstrating the EA value proposition. Weaving the EAP into the fabric of work organizations.
- Serving today's individual EAP client.

[Click here](#) for information on the review process and guidance on submitting a proposal.

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2013 HCBS Call for Sessions

The National Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Conference is the premier event showcasing promising practices in long-term services and supports. This year, the HCBS Conference will be held September 9-12 in Arlington, VA.

The HCBS Conference has earned a stellar reputation for bringing together the nation's leaders in the long-term services field while offering exceptional learning and networking opportunities for professionals who administer home and community based services throughout the country.

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) together with the District of Columbia Office on Aging, Maryland Department of Aging, Virginia Department of Aging, and an outstanding national committee, has opened the [Call for Sessions](#). Those working on home and community based programming for people of any age or ability are invited to submit their session's descriptions now through March 29th.

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Free TeamSTEPPS® National Conference

Register now for the TeamSTEPPS National Conference that will take place on June 12-13, 2013 in Dallas, Texas.

Developed by the US Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Department of Defense, TeamSTEPPS is a set of evidence-based, practical tools that helps hospitals and other health care providers strengthen teamwork among caregivers with the goal of improving patient safety.

The TeamSTEPPS National Conference is free and will highlight program models, practical solutions, knowledge, skills, tools and connections to help participants use the TeamSTEPPS model to have a positive impact on their organizations. More than 450 industry professionals will attend the national conference, which serves as an incubator for new ideas and a lively forum for sharing best practices. Keynote and breakout presentations, panels, networking opportunities and poster presentations offer techniques, tools, and new thinking to assist health care professionals in successfully implementing TeamSTEPPS.

[Register.](#)

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News from NARIC

To keep informed of disability and rehabilitation research and development, three free information services are available from the National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC), a project funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).

- *News and Notes from the NIDRR Community and Beyond* is a weekly email newsletter featuring updates on research, resources, and events from projects funded by NIDRR and, to a smaller extent, information of high interest from other areas of the disability and rehabilitation community. Each week, News and Notes highlights the work from a pool of more than 250 NIDRR-funded projects that are developing new technology, programs, interventions, and opportunities to help people with disabilities live and work independently. Sign up for *News and Notes from the NIDRR Community and Beyond* [here](#).
- **REHABDATA Connection** is a monthly email service alerting subscribers to the newest documents added to the NARIC collection of

disability and rehabilitation literature. Approximately 300 new titles are added each month. Subscribers may choose from more than 50 topics of interest. Each monthly email is tailored to the subscriber's chosen topics, with short abstracts and links to downloadable documents when available. Sign up for *REHABDATA Connection* [here](#).

- **NIDRR-Announcements** is a periodic email service informing subscribers of NIDRR's activities such as notices of proposed priority and notices inviting applications. The NIDRR-Announcements email service also highlights NIDRR-sponsored events such as interagency meetings and conferences. Sign up for NIDRR-Announcements [here](#).

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Recent Reports

[*The Affordable Care Act – A Stronger Medicare Program in 2012*](#)

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Date: February 2013

[*Centenarians: 2010*](#)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Date: December 2012

[*Findings and Lessons From the Enabling Patient-Centered Care Through Health IT Grant Initiative*](#)

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Date: February 2013

[*Adult Smoking: Focusing on People with Mental Illness*](#)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vital Signs

Date: February 2013

[*Identifying and Selecting Long-Term Services and Supports Outcome Measures*](#)

Source: National Senior Citizens Law Center

Date: January 2013

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February Observances

African-American History Month

Resource: [Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#)

[Presidential Proclamation: National African American History Month, 2013](#)

American Heart Month

Resource: [The Heart Truth Campaign](#) and [Million Hearts Initiative](#)

[Presidential Proclamation: American Heart Month, 2013](#)

Children's Dental Health Month

Resource: [American Dental Association](#)

Low Vision Awareness Month

Resource: [American Optometric Association](#)

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