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World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1st. The World Health Organization established World AIDS Day in 1988 to raise awareness and focus attention on the global AIDS epidemic. Over a million Americans are estimated to be living with HIV with people over the age of 50 accounting for 29 percent of persons living with AIDS.

To read President Obama's proclamation for World AIDS Day, please visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-world-aids-day>

For more information about HIV and AIDS, visit the the Administration on Aging web site at

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press Room/News/2009/11 30 09.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press%20Room/News/2009/11_30_09.aspx)

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities takes place on December 3, 2009. This annual observance promotes an understanding of disability issues, the rights of persons with disabilities and the gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of the political, social, economic and cultural life of their communities.

To learn more, please go to <http://www.disability.gov/>

White House, USDA, National Service Agency, Launch Targeted Initiative to Address Hunger

The White House, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Corporation for National and Community Service joined together on November 24th to launch the *United We Serve: Feed A Neighbor* Initiative to help combat hunger this winter. The new initiative raises awareness of hunger issues and equips Americans with the resources to mobilize against the hunger crisis.

To read the entire press release and to learn more about the initiative, please go to http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/newsroom/releases_detail.asp?tbl_pr_id=1579

On a related note, the recently released report, "Household Food Security in the United States, 2008" from the United States Department of Agriculture

reinforces a recent report issued by the Meals on Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) at a Congressional briefing on November 19, 2009 entitled " Senior Hunger in the United States: Differences across State and Rural Urban Areas, which indicated that the total number of food insecure older adults increased in 2008 as well. In fact, since 1990, the overall percentage of food insecure older adults has increased, and there are thousands more food insecure older adults that range from those who worry about whether they will have enough money to buy food to those who cut down on the variety and kinds of food they eat to those who skip meals altogether. For older people whose income is 130% of poverty or less, the rate of food insecurity is an astonishing 20%. We also know from recent USDA reports that the median food spending declined for all older adults by more than 5%. So, we know that not only food-insecure older adults are cutting back on food spending, but all older adults as well. To download a copy of this report, please go to <http://www.mowaa.org/hungerbystate>

AoA News

Eldercare Locator's Seventh Annual "Home for the Holidays" Campaign Focuses on Medicine Management

"The intention of our holiday campaign is to provide the aging population and caregivers with tools to remove the stress from the medicine management process," said Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee during the official launch of the Eldercare Locator's Seventh Annual "Home for the Holidays" Campaign. Recognizing that the use of multiple medications may increase the likelihood of medication misuse," Greenlee added "There are some simple steps older adults can take to ensure that they are taking their medicines correctly and are getting the best value. The medicine management campaign is specifically during the holiday season so that families gathering together can discuss the issue, evaluate the current situation and implement a management plan option to benefit an older love in the New Year.

The "Home for the Holidays" campaign, a collaborative partnership between Eldercare Locator, a public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging and Consumers Union, a nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports, was established to assist older adults and their caregivers in making smart, economical healthcare decisions. Added this year to its list of useful tools and information about prescription drug management is a new brochure, *Prescription Drug Options for Older Adults: Managing Your Medicines*. The brochure provides tips on how to more actively participate in health care decisions by managing prescription drug options, including suggesting resources for creating a medicine record, talking to doctors about medicines and cost-saving steps such as generic drugs and competitive pharmacy pricing. To order a free copy of the brochure, "*Prescription Drug Options: Managing Your Medicines*," contact the

Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 or visit the Eldercare Locator Resource Center at www.n4a.org/programs/eldercare-locator/resources

To learn more about Eldercare Locator, please call 800-677-1116 or go to www.eldercare.gov

To learn about Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs™, a public education project of Consumers Union dedicated to publishing reports and information about the comparative effectiveness and cost of various prescription drugs and especially how a drug to treat a given illness or condition compares against other such medicines, please go to www.CRBestBuyDrugs.org

Other HHS News

Medicare Prescription Drug and Health Plan Coverage 2010 Open Enrollment

The 2010 Open enrollment for Medicare Prescription Drug and Health Plan Coverage ends on through December 31st. It is important for people with Medicare to review their coverage during Open Enrollment. Since coverage varies by plan, CMS recommends that those with Medicare use Open Enrollment to think about how their health may have changed, and what their needs will be for the coming year.

Deadline to Give Comments on Healthy People 2020 Objectives Is Approaching

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is still seeking public input from communities across the country on the proposed Healthy People 2020 objectives. **The deadline for responding is December 31, 2009.**

To review the objectives and submit comments, please go to <http://www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020/Comments/default.asp>

HHS Releases New Report on Health Insurance Reform and Diabetes in America

The recently released HHS Report, *Preventing and Treating Diabetes: Health Insurance Reform and Diabetes in America*, outlines the ways health insurance reform will lower costs and improve access to quality health care services for Americans with diabetes. Health insurance reform will lower health care costs for people with diabetes by capping annual out-of-pocket expenses, eliminate discrimination for pre-existing conditions and health status, create a health insurance exchange so families can shop for suitable

plans, provide coverage for preventive screenings, and reduce health disparities so that all Americans can have access to quality, affordable health care.

To learn more about how health insurance reform will help Americans with diabetes and view the complete report, please visit

<http://www.healthreform.gov/>

ACF Awards Nearly \$41 Million to Native American Communities and Organizations

HHS' Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Administration for Native Americans (ANA) announced on November 30 the award of nearly \$41 million in grants to Native American communities and organizations located in 28 states, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The awards include Social and Economic Development Strategies grants designed to reduce dependency and strengthen communities through economic development by providing job training, encouraging financial literacy and asset building and promoting home ownership. They also include Native Language Preservation and Maintenance and Immersion grants for preserving and enhancing Native languages.

To read the entire announcement, please go to

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2009/nativeamerican_community_organization_award.html

AHRQ Releases *Staying Active and Healthy with Blood Thinners* Bilingual Video

The recently released HHS' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) *Staying Active and Healthy with Blood Thinners* video is available in English and Spanish. It is designed to help the nearly 2 million Americans who are annually prescribed a blood-thinner to reduce their risk of forming dangerous blood clots to better understand blood thinners and how to manage them effectively.

The video, to be used as a complement to the education patients receive in their doctor's office, clinic, pharmacy or hospital, is available as a DVD and can be obtained from the AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse by calling 1-800-358-9295 or by e-mail at AHRQPubs@ahrq.hhs.gov. A companion print brochure, *Blood Thinner Pills: Your Guide to Using Them Safely/Pastillas que diluyen la sangre: Guía para su uso seguro*, is also available free of charge. Both the video and brochure are also available for viewing or downloading on the AHRQ Web site at <http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/btpills.htm>

AHRQ Offers Checklist for Taking Medication Safely

To help prevent medication error that occurs all too often and to help keep people healthy, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), has developed a checklist for taking medication safely.

To access the checklist and other available information on preventing medication errors, please go to

<http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/safety.html#errors>

HHS and Joint Commission Target Language Access Barriers in New Video

Amid growing concerns about racial, ethnic and language disparities in health care, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights teamed up with The Joint Commission to release a video entitled *Improving Patient-Provider Communication*, which supports language access in health care organizations. HHS and The Joint Commission agree that effective communication is a critical aspect of safe, quality patient care. Many patients of varying circumstances require alternative communication methods, and this new video will help health care organizations determine the best methods of care for meeting these communication needs.

To download the video, please go to the HHS Office of Civil Rights website at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/specialtopics/hospitalcommunication/index.html> or The Joint Commission website at http://www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/HLC/video_improving_pt_provider_comm.htm

CDC Kicks Off National Travelers' Health Public Awareness Campaign

To help travelers avoid the flu during the 2009-2010 flu season, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Travelers' Health has launched its largest ever public awareness campaign about staying healthy while traveling. To learn more about the campaign and to access materials on some simple steps to take to stay healthy while traveling, please go to

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/content/novel-h1n1-flu.aspx>

CDC Publishes *Promoting Preventive Services for Adults 50–64: Community and Clinical Partnerships*

Promoting Preventive Services for Adults 50–64: Community and Clinical Partnerships is intended to help promote lifesaving clinical preventive services for adults aged 50 to 64. As the first in a series, this innovative resource identifies a set of recommended preventive services, provides indicators and baseline data at national and state levels to monitor progress, and promotes successful strategies to facilitate their adoption and use. It is hoped that the

Report will spark vigorous and sustained collaborations that make effective screening, counseling, vaccinations, and other recommended services a routine part of prevention for the nation's adults.

To download a copy of the report, please go to www.cdc.gov/aging/pdf/promoting-preventive-services.pdf

HRSA Awards \$5 Million to Spur Innovation in HIV/AIDS Care to Women of Color

HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will award almost \$5 million in FY 2009 grants to test innovative ways of delivering HIV/AIDS services to women of color. The awards, from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program's Special Projects of National Significance, will support 11 demonstration sites in both urban and rural locations as well as an evaluation and technical assistance center.

Women of color are especially affected by HIV infection and AIDS. Data from the 2005 census show that black and Hispanic women represent 24 percent of all women in the United States, but 82 percent of the estimated total of AIDS diagnoses for U.S. women that year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2004, the most recent year for which data are available, HIV infection was the: leading cause of death for black women age 25-34; third leading cause of death for black women age 35-44; and fourth leading cause of death for Hispanic women aged 35-44 years.

To learn more about the initiative and the organizations awarded the grants, please go to the HRSA HIV/AIDS Programs: Caring for the Underserved website at <http://hab.hrsa.gov/>

Federal Funding Opportunities

HHS Announces Plans to Make \$80 Million Available to Support Health IT Workforce

Dr. David Blumenthal, HHS' National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, announced on November 24th plans to make available \$80 million in grants to help develop and strengthen the health information technology workforce. The grants that will be made available will include \$70 million for community college training programs and \$10 million to develop educational materials to support these programs. Both programs will support the immediate need for skilled health information technology (health IT) professionals who will enable the broad adoption and use of health IT throughout the United States. Authorized by the American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the grants are the first in a series of programs to help strengthen and support the health IT workforce.

Information about grant applications will be available shortly at <http://healthIT.HHS.gov/HITECHgrants>

To read the entire press release on this announcement, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/11/20091124a.html>

More Aging News

Nominations Open for NISC Annual Founders Award

The National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) Annual Founders Award recognizes outstanding professional leadership in the senior center field and to enhance the senior center profession and NISC. Any leader in the senior center field is eligible, though preference will be given to NCOA members affiliated with NISC. The nominee may be nominated posthumously.

The nomination deadline is December 4, 2009. To learn more this award and to download a nomination form, please go to <http://www.ncoa.org/content.cfm?sectionID=65&detail=2971>

NASUA's State of Aging: 2009 State Perspectives on State Units on Aging Policies and Practices

In its recently published *State of Aging: 2009 State Perspectives on State Units on Aging Policies and Practices*, NASUA addresses ten key findings on states' perspective on the evolution of the aging network as it works to redesign the long-term care delivery system. To access the entire report, please go to http://www.nasua.org/documents/StatePerspective2009_000.pdf

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Do you have a story aboutClick on the link below to share your story with us, and it may appear on our website or in this enewsletter!
http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/medadv/Share_Story.aspx

Conferences

Stay up to date with the latest aging meetings and conferences by visiting the AoA events calendar at:
http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/events/events_List_Day.aspx#title

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