



Table of Contents

Top Stories

[Support for Caregivers Is a Key Initiative for the White House Middle Class Task Force](#)

[AoA Budget Request to Congress Released](#)

[February Is American Heart Month](#)

AoA News

[AoA Seeks Input on Older Americans Act Reauthorization](#)

[NCBOE Report on the Use of Online Screening and Application Technology](#)

Other HHS News

[Time Running Out to Comment on the National Plan of Action](#)

[CDC Offers New Stroke Web Site](#)

[NLM's MedlinePlus Now Available through Mobile Devices](#)

[HHS Released \\$490 Million in Emergency Funding to States for Energy Assistance for Low-Income Families](#)

Federal Funding Opportunities

[Beverly Foundation STAR Search/STAR Awards Program to Fund Ten Transportation Grants](#)

[Corporation for National and Community Service to Fund RSVP Programs](#)

More Aging News

[Older Volunteers Enrich America Awards](#)

[SSA's Financial Literacy Research Consortium Provides Retirement and Savings Strategies](#)

[New Pension Primer Available Online](#)

[NCOA Offers Free Counseling for Older Adults Seeking to Tap Home Equity During Economic Downturn](#)

[Caregiving in the U.S. 2009 Report Available Online](#)

Submit a Story!

Conferences

Older Americans Month (OAM) 2010 Theme: *Age Strong! Live Long!*

To view and download the OAM 2010 logo, poster and other materials, please visit: http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/oam.aspx

Top Story

Support for Caregivers Is a Key Initiative for the White House Middle Class Task Force

In a January 25 press briefing that addressed the work to date of the White House Middle Class Task Force both President Obama and Vice President Biden stressed the urgent need for expanded support for caregivers. Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee was in attendance with Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

The Task Force proposed more support for caregivers by providing counseling, training, help with transportation, and temporary respite care when caregivers simply need a break or have to work – which, as Vice President Biden pointed out, most all of them do. Biden added “This is going to allow nearly 200,000 people who are now balancing work and providing care to an elderly relative to be served, and 3 million hours of respite care are going to be provided.”

To read the transcript of remarks by President Obama and Vice President Biden, please go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-and-vice-president-middle-class-task-force-meeting>

AoA Budget Request to Congress Released

On February 1, 2010, the Administration on Aging’s (AoA) Fiscal Year 2011 budget request to Congress of \$1.624 billion was released as part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) budget request. The AoA FY 2011 budget request, an increase of \$108.4 million above the FY 2010 enacted level, will help expand support for AoA’s core services programs that focus on keeping seniors healthy and in their communities, address and support the needs of caregivers, and protect older Americans from financial fraud and all forms of abuse and neglect.

Of the increase, \$102.5 million will be directed to a caregiver initiative -- an initiative stemming from the work of the White House Task Force on Middle Class Families -- to expand help to families to allow them to better care for their aging relatives and to support seniors trying to remain independent in their communities. The Caregiver Initiative was announced by President Obama at a meeting of the Task Force on January 25, 2010. At the press briefing announcing the budget, Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee remarked “Better support for family caregivers is critical since their availability often determines whether an older person can remain in his or her home. The extra funding will support services for nearly 200,000 additional caregivers and provide 3 million more hours of respite care.”

To learn more about this initiative, please go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/key-investments-middle-class-families>

The President's request also includes an additional \$8.1 million for AoA nutrition services to ensure that millions of older adults continue to have access to a nutritious diet needed to stay healthy and decrease their risk of disability and an additional \$1.4 million for AoA programs to protect vulnerable elders from abuse and neglect.

For more details on AoA's FY2011 budget request, please go to http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/About/Budget/DOCS/FY_2011_AoA_Budget_Statement.pdf

February Is American Heart Month

Cardiovascular diseases, including stroke, are our nation's No. 1 killer. To urge Americans to join the battle against these diseases, since 1963 through presidential proclamation February has been proclaimed American Heart Month. To read the 2010 American Heart Month Presidential Proclamation, please go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-american-heart-month>

To learn about activities to recognize American Heart Month, including Wear Red Day on February 5, please go to the American Heart Association Web Site, <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1200000>

AoA News

AoA Seeks Input on Older Americans Act Reauthorization

Since 1965, the Older Americans Act (OAA) has gained recognition as a unique and highly regarded statute that has stimulated the development of a comprehensive and coordinated service system. This system has contributed greatly to enhancing the lives of older individuals, family caregivers, and persons with disabilities. In 2011 Congress will consider reauthorization and amendments to the Act effective in FY 2012. In anticipation of this process, the Administration on Aging (AoA) is soliciting input concerning the reauthorization through three mechanisms: (1) AoA-Convended Listening Forums; (2) OAA Reauthorization Input Events; and (3) Direct Input via the AoA Website. The all-day forums will convene from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will be held on the following dates:

Thursday, February 18, 2010 in Dallas, TX at the Embassy Suites Hotel Dallas Near the Galleria, 14021 Noel Road (972-364-3640)

Thursday, February 25, 2010 in Washington, DC at the Westin Alexandria-DC, Alexandria, VA, 400 Courthouse Square in Alexandria (703-253-8628)

Wednesday, March 3, 2010 in San Francisco, CA at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, 5 Embarcadero Center (415-981-3638)

The discussion topics for each session are: (1) Elder Rights and Elder Justice; (2) Prevention & Wellness – Healthy Aging; and (3) Aging Network Infrastructure for Serving Diverse Needs. The Washington DC forum will also include a fourth category, Capacity of the Aging Network.

Following the panel sessions, each forum will host a general session to allow participants to present their views on the reauthorization of the OAA. In order to provide as many people as possible the opportunity to offer input, each participant will be limited to three minutes. Persons planning to make presentations during the general session should pre-register with Abbe Lackmeyer, 866-598-0102, linscoae@muohio.edu to reserve a time slot. If all slots are not filled through pre-registration, a limited number of on-site time slots may be available.

OAA Reauthorization Input Events may be held by any national, state, tribal, regional or local organization. These can range from workshops, board meetings, public forums, or conferences designed to solicit public input regarding issues to be considered during the next reauthorization of the OAA. To register an event or to view the list of scheduled events, please go to http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/OAA/Reauthorization/Index.aspx

An individual or entity may also provide direct input related to reauthorization of the OAA separate from an organized event or listening forum. To do so, please go to http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/OAA/Reauthorization/Index.aspx

NCBOE Report on the Use of Online Screening and Application Technology

The AoA-funded National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment (NCBOE) is charged with assisting the Aging Services Network (Network) in their efforts to increase access for older Americans and people with disabilities to the public benefits for which they are entitled. One activity of the NCBOE has been to collaborate with the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) and the National Association for Area Agencies on Aging (n4A) to learn about the current state of the art across the country regarding the use of online screening and application tools to help eligible beneficiaries to enroll in public

benefits. With the assistance of NCBOE, NASUA and n4a recently surveyed state and area agencies on aging to gain this baseline information. NCBOE hopes to use the results of these surveys to inform future technical assistance activities to support the Network in their public benefits outreach and enrollment activities.

The results of these surveys are now available on the NCBOE website at www.centerforbenefits.org

To access the NCBOE report on the results of the survey of Area Agencies on Aging, please go to <http://www.centerforbenefits.org/AAA%20Report.pdf>

To access the NCBOE report on the results of the survey of State Units on Aging, please go to <http://www.centerforbenefits.org/State%20report.pdf>

To access the combined NCBOE report on the survey results, please go to [http://www.centerforbenefits.org/Aging%20Network%20\(Combined\)%20report.pdf](http://www.centerforbenefits.org/Aging%20Network%20(Combined)%20report.pdf)

Other HHS News

Time Running Out to Comment on the National Plan of Action

The National Plan for Action (NPA), which captures the status of health disparities in our country and proposes 20 strategies for their elimination, is a thoughtful and thorough collaborative effort of representatives from community, faith-based and non-profit organizations, academic institutions, foundations and Federal, State and local agencies.

The mission of the NPA is to mobilize and connect individuals and organizations across the county to create a nation free of health disparities with quality health outcomes for all people. The NPA promotes both action and collaboration to close the gaps that exist in the healthcare system today.

To read the entire NPA, please go to <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=1&lvlID=31>

The deadline to comment on the NPA is February 12, 2010.

To submit comments about the National Plan of Action, please go to <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/templates/publiccomment.aspx?lvl=2&lvlID=31&CommentID=00>

CDC Offers New Stroke Web Site

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention recently launched Stroke web site provides valuable information and resources for patients and professionals on signs and symptoms of a stroke, the third leading cause of death in the United States.

To learn more about the site, please go to
<http://www.cdc.gov/stroke/index.htm>

NLM's MedlinePlus Now Available through Mobile Devices

The National Library of Medicine recently expanded its MedlinePlus Internet Service to include access through mobile devices such as a cell phone.

Mobile MedlinePlus is available in English and Spanish and includes a subset of content from the full Web site. It includes summaries for over 800 diseases, wellness topics, the latest health news, an illustrated medical encyclopedia, and information on prescription and over-the-counter medications.

To learn more about MedlinePlus and to access the mobile version, please go to
<http://medlineplus.gov/>

HHS Released \$490 Million in Emergency Funding to States for Energy Assistance for Low-Income Families

In response to the growing demands on states and families for much needed relief, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced the release of \$490 million in contingency funding to help eligible low-income homeowners and renters meet home energy costs. These Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) contingency funds will provide states, territories, tribes and the District of Columbia with additional assistance to pay heating and electricity costs.

Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance should contact their local/state LIHEAP agency.

For a complete list of state allocations of the funds released, please go to
<http://www.hhs.gov/children/liheap2010.html/>

For more information LIHEAP, please go to
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/> or
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/brochure/brochure.html>

Funding Opportunities

Beverly Foundation STAR Search/STAR Awards Program to Fund Ten Transportation Grants

The Beverly Foundation recently announced its 2010 STAR Search/STAR Awards program will award a total of \$150,000 to at least ten organizations that provide transportation services to older adults. Organizations that want to be considered for an award must meet eligibility guidelines and complete an application/survey that will include 10-20 demographic questions and three special topic issues: #1 - Transportation Services for People with Dementia, #2 - Transportation Services for Older Adults in Rural America and #3 - Management Principles to Enhance Transportation Services for Older Adults. To learn more about the application guidelines, please go to the Beverly Foundation web site <http://www.beverlyfoundation.org/> or the STP Exchange web site <http://www.stpexchange.org/>

The web-based survey scheduled for February 8 through February 26 will be administered through the SurveyMonkey online survey tool. STAR Award winners will be selected shortly after the close of the survey period. Beginning February 8 links to the survey will also be accessible at the aforementioned web sites <http://www.beverlyfoundation.org/> and <http://www.stpexchange.org/>

Corporation for National and Community Service to Fund RSVP Programs

The Corporation for National and Community Service recently issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that will provide grant funding to launch new RSVP projects – service projects that recruit volunteers ages 55 and over – in communities not served and expand existing service programs.

The RSVP NOFA totals \$2.7 million in new funding that will be made available through a national competition to grow the number of RSVP volunteers through a combination of new grants in communities not served by RSVP volunteers and an expansion of existing grants.

Submission of a Concept Paper is required. The Concept Paper deadline is **February 22, 2010, 5:00 EST**. Applicants submitting successful Concept Papers will be invited to submit full applications. The deadline for applications is April 6, 2010. Successful applicants will be notified by August 20.

To read the complete NOFA, please go to http://www.seniorcorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=78

More Aging News

Older Volunteers Enrich America Awards

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is pleased to announce the 2010 MetLife Foundation Older Volunteers Enrich America Awards. This program, now in its eighth year, builds on the Foundation's and n4a's shared commitment to and support for healthy aging and volunteer initiatives.

The goal of the awards program is twofold: (1) to honor and build awareness of the exemplary contributions of older volunteers and (2) to encourage other older adults to contribute their knowledge, skills and time to enrich society through volunteerism. An awards ceremony in Washington, DC, on May 7, 2010 will honor 25 volunteers.

The nomination deadline is February 12, 2010.

To access a nomination form and to learn more about the awards, including eligibility requirements, award categories and selection criteria, please go to <http://www.n4a.org/programs/metlife-older-volunteers/>

To learn more about the MetLife Foundation, please go to <http://www.metlife.com/about/corporate-profile/citizenship/metlife-foundation>

To learn more about n4a, please go to <http://www.n4a.org/>

SSA's Financial Literacy Research Consortium Provides Retirement and Savings Strategies

The recently established Financial Literacy Research Consortium (FLRC) is a part of the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Special Initiative to Encourage Saving. The purpose of FLRC is to develop Web and print information products to: (1) help foster retirement and other savings strategies at all stages of the life cycle, (2) help low and moderate income populations successfully plan and save for retirement and other life events, and (3) improve understanding of Social Security's programs.

FLRC is made up of research centers at Boston College, the RAND Corporation, and the University of Wisconsin. With approximately \$7.6 million in first-year SSA funding, the three centers will tailor products to target Americans at different stages of their working lives to address the different challenges facing these households. A special emphasis will be placed on helping traditionally underserved populations better understand the path toward a secure retirement.

To learn more about FLRC, please go to the Social Security Administration web site, <http://www.ssa.gov/> and search for Financial Literacy Research Consortium. You may also access detailed information on FLRC at the Employee Benefit Research Institute Web Site, <http://www.ebri.org/pdf/FLRCHandoutOverview/pdf>

New Pension Primer Available Online

Now available online at the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS) web site is its new handbook, *Pension Primer*. Part of the *Public Pension Resource Guide*, this Primer provides facts and data on the important role that pensions play in our economy—for employee and retirees, public employers, and taxpayers alike.

To access the handbook and other available resources, please go to http://www.nirsonline.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=333&Itemid=117

NCOA Offers Free Counseling for Older Adults Seeking to Tap Home Equity during Economic Downturn

As older adults continue to face financial challenges in the ongoing economic downturn, the National Council on Aging (NCOA) will offer free counseling for seniors through its Reverse Mortgage Counseling Services (RMCS) Network.

In late-January NCOA announced that for the next three months, RMCS counselors are waiving the usual \$125 counseling fee in order to help more homeowners understand how reverse mortgage loans, along with community programs and other options, could help them to remain in their homes.

To learn more about RMCS, please go to <http://www.ncoa.org/news-ncoa-publications/> to download the NCOA booklet *Use Your Home to Stay at Home: A Guide for Older Homeowners Who Need Help Now*

Caregiving in the U.S. 2009 Report Available Online

Recently produced by the National Alliance for Caregivers, *Caregiving in the U.S. 2009*, a comprehensive report that details the prevalence, implications, costs, and demographics of caregivers, is available for downloading at <http://www.caregiving.org/pubs/data.htm>

Submit a Story!

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

AoA eNews is an electronic newsletter distributed by the AoA Office of Communications. Its contents are for informational purposes. For information on AoA please visit our website at www.aoa.gov. You can also contact us at 202-619-0724 (phone); 202-357-3523 (fax) or by Email at <mailto:aoainfo@aoa.gov>

To unsubscribe to this newsletter or to modify your email address, please [click here](#).

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