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## **AoA News**

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### **ASA Greenlee Addresses Senate Aging Committee Forum**

On Wednesday, December 8, Assistant Secretary for Aging (ASA) Kathy Greenlee was among a group of panelists to speak on the quality of care for those living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. The forum was hosted by the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging. ASA Greenlee's remarks focused on the Administration on Aging's current efforts to implement evidence based programs of services and training in Alzheimer's care.

A webcast of the forum will be posted on the Committee website. For access, please go to <http://www.aging.senate.gov>.

### **AoA Introduces New Affordable Care Act E-Newsletter**

The Administration on Aging (AoA) recently introduced a new e-newsletter devoted to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the impact on the Aging Network.

Through this newsletter, you can: learn about upcoming funding and training opportunities, find relevant notices in the Federal Register and hear from others across the country about their involvement in putting health care reform into action.

You can read the November issue of Affordable Care Act News from AoA at: [http://www.aoa.gov/Aging\\_Statistics/docs/November292010.pdf](http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/docs/November292010.pdf)

### **AoA's December Statistical Widget and Health E-Cards**

Did you know that the number of HIV/AIDS cases among older adults is growing? AoA's December widget features data on the increase of older adults living with HIV/AIDS. To learn more, view AoA's statistical widget at [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site\\_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx). You can share this data with visitors to your site by clicking the "Share" button on the widget to access the code of the widget.

December is the time to send e-greetings and you'll find a variety of health e-greetings on AoA's social media page: [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/index.aspx).

You can send your friend an e-card with nutrition tips: [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/eCards/nutrition.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/nutrition.aspx)

For exercise tips:

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/eCards/active.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/active.aspx).

You'll also find e-cards that encourage people to get their flu vaccinations

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/eCards/flu.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/flu.aspx).

Social media is a new and growing area of the AoA site. If you have any questions or comments on our social media content, feel free to contact [Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov).

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## **Other HHS News**

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### **National Influenza Vaccination Week**

National Influenza Vaccination Week begins the weekend of December 4th. To lift up the importance of the flu vaccine, HHS officials will speak to a variety of congregations across the country to encourage folks to get their flu shots. Recently, the HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships introduced two “Fight the Flu” resources to help communities fight the flu!

The first, *Seasonal Flu: A Guide for Community & Faith-based Organizations & Leaders*, is a helpful and easy-to-use resource for faith and community leaders. The second, *Faith & Communities Fight Flu*, can be used as a bulletin or newsletter insert or on a community bulletin board. To access these resources, please go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/fbc/Tools%20&%20Resources/Center%20Newsletter/113010.html>

To learn more about the HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/fbc/>

### **HHS Announces the Nation’s New Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Agenda**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently unveiled Healthy People 2020, the nation’s new 10-year goals and objectives for health promotion and disease prevention, and “myHealthyPeople,” a new challenge for technology application developers.

For the past 30 years, Healthy People has been committed to improving the quality of the Nation’s health by producing a framework for public health prevention priorities and actions.

To read more on Healthy People 2020, please visit  
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/12/20101202a.html>

### **HHS Establishes First Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee**

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced the individuals who will serve on the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC), the first tribal advisory committee established to advise the Secretary in the history of HHS.

The Committee is comprised of one primary representative from each of the twelve areas of the Indian Health Service (IHS), as well as five at-large national representatives. The first meeting of the STAC will take place December 13-14, 2010.

The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee is one of several Tribal initiatives undertaken this year and will make significant progress towards reshaping the way that the Department works with Tribes.

To learn more about the STAC membership, please go to  
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/12/20101206a.html>

To read the STAC charter, please go to  
<http://www.hhs.gov/intergovernmental/tribal/>.

### **LIS & MSP Resource Levels Increased for 2011**

The resource amounts for the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS)/Extra Help program have been increased for 2011. Starting January 1, the resource levels are \$8,180 for individuals (\$13,020 if married) for full LIS and \$12,640 (\$25,260 if married) for partial LIS. Keep in mind the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) of 2008 requires resource amounts for the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) to have the same levels as LIS as of Jan. 1, 2010. Therefore, the MSP resource test for 2011 is \$6,680 (\$10,020 if married), unless your state has already increased your MSP asset test above this amount or eliminated an asset test altogether. The Social Security Administration will redo the LIS application by January 1 to reflect the new numbers, so if you are using paper applications, be sure to get your new stock and discard older applications at the end of the year.

To get an updated chart, please go to  
<http://mymedicarecommunity.org/library/about-part-d/eligibility-and-enrollment/annual-enrollment-period-resources.php#charts>

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**More News**

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## **National Handwashing Awareness Week**

National Handwashing Awareness Week is December 5-11.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Many diseases and conditions are spread by not washing hands with soap and clean, running water. However, if soap and clean water are not accessible, as is common in many parts of the world, use soap and available water or an alcohol-based product containing at least 60% alcohol to clean hands.

For more information on hand hygiene, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Clean Hands website at <http://www.cdc.gov/cleanhands/>

## **New Ventures in Leadership**

The American Society on Aging is now accepting applications for its 2011-2012 New Ventures in Leadership (NVL) Class. Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, NVL, the only program in the field of aging designed to develop the next generation of leaders of color, offers individuals high-level management competences and leadership skills while building a network of mentors and leaders in the field of aging. For more information about getting your organization involved in this professional development program, go to: <http://www.asaging.org/nvl/index.cfm>

The application deadline is February 15, 2011.

## **New Mortgage Assistance Relief Services Rule Protects Homeowners**

Recently the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced the final version of Mortgage Assistance Relief Services (MARS) Rule. This rule will protect distressed homeowners from mortgage relief scams that have sprung up during the mortgage crisis.

The most significant consumer protection under the FTC's new rule is the advance-fee ban. The Rule also requires mortgage relief companies to disclose key information to consumers and prohibits specific misrepresentations about what the companies will accomplish for consumers, their alleged affiliation with government agencies, advising consumers that working directly with their lenders will not help them, and other deceptive statements. All provisions of the rule except the advance-fee ban will become effective December 29, 2010. The advance-fee ban provisions will become effective January 31, 2011.

To learn more about the MARS Rule, please go to <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2010/11/middleclass.shtm>

## **Emergency Planning in the Winter Months**

With the onset of winter weather and the holidays, it is a good time to review your family emergency plans to make any changes needed to insure that all family members are knowledgeable and prepared. The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) continues to update and expand its “Ready America” materials. Two items posted in the “Ready” materials of interest to older Americans and the people who care for them are noted below.

1. “Winter Storms and Extreme Cold” outlines items to include in a “Family’s Supply Kit,” traveling by car in the winter, and extra household supplies: <http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/winter.html>, and

2. “Seniors” describes planning ahead and important steps including organizing important papers, medical information, assistive devices and prescriptions, and updating and maintaining a contact information and a supportive network: <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/seniors.html>.

For additional information on emergency preparedness, please visit the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/>

## **New Report Ties Diabetes to Shortened Life Expectancy**

Despite medical advances enabling those with diabetes to live longer today than in the past, a 50-year-old with the disease still can expect to live 8.5 years fewer years, on average, than a 50-year-old without the disease.

This critical finding comes from a new report, *Profiles of an Aging Society: Diabetes*. It also found that, compared to older adults without diabetes, those with the disease are less likely to be employed and more likely to have other health problems, such as heart disease, depression, and disabilities that interfere with normal life activities.

The report was commissioned by the National Academy on an Aging Society. To obtain a copy of the report, please go to <http://www.geron.org/>

## **IRS Helps Small Employers Claim New Health Care Tax Credit**

The Internal Revenue Service recently released final guidance for small employers eligible to claim the new small business health care tax credit for the 2010 tax year. For more information, including instructions for completing the tax credit form, please go <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=231928,00.html?portlet=7>

## **National Veterans Golden Age Games Set for Hawaii**

More than 700 "golden age" Veterans from the East Coast to the West and from the Pacific islands will travel to Hawaii to participate in the nation's largest sporting event for senior military Veterans.

The 25th National Veterans Golden Age Games, a national sports and recreational competition sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Canteen Service and Help Hospitalized Veterans, will take place May 26-31, 2011, in Honolulu.

Events at the games are open to all U.S. military Veterans age 55 or older, who are currently receiving care at a VA medical facility. Hosted by the VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System, the games will have 14 competitive events, including swimming, cycling, horseshoes, bowling, croquet and air rifles.

For more information about the National Veterans Golden Age Games and other VA national rehabilitation programs, visit VA's web site at <http://www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov>.

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### **Submit a Story!**

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Do you have a story about ....Click 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](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/medadv/Share_Story.aspx)

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### **Conferences**

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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](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/events/events_List_Day.aspx#title)

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