



**AoA Aging news Update  
Tuesday, August 09, 2011**

**Table of Contents**

**AoA News**

[AoA Webinar Series Puts Spotlight on Social Media and Retirement](#)

[AoA's August Widget Focuses on Women and Heart Disease](#)

**Other HHS News**

[CMS Seeks Public Input on Proposals of Coverage for Screening and Counseling for Alcohol Misuse and Screening for Depression](#)

**Funding Opportunity**

[New Transportation Funding Opportunity](#)

**More News**

[Job Announcement: Administrator, Howard County \(MD\) Office on Aging](#)

[Join the National Preparedness Month Coalition](#)

[National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day](#)

[One Away Video Advocacy Campaign](#)

[News from SSA](#)

[AARP Report Gives New Data on the Value of Family Caregiving](#)

**National Observances and Anniversaries**

[Anniversary of the Social Security Act](#)

**Conferences**

[August Aging-Related Conferences](#)

## **AoA Webinar Series Puts Spotlight on Social Media and Retirement**

To shed light on how social media can be incorporated in developing a sustainable retirement plan, the Administration on Aging (AoA) and the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) recently sponsored a two session webinar series entitled *Social Media: A Retirement Tool for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The goal of this webinar series was to provide participants, including older adults and their caregivers, women, members of the Aging Network, Older Americans Act service providers, and other professionals with information that will help to unravel the mystery of planning for the future by using social media as a tool to reach and maintain retirement goals.

The focus of the first webinar was entitled *Transitioning the Generations: Retirement Planning for Boomers, GenXers, Millennials and Beyond*. To view this session's full presentation, please go to <http://www.wiserwomen.org/images/imagefiles/July27-Presentation-all.pdf>

To access the full presentation of the second session, *Transitioning Through Retirement: Protecting your Retirement Resources*, please go to <http://www.wiserwomen.org/images/imagefiles/July28-Presentation-all.pdf>

## **AoA's August Widget Focuses on Women and Heart Disease**

Heart disease is the number one killer of women in the U.S. and AoA's August widget features statistics on women and heart attacks. You'll also learn about the national PSA campaign, "Make the Call. Don't Miss a Beat", launched by the Office on Women's Health. This campaign offers health tips for women to help them maintain their health. To learn more, view AoA's aging statistics widget at [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site\\_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx)

In addition to widgets, 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), features a variety of engaging e-cards that inspire healthy living. E-cards for caregivers are available. If you have friends who are caring for their parents or older relatives, you can thank them by sending them an e-card. You'll also find e-cards that encourage exercise and volunteering. To view all of AoA's health e-cards, please go to [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/eCards/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/index.aspx)

AoA is on Facebook. Check out AoA's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/aoa.gov> and click the "Like" button for us. We welcome your questions and comments on our wall.

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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### **CMS Seeks Public Input on Proposals of Coverage for Screening and Counseling for Alcohol Misuse and Screening for Depression**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently proposed to add alcohol screening and behavioral counseling, and screening for depression, to the comprehensive package of preventive services now covered by Medicare.

Under the new proposals, Medicare would cover an annual alcohol misuse screening by a beneficiary's primary care provider. The benefit would also include four behavioral counseling sessions per year if a beneficiary screens positive for alcohol misuse. Medicare would also cover an annual screening for depression in primary care settings that offer staff-assisted depression care, so beneficiaries can receive an accurate diagnosis, effective treatment, and follow-up.

Public comments are invited on these proposals for 30 days. CMS will issue final coverage decisions later this year.

The proposal for screening and counseling for alcohol misuse is available on the CMS website at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-proposed-decision-memo.aspx?&NcaName=Screening%20and%20Behavioral%20Counseling%20Interventions%20in%20Primary%20Care%20to%20Reduce%20Alcohol%20Misuse&bc=ACAAAAAIAAA&NCAId=249&>

The proposal for screening and counseling for depression is available on the CMS website at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-proposed-decision-memo.aspx?&NcaName=Screening%20for%20Depression%20in%20Adults&bc=ACAAAAAIAAA&NCAId=251&>

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## **Funding Opportunity**

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### **New Transportation Funding Opportunity**

The Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) notice of funding (\$30 million) is a partnership between the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Labor, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs (VA). Applicants must be eligible to receive Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

§5309 funding (i.e. public agencies such as a transit authority, city/county government, metropolitan planning organizations, or the State).

Partnerships with the Aging and Disability Networks are encouraged. Communities with existing one-call/one-click centers are encouraged to apply to expand their services to incorporate veterans. Coordination of all available transit modes can help resolve many of the transportation issues familiar to the aging and disability networks. Technology can link many information sources and various providers who can help obtain needed information to assist the aging and disability networks and their clients. Many aging networks have already signed Veterans Directed Home and Community-Based Care Service contracts or provide other veterans care services in partnership with other organizations. These existing VA relationships can facilitate meeting the requirements of this Notices of Funds Availability (NOFA). The United We Ride Ambassador for your region may be available to assist with the NOFA planning process. To contact the ambassador for your state, please go to <http://web1.ctaa.org/webmodules/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=72>

**The Application deadline is September 16, 2011.**

For more information on this funding opportunity, please visit [http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants\\_financing\\_12809.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_12809.html)

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## **More News**

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### **Job Announcement: Administrator, Howard County (MD) Office on Aging**

Howard County, Maryland Government is seeking an Administrator for its Office on Aging, part of the Department of Citizen Services (DCS).

With a budget of \$11 million and approx. 90 staff, the Office provides a wide range of services, including the operation of 7 senior centers, 3 centers for frail seniors, an award-winning Aging-in-Place program, the Aging Disability Resource Center, and evidence-based health and wellness programs. It faces the critical challenge of ensuring the appropriate mix of services to meet the needs of a rapidly growing older adult population.

The Administrator is responsible for the strategic direction and overall management of the Office, coordinating service delivery with related public and private agencies, and developing public policy recommendations related to older adult issues. Reporting to the Director of DCS, the Administrator will be part of the department's senior management team, contributing to Department-wide strategic planning and goal implementation. A visionary leader will have the opportunity to shape the future of the County's services for older adults.

Salary, commensurate with experience, is between \$74,901 and \$120,827. **For best consideration apply by Friday, September 2, 2011.**

To apply, submit a detailed letter of interest, resume & contact information to: Lois Mikkila at [lmikkila@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:lmikkila@howardcountymd.gov), or to Lois Mikkila, Director, Department of Citizen Services  
6751 Columbia Gateway Dr, Suite 300  
Columbia MD 21046.

For more information about the Department of Citizen Services or the Office on Aging, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CitizenServices>

### **Join the National Preparedness Month Coalition**

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM). NPM is an annual campaign to encourage Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes. NPM is lead by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is sponsored by the *Ready* Campaign in partnership with the Citizen Corps.

This September marks the eighth annual NPM. This year's campaign will focus on remembering disasters from our past, whether it be the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attacks or the disasters in Alabama and Missouri earlier this year, and asking communities to work together to make America more resilient. FEMA is encouraging everyone to join the NPM Coalition to help ensure that communities are **Ready**.

Becoming a NPM Coalition Member gives you access to the NPM community website, where you can find a toolkit that includes templates, resources and tips to assist you with promoting emergency preparedness. You can register to become a NPM Coalition Member by visiting <http://www.community.fema.gov>

### **National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day**

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (NHAAAD) will be recognized on September 18, 2011. This year's theme is "*Aging is a part of life; HIV doesn't have to be*".

NHAAAD focuses on the challenging issues facing the aging population including HIV prevention, care and treatment. The NHAAAD Tool Kit will assist in planning local or regional events to promote HIV prevention, education and testing among older Americans.

Organization and community members are invited to develop, implement and participate in awareness activities and events on or around September 18, 2011.

To download NHAAAD-related materials, including the *Community Planning Guide*, and additional resources, please go to:

<http://www.theaidsinstitute.org/programs/education/national-hivaids-and-aging-awareness-nhaaa>

### **One Away Video Advocacy Campaign**

*One Away* is an innovative, national video advocacy campaign that gives voice to vulnerable older adults who are struggling to make ends meet in today's economy. The campaign captures real stories of seniors on video—and calls for legislative and policy changes to make it easier for them to get the services and supports they need to live with independence and dignity. The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is working with local advocacy partners around the country to build support for this campaign.

To share a story or to learn more about the *One Away* campaign, please visit the website at <http://www.oneaway.org/>

### **News from SSA**

1. Social Security Administration (SSA) Field Offices nationwide will close 30 minutes early to the public beginning August 15, 2011. Most SSA services do not require a visit to an office. If you need to apply for benefits, sign up for direct deposit, replace a Medicare card, obtain a proof of income letter or make a change of address or telephone number, contact SSA by telephone at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or online at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices/>

2. SSA recently announced 12 new Compassionate Allowances conditions involving severe heart diseases, bringing the total number of conditions in the expedited disability process to 100. Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify diseases and other medical conditions that, by definition, meet SSA's standards for disability benefits. For a complete list of the 100 allowable conditions, please go to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances/>

### **AARP Report Gives New Data on the Value of Family Caregiving**

The AARP Public Policy Institute recently released report in its *Valuing the Invaluable Series* addresses the economic value of family caregiving and updates the national and state estimates of the economic value of family

caregiving using the most current available data. The report also explains the contributions of family caregivers, details the costs and consequences of providing family care, and provides policy recommendations to better support caregiving families.

To read the report in its entirety, please go to <http://www.aarp.org/relationships/caregiving/info-07-2011/valuing-the-invaluable.html>

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## **National Observances and Anniversaries**

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### **Anniversary of the Social Security Act**

The Social Security Act was signed into law on August 14, 1935 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Ida May Fuller of Vermont received the first monthly benefit in January 1940. To view a timeline of the Social Security Act, please go to <http://www.ssa.gov/75thanniversary/>

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## **Conferences**

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### **August Aging-Related Conferences**

09-11: *SMP National Conference 2011: Leading the Grassroots Fight Against Fraud*

Sponsor: U.S. Administration on Aging  
<http://www.wciconferences.com/SMP-2011/>

17: *Aging Gracefully: Health Care Services for Older Adults*

Sponsor: Alabama Department of Public Health  
<http://www.adph.org/ALPHTN/index.asp?id=1884>

17-18: *Utah Aging Alliance Annual Meeting & Conference*

Sponsor: Utah Aging Alliance  
[http://www.utahagingalliance.org/Conference2011\\_VendorSponsorInvite.pdf](http://www.utahagingalliance.org/Conference2011_VendorSponsorInvite.pdf)

19-20: *21st Annual Caring for the Frail Elderly Conference*

Sponsor: University of Missouri Interdisciplinary Center on Aging  
<http://medicine.missouri.edu/cme/>

23-24: *33rd Annual New Mexico Conference on Aging*

Sponsor: New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department  
<http://www.nmaging.state.nm.us/CoA/2011CoAPosterContest.pdf>

24: *2011 Harmony Users Conference for Aging and Adult Services Professionals*

Sponsor: Harmony Information Systems  
<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2011/6/prweb8524139.htm>

24: *Aging in Place in Suburbia*

Sponsor: Project Independence, North Hempstead, NY

<http://www.tonhprojectindependence.net/itemdetail.aspx?id=134&disp=&p=9>

26: *New Frontiers in Treatment Strategies for HIV Care & Aging Related Issues*

Sponsor: National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project (NATAP)

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

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)

Please direct submissions to the AoA Calendar of Event to Paulette Nowden at [Paulette.Nowden@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:Paulette.Nowden@aoa.hhs.gov)

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