



Monday, December 12, 2011

**In This Issue:**

- [ASA Greenlee Activities This Week](#)
- [Medicare Beneficiaries See Significant Savings in 2011](#)
- [Funding Opportunity Reminders](#)
- [Health Care Innovation Challenge Webinar 3: \*Achieving Lower Costs Through Improvement\*](#)
- [Webinar on Physical Activity Guidelines & Recommendations for Individuals with Chronic Health Conditions](#)
- [Webinar on Dementia and Caregiving: \*Focusing on the Person while Understanding the Progression\*](#)
- [Conference Call Reminder](#)
- [BenefitsCheckUp® Celebrates 10 Years with a New Look](#)
- [CMCS Launches Medicaid and CHIP Website](#)
- [CMS Rule Gives Employers and Consumers Access to Quality Healthcare Data](#)
- [Number of Seniors Using the Internet for Fun on the Rise](#)

---

[Share this on Facebook](#)  
[Tweet this to a friend](#)  
[Email this to a friend](#)

---

**ASA Greenlee Activities This Week**

This week will be a busy one for Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee as she continues to advance the work of the Aging Network. ASA Greenlee will participate in activities that will address the benefits of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), promote quality healthcare and salutes the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

*Patients Aware Campaign*

Today, December 12, ASA Greenlee will participate in a conference call hosted by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. The Committee is launching the *Patients Aware Campaign*. The goal of the Campaign is to inform older adults and their caregivers of the benefits of the Affordable Care Act. This call will serve as the campaign's kick-off activity.

The conference call will start at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time and continue for an hour including the Q&A session. To participate in this call, call toll free 888-886-6603. The passcode is 17702.

To learn more about the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, go to <http://www.ncpssm.org/>

### *CMS QualityNet Conference*

On Tuesday, December 13, ASA Greenlee will give remarks at the Quality Net Conference in Baltimore. She along with other Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) leaders will discuss the importance of quality in healthcare.

The conference continues through December 15. To learn more about the conference and to review the conference agenda, go to <http://www.qualitynetonline.com/>

### *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Senate Special Committee on Aging*

The Senate Special Committee on Aging will observe its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Wednesday, December 14 with a forum entitled *Aging in America: Future Challenges, Promise and Potential*. ASA Greenlee will be included among the panelists who will reflect on the Committee's accomplishments and discuss the challenges and successes that lie ahead.

The forum will begin at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time in Room 50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. To learn more about this celebration, telephone 202-224-5364.

To learn more about the Senate Special Committee on Aging, go to <http://aging.senate.gov/>

### **Medicare Beneficiaries See Significant Savings in 2011**

*Nearly three million people with Medicare receiving discounts on prescription drugs, 24.2 million receiving free preventive care*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that as of the end of October, more seniors and people with disabilities on Medicare have seen significantly lower costs for important health care – through both

discounts on brand-name drugs in the Medicare Part D "donut hole" coverage gap and free preventive care. "Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans are receiving free preventive services and getting cheaper prescription drugs," said Acting CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner.

Data show that 2.65 million people with Medicare have saved more than \$1.5 billion on their prescriptions – averaging about \$569 per person. And, as of the end of November, more than 24.2 million people with Medicare have taken advantage of at least one free preventive benefit – including the new Annual Wellness Visit – made possible by the Affordable Care Act.

For State-by-State information on the number of people who are benefiting from discounts in the donut hole in 2011, go to <https://www.cms.gov/Plan-Payment/>

For State-by-State information on utilization of free preventive services and the Annual Wellness Visit, go to [http://www.cms.gov/NewMedia/02\\_preventive.asp](http://www.cms.gov/NewMedia/02_preventive.asp)

For more information about how the Affordable Care Act closes the donut hole over time, go to <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11493.pdf>

For more information on Medicare's prevention benefits, go to the *Share the News. Share the Health!* Website at <http://www.medicare.gov/share-the-health/> or contact 1-800-MEDICARE.

## **Funding Opportunities**

---

### **Funding Opportunity Reminders**

#### *New Funding Opportunity for Mobility Management*

The National Center for Senior Transportation (NCST) expects to award eight grants with a maximum award of \$50,000 each for mobility management projects that demonstrate innovative and effective solutions to enhance transportation options for older adults through person-centered mobility management. The focus of all the grants is on older adults, although projects may also target adults with disabilities. A focus on culturally and ethnically diverse older adults is strongly encouraged.

Applications are due Friday December 23.

For more information on this funding opportunity and to download the application, go to

[http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2\\_grant\\_opportunities\\_2012&autologin=true](http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2_grant_opportunities_2012&autologin=true)

### *Health Care Innovation Challenge to Award Up to \$1 Billion in Grants*

Provided by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, this initiative will fund applicants who propose compelling new models of service delivery and payment improvements that hold the promise of delivering the three-part aim of better health, better health care and lower costs through improved quality for Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollees.

#### Important Deadlines:

Letter of Intent: December 19, 2011

Applications Due: 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, January 27, 2012

To read the full funding announcement and to download the application, go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=QpbTTFxTvp7JQx6yM721XDHqY7NZHkYB8VBCCCLQPzpy4srPGVQj!-408580364?oppId=130614&mode=VIEW>

### *AmeriCorps State and National Grants FY 2012*

These grants will help organizations implement programs that utilize AmeriCorps members to engage in evidence-based interventions to strengthen communities. Of CNCS's six strategic areas, two should be of particular interest to the Aging Network: Healthy Futures and Veterans and Military Families.

The 2012 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunities may be found at: [http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_organizations/funding/nofa\\_detail.asp?tbl\\_nofa\\_id=93](http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=93). Click on the appropriate grant opportunity to review all of the application materials.

Applications are due January 18, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Successful applicants will be notified by May 31, 2012.

## **Stay Informed**

---

### **Health Care Innovation Challenge Webinar 3: *Achieving Lower Costs Through Improvement***

Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST

The Department of Health and Human Services recently announced the Health Care Innovation Challenge from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center, a new initiative designed to test creative ways to deliver high quality medical care and reduce costs across the country. In this third session of a four part webinar series on the Innovation Challenge, CMS Innovation Center staff will present an explanation of “Total Cost of Care” and how potential applicants can demonstrate their path to achieving lower costs through improvement.

Webcast: <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/CMS/83924/reg.html>

Participants who are unable to hear the audio for the webinar via their computer speakers, and/or would prefer to listen via their telephone, should dial 877-261-8937 and enter code 31613148#.

Reminder: Participants will only be able to ask questions via chat feature online.

Slides and a recording will be available following the webinar on the [Health Care Innovation Challenge](#) home page.

For questions about the webinars and/or the Innovation Challenge please email [InnovationChallenge@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:InnovationChallenge@cms.hhs.gov)

Note: A fourth webinar has been scheduled for 2:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. EST on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. This session will address how potential innovative proposals can demonstrate measurable impact on the aims of better care and better health in addition to considerations for operational planning for potential applications.

### ***Webinar on Physical Activity Guidelines & Recommendations for Individuals with Chronic Health Conditions***

Date: Thursday, December 15, 2011

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. EST

This webinar will address the *2008 Physical Activity Guidelines* published by the Department of Health and Human Services, particularly as they relate to adults and older adults. Additional information will be provided regarding physical activity recommendations for older adults who have health challenges including a history of falls, knee osteoarthritis and osteoporosis.

Sponsor: University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community

Speaker: Dr. Constance McCloy, Associate Professor, University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community

To register, go to <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/862669558>

**Webinar on *Dementia and Caregiving: Focusing on the Person while Understanding the Progression***

Date: Monday, December 19, 2011

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. PST

This webinar is the third session in a three-part series entitled *Moving Forward with Alzheimer's & Dementia* sponsored by Senior Helpers and Alzheimer's Foundation of America. The series is designed to help professionals provide more effective services and support for older adults with dementia throughout the disease process. The goal is to help caregivers see the positive and "what is," instead of "what was."

This session will focus on detecting and responding to significant changes in abilities that impact the person's engagement in meaningful activities in all areas: self-care, leisure, productive tasks, and rest. Techniques to effectively alter task demands and performance expectations will be discussed.

To register, go to <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/440140022>

**Conference Call Reminder**

*Conference Call in Spanish on CuidadoDeSalud.gov for Faith and Community*

Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Time: 12:30 p.m. Eastern, 11:30 a.m. Central, 10:30 a.m. Mountain, 9:30 a.m. Pacific

To register, go to

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USHHS\\_261](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USHHS_261)

Join Mayra Alvarez, Director of Public Health Policy, Office of Health Reform and Mara Vanderslice Kelly, Acting Director of the HHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, for a conference call tour in Spanish of <http://www.CuidadoDeSalud.gov>, the first website in Spanish to provide consumers with both public and private health coverage options tailored specifically for their needs in a single, easy-to-use tool.

**Tools & Information**

---

## **BenefitsCheckUp® Celebrates 10 Years with a New Look**

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is celebrating the 10-year anniversary of its free, online screening service BenefitsCheckUp®. The website has identified more than \$10 billion in benefits for over 3 million vulnerable older adults since 2001. It includes almost 2,000 public and private benefits programs from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. At the website, visitors can get help with identifying benefits that could save you money and cover the costs of everyday expenses. You can get information on medications, food, utilities, legal, health care, housing, in-home services, taxes, transportation, and employment training.

To access the new user-friendly website, go to <http://www.benefitscheckup.org/>

## **CMCS Launches Medicaid and CHIP Website**

The Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) is pleased to announce the initial launch of the first Federal government website devoted to the policies and the people of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Medicaid.gov brings to the forefront the items that states, the health policy community and other stakeholders have said they care about most, including: Federal policy guidance; information on pending and approved waivers; highlights of the Affordable Care Act implementation efforts; State-specific program information and data; and improved search capabilities. Also available is a section for consumers to help them get information about the Medicaid or CHIP program in their State.

To access the website, go to <http://www.medicaid.gov>

After visiting the website, feel free to give CMCS your feedback by completing the customer survey at <http://cmsideas.uservoice.com/forums/141980-medicaid-gov>

## **CMS Rule Gives Employers and Consumers Access to Quality Healthcare Data**

As a part of the Affordable Care Act, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced a final rule that gives employers and consumers access to information they need to make more informed choices about their healthcare.

The rule gives qualified organizations, like employers and consumer groups, access to data that can help them identify high quality healthcare providers or create online tools to help consumers make educated healthcare choices. Information that could identify specific patients, however, will not be publicly released and strong penalties will be in place for any misuse of data.

To read more about the rule, go to

<https://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=4206&intNumPerPage=1000&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=0&sr>

### **Number of Seniors Using the Internet for Fun on the Rise**

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project show that like all adults, the number of senior adults who go online for fun and to pass the time is on a steady rise. The results show that for adults ages 65 and older the numbers have increased from six percent in 2000 to 23 percent in 2011.

To read the complete survey report, go to

<http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2011/Internet-as-diversion/Report/Findings.aspx>

AoA News and Info is an electronic newsletter distributed by the AoA Office of Outreach and Consumer Information. Its contents are for informational purposes. For information on AoA, please visit our website at <http://www.aoa.gov>. You can also contact us at 202-619-0724 (phone); 202-357-3555 (fax) or by Email at [aoainfo@aoa.gov](mailto:aoainfo@aoa.gov)

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 News and Info 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 News and Info were current as of the date of publication.