



News from AoA July 2011

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National Resource Center on LGBT Aging Adds Resource Tools on Legal Support and Financial Planning

The Administration on Aging (AoA) funded National Resource Center on LGBT Aging recently added a new section on its website to address legal support and financial planning for LGBT older adults.

On this new website you'll find a range of resources, including an interactive state-by-state map designed to direct LGBT older adults to legal resources specific to the state they live in; informative articles on the legal documents every LGBT older adult should have, such as wills, advance directives, financial power of attorney, and more; videos that clearly illustrate the legal and financial issues unique to LGBT older adults; publications to help LGBT elders get a jumpstart on legal and financial planning; and various multimedia resources explaining Social Security and its importance to LGBT older people.

To learn more about this website and to access the abovementioned resources, please go to <http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/index.cfm>

As HIV Turns 30, Attention Turns to an Aging Epidemic

Today, approximately 28% of people living with HIV in the US are over 50. By 2017 that number is projected to grow to 50%. In addition, it is estimated that 15% of all new HIV infections occur in people over 50.

Earlier this month, the Administration on Aging (AoA) addressed some of these issues in a special webinar, Positive Aging: HIV Turns 30. The webinar, featuring Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging, and SAGE's Doreen Bermudez, among others, focused on educating the Aging Network about HIV prevention and treatment specific to older adults. If you were not able to participate live, please consider viewing the archive, available at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Special_Projects/HIV_AIDS/index.aspx

Michael Adams, Executive Director of Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) shared more on **the needs of older Americans living with HIV, the trends creating greater health risks for older adults, and issues related to HIV and aging at the community level** in a recent guest blog. To read his views and to continue the conversation, please go to <http://go.usa.gov/ZKF>

New Census 2010 Data on the Elderly Available at AoA Website

Recently released Census 2010 population figures by age for each state are now available at the Administration on Aging AGID (AGing Integrated Database) web page. To access this information, please go to http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Aging_Statistics/Census_Population/census2010/docs/stterr2010.xls

AoA's July Widget Offers Tips to Prevent Heat Illness

Summer is here and its extreme heat can cause illness. Older people tend to be more vulnerable to heat illnesses and need to take precautions to prevent heat illness. AoA's July widget highlights statistics on heat fatalities and offers tips on how to prevent heat illness. To learn more, view AoA's aging statistics widget at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx

Have you visited AoA's social media web page? In addition to widgets, AoA's social media page features e-cards with tips on healthy aging. You'll find free e-greetings with information on the healthiest foods to eat; the best exercises for staying fit and how volunteering can boost your health. To learn more, please go to at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/index.aspx

We're also featuring e-cards for caregivers. If you want to thank a caregiver for the time they spend caring for a loved one, you can find e-cards for caregivers at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/caregiver.aspx

Also, be sure to visit AoA's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/aoa.gov>. Please click the "Like" button for us. Feel free to write comments on our wall and share new resources.

If you have any questions or comments on our social media content, feel free to contact Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov

Other HHS News

AHRQ Website Helps Hispanics Communicate More with Their Doctors

The Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently launched, *Conozca las preguntas*, a new Spanish-language website that encourages Hispanics to get more involved in their health care and provides tips to improve patient-provider communication. AHRQ data show that the proportion of Hispanics who report having poor communication with their health providers widening. The data also show that Hispanics are significantly less likely than non-Hispanic whites to see a doctor

at least once a year even when they have health insurance, and they also are much less likely to get important screening tests for diseases, such as diabetes and cancer. The website also features downloadable public service announcements (PSAs) from AHRQ's nationwide campaign with the Ad Council.

To access *Conozca las preguntas*, please go to <http://www.ahrq.gov/preguntas/>

More People with Medicare Receiving Free Preventive Care

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released a new report showing that more than 5 million Americans with traditional Medicare – or nearly one in six people with Medicare – took advantage of one or more of the recommended preventive benefits now available for free thanks to the Affordable Care Act. In conjunction with the report release, Medicare launched a nationwide public outreach campaign, including a letter to doctors and a new Public Service Announcement that will raise awareness about all of the important preventive benefits now covered at no charge to patients, including the new Annual Wellness Visit benefit created by the Affordable Care Act.

To learn more about the report and the campaign to educate seniors about new free preventive care provided by Affordable Care Act, please go to <http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=3987&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500&sr>

Health Care Quality Gaps and Disparities Persist in Every State

States are seeing improvements in health care quality, but disparities for their minority and low-income residents persist, according to the *2010 State Snapshots*, released last month by the US Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

The *2010 State Snapshots*, an interactive Web-based tool, show whether a state has improved or worsened on specific health care quality measures. For each state and the District of Columbia, this tool features an individual performance summary of more than 100 measures, such as preventing pressure sores, screening for diabetes-related foot problems and giving recommended care to pneumonia patients. It also compares each state to others in its region and the Nation. A new feature this year is a State Resource Directory that provides tools and information on assessing quality measures and disparities data that states can use to develop their own health care quality and disparities measures.

New Hampshire, Minnesota, Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island showed the greatest overall performance improvement in 2010. The five states with the

smallest overall performance improvement were Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

To see the *2010 State Snapshots*, go to <http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov>

SAMHSA Offers New Toolkit for Staff of Senior Living Communities on Preventing Suicide

The Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services recently released *Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Living Communities (Toolkit)*. This new Toolkit contains resources to help staff in senior living communities promote emotional health and prevent suicide among their residents.

While there are few reliable statistics on suicide in senior living communities, we do know that residents of these communities have many of the risk factors associated with suicide, such as depression, social isolation, lack of a sense of purpose in life, illness and pain, and family losses. The Toolkit shows that senior living communities have many opportunities to prevent suicide and other self-destructive behaviors without having to create new programs or hire new staff. It provides guidelines for integrating suicide prevention into ongoing programs and procedures, as well as hands-on tools and training manuals.

Free copies of the Toolkit can be requested at <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA10-4515>

CCIIO Online Map Links to Consumer Information by State

The Department of Health and Human Services Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) recently developed an online map that links to contact information for consumer information in each state. Made available through the Consumer Assistance Program (CAP), which is funded through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the website provides resources to state ombudsman programs to work with consumers to find coverage options and manage internal and external appeals.

For residents in 30 states, the District of Columbia and three territories, readers can directly access their CAP program's website, phone number and walk-in office location. For states and territories that have CAP programs under development and for states that did not request a CAP grant, there are links to various state and Federal agencies that can assist with any resident inquiries.

To access this online tool, please go to <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/provisions/cap/>

Funding Opportunity

AoA Funding Opportunity: National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging

AoA has posted a new funding opportunity for a National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging to build the capacity of the aging services network to provide nutrition services, integrated into a home and community based service system, for both current and future older adult populations. Access to adequate, quality food and nutrition services is an important component of a comprehensive and coordinated plan for aging services provision. As the largest community based food and nutrition program in the U.S. targeted to older adults, it is essential that the Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program be positioned as a critical program in long term service and support systems across the country. Through this new funding opportunity, AoA plans to award one grant to: strengthen the support available to OAA nutrition services; assist in demonstrating the value of nutrition services, and; modernize nutrition services provision.

For more information, please go to the AoA website at <http://www.aoa.gov> and on the left side, click on “Grant Opportunities” and then “Funding Opportunities”. Please note, as specified in the Program Announcement, all applications must be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>

Partnership for Patients Announces Federal Contracting Opportunities

The Partnership for Patients is pleased to announce new federal contracts for entities that can assist in meeting two of its main goals: reducing harm in hospital settings by 40% and reducing readmissions by 20% over a three-year period. These contracts kick-off a multi-million dollar investment the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Innovation has committed to this effort.

To learn more about this funding opportunity, please go to https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=b89fbfc7fd10c41903c7f6fa083bbfc7&tab=core&_cvview=1

CMS will host a webinar on July 6th, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET to share more information on this funding opportunity. To participate in the webinar, please go to https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=b89fbfc7fd10c41903c7f6fa083bbfc7&tab=core&_cvview=1

The call-in number is 877)-267-1577 and the Participant Code: 5045

FY 2011 Funds Available for National Organizations to Support Arthritis Programs and Policy

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2011 funds for a cooperative agreement program for National Organizations to Support Arthritis Programs and Policy. This funding opportunity addresses the “Healthy People 2020” focus areas of: Access to Quality Health Services; Arthritis, Osteoporosis, and Chronic Back Conditions; Disability and Secondary Conditions; Educational and Community-Based Programs; and Health Communication; and Physical Activity and Fitness.

The application deadline is August 1, 2011.

To access the announcement & application package, please go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=JcFFTGrpd8bYJWbGIWt20M945PtTsJ2LzpZpzGhm4n1WFkDG2Chyl-855547622?oppId=101354&mode=VIEW>

Community-based Care Transitions Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is accepting applications for participation in the Community-based Care Transitions Program (CCTP). The CCTP, mandated by section 3026 of the Affordable Care Act, provides funding to test models for improving care transitions for high risk Medicare beneficiaries. The goals of the CCTP are to improve transitions of beneficiaries from the inpatient hospital setting to other care settings, to improve quality of care, to reduce readmissions for high risk beneficiaries, and to document measureable savings to the Medicare program. The CCTP is part of Partnership for Patients, a national patient safety initiative through which the Administration is supporting broad-based efforts to reduce harm caused to patients in hospitals and improve care transitions.

Acceptable applicants will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis as funding permits.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. Upcoming Panel Review Dates are:

July 19, 2011 - Applications must be received no later than June 20, 2011 to be considered for this review.

August 24, 2011 - Applications must be received no later than July 15, 2011 to be considered for this review.

September 19, 2011 - Applications must be received no later than August 18, 2011 to be considered for this review.

To learn more about this funding opportunity, please go to <http://www.cms.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/itemdetail.asp?itemID=CMS1239313>

Comprehensive Health Programs to Address Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Tobacco Use in the Workplace

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced recently the availability of \$10 million to establish and evaluate comprehensive workplace health promotion programs across the nation to improve the health of American workers and their families. The initiative, with funds from the Affordable Care Act's Prevention and Public Health Fund, is aimed at improving workplace environments so that they support healthy lifestyles and reduce risk factors for chronic diseases like heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes.

The application deadline is August 8, 2011.

To learn more about this funding opportunity, please go to https://www.fbo.gov/?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=9d08916a6197cae87513ebe6969d9f6a&tab=core&_cview=1

More News

New Resource Tool on Mobility Options for American Indian Elders

The National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) and the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (National RTAP) have collaborated to publish, *Crossing Great Divides: A Guide to Mobility Resources and Solutions in Indian Country*. This resource guide is intended to highlight the importance of mobility options for American Indian elders and support the efforts of Title VI Aging Services and Tribal Transit programs to provide transportation to elders living on reservations and Indian lands.

The report aims to serve as a resource to Tribes, Title VI Agencies and Tribal Transit Programs, as well as Community Health Representatives, State Departments of Transportation and others who work to address the mobility needs of American Indian elders. The report includes an overview of service providers, funding resources, solutions from the field, and a directory of resources.

The report may be accessed and downloaded from the NCST web site at <http://www.seniortransportation.net>

To order a printed copy, please contact the NCST at (866) 528-6278 or ncst@easterseals.com

A Paper Check Is No Match for a Storm

Help the senior citizens, people with disabilities and veterans you serve protect their federal benefit payments by switching to direct deposit. When a natural disaster strikes, evacuations and mail disruptions can prevent people who receive federal benefit payments by paper check from getting their money on time.

Ensuring that people get paid in the most reliable way is one of the reasons the US Department of the Treasury has begun its move toward delivering all federal benefit payments electronically. Now, everyone applying for federal benefits will receive their payments electronically. Anyone currently relying on paper checks must switch to electronic payments by **March 1, 2013**.

The Treasury Department recommends two electronic payment options for federal benefit payments: direct deposit to a bank or credit union account or the **Direct Express[®] Debit** MasterCard[®] card. The people you serve can make the switch from paper federal benefit checks to electronic payments immediately, by calling the US Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at (800) 333-1795 or online at <http://www.GoDirect.org>

A paper check is no match for a storm. Help the people you serve take action today! For more information or to order free materials through the Treasury Department's **Go Direct[®]** public education campaign, visit <http://www.GoDirect.org>

Aging Related Legislation Anniversaries

Older Americans Act signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 14, 1965

Americans with Disabilities Act: signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990

Medicare and Medicaid: established as part of the Social Security Act of 1965, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 30, 1965

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

Upcoming Conferences

July

7-9: NANASP 2011 Annual Training Conference “Decision2011”
Washington, DC
For more information, please go to
<http://www.nanasp.org/upcomingconferences.html>

16-20: 36th Annual n4a Conference & Tradeshow
Washington, DC
For more information, please go to
<http://www.n4a.org/training-events/annual-conference/>

26-29: Generations United’s 16th International Conference: Rethinking
and Revitalizing Intergenerational Connections
Washington, DC
For more information, please go to
<http://www2.gu.org/RESOURCES/Conference.aspx>

August

17-18: Utah Aging Alliance Annual Meeting & Conference – The New Aging
Demographic: Change, Challenge and Choices
Sandy, UT
For more information, please go to
<http://www.utahagingalliance.org/>

22-24: Florida Conference on Aging 2011-07-01
St. Pete Beach, FL
For more information, please go to <http://www.fcoa.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

Please direct submissions to the AoA Calendar of Event to Paulette Nowden at
Paulette.Nowden@aoa.hhs.gov

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