



## News and Info

Monday, November 21, 2011

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### News from CMS

*CMS Awards Funds to First CCTP Sites*

On Friday, November 18, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the first sites selected for the Community Based Care Transition Program (CCTP). The announcement included Program Agreements with seven agencies in six states. To learn more about the sites selected, go to [http://www.cms.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/downloads/CCTP\\_FirstSiteSelections.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/downloads/CCTP_FirstSiteSelections.pdf)

The CMS Innovation Center will hold a conference call to allow stakeholders to hear directly from some of the newly selected sites. CMS staff will also be available to answer questions. The conference call details are below.

Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2011  
Time: 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Eastern  
Call-in #: 800-837-1936  
Passcode: 29693317

The Community Based Care Transitions Program (CCTP) is an initiative of the Partnership for Patients, a new public-private partnership created by the Affordable Care Act. CCTP's goals are to reduce hospital readmissions, test sustainable funding streams for care transition services, maintain or improve quality of care, and document measureable savings to the Medicare program. The demonstration will be conducted under the authority of section 3026 of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. For more information about the Community Based Care Transitions Program, visit <http://go.cms.gov/caretransitions>.

#### *New CMS Demonstrations to Help Curb Improper Medicare, Medicaid Payments*

In 2010, the President announced three goals for cutting improper payments by 2012: reducing overall payment errors by \$50 billion, cutting the Medicare fee-for-service error rate in half and recovering \$2 billion in improper payments.

To help achieve these goals, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced it will launch demonstration programs beginning January 1, 2012 targeting some of the most common factors that lead to improper payments. The two demonstration projects—*Recovery Audit Prepayment Review* and *Prior Authorization for Certain Medical Equipment*—will strengthen Medicare by aiming at eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse. Reductions in improper payments will help ensure the sound future of the Medicare Trust Fund and protect Medicare beneficiaries who depend upon it.

To learn more about these demonstrations, go to <https://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/factsheet.asp?Counter=4176&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500>

#### *Medicare Beneficiaries Save More Than \$1.2 Billion on Prescriptions*

So far this year, more than 2.2 million people with Medicare have saved more than \$1.2 billion on their prescriptions, for an average of \$550 per person, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced last week. And more than 22.6 million seniors and people with disabilities have taken advantage of at least one free Medicare preventive benefit, including the new Annual Wellness Visit made possible by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

To read the entire press release regarding this announcement, go to <http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=4158&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500&sr>

### *Medicare Expands Coverage of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Services*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that Medicare is adding coverage for a number of preventive services to reduce cardiovascular disease. Under this coverage decision, CMS will cover one face-to-face visit each year to allow patients and their care providers to determine the best way to help prevent cardiovascular disease. The visit must be furnished by primary care practitioners, such as a beneficiary's family practice physician, internal medicine physician, or nurse practitioner, in settings such as physicians' offices. During these visits, providers may screen for hypertension and promote healthy diet as part of an overall initiative to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in the United States.

To read the entire press release regarding this announcement, go to <http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=4162&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500&sr>

## **Funding Opportunities**

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### **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.

Successful models will include plans to rapidly develop and/or deploy the requisite workforce to support the proposed model. Awards will recognize interventions that show capability to improve care within the first six months of

the award, while creating a sustainable pathway to net Medicare/Medicaid/CHIP savings within two to three years.

Awards will range from approximately \$1 million to \$30 million for a three-year period. Applications are open to providers, payers, local government, public-private partnerships and multi-payer collaboratives. Each grantee project will be monitored for measurable improvements in quality of care and savings generated.

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>

## **Funding Opportunity Reminder**

*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**

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### **AARP Webinar on Caregiving**

**Date: Thursday, December 1, 2011**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**Site: Columbus Club, Union Station, Washington, DC**

Prominent authors and experts will discuss the difficulties faced by millions of family caregivers coping with our health and long-term care systems. Join the conversation to explore how public policies can more effectively address caregiver needs and how health care professionals can improve support for family caregivers.

This forum features two in-depth panel discussions. Audience participation is encouraged.

To register for this webinar, go to

<http://msg4svc.net/fkfusck/415862/52/16918/0/TE/10/odcig.jsp>

Continental breakfast will be available at 8:30 AM. For more information, contact Cherri Thompson, 202-434-3883, [chthompson@aarp.org](mailto:chthompson@aarp.org)

For those who cannot attend, this forum will be webcast. [Select here](#) for the webcast at 9AM on December 1.

### **Webinar on Community Transportation and Travel Counseling in Greater Lynn, MA**

Date: Tuesday December 6, 2011

Time: 2:00 – 3:30 EST

Space is limited; please register early for this event. To register, go to

<https://aoa->

[events.webex.com/mw03061/mywebex/default.do;jsessionid=k5nLTFhpNmwT83DXdcLJYkbtBF8mkYwqMtH2WJrRYwn6R0hnc0zc!1443071028?nomenu=true&siteurl=aoa-events&service=6&main\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Faoa-events.webex.com%2Fec06051%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D280008359%26siteurl%3Daoa-events%26%26%26](https://aoa-events.webex.com/mw03061/mywebex/default.do;jsessionid=k5nLTFhpNmwT83DXdcLJYkbtBF8mkYwqMtH2WJrRYwn6R0hnc0zc!1443071028?nomenu=true&siteurl=aoa-events&service=6&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Faoa-events.webex.com%2Fec06051%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D280008359%26siteurl%3Daoa-events%26%26%26)

This webinar will demonstrate how transportation is a fundamental key to developing livable communities and promoting general consumer health and well-being. It will feature representatives from Mobility Links, a mobility management program serving nineteen communities north of Boston and offered by Greater Lynn Senior Services through the ADRC of the Greater North Shore. Mobility Links focuses not only on delivering rides to consumers, but also on providing them the education and decision-making supports they require to remain fully integrated within the community according to their needs and preferences. Consequently, Mobility Links comprises a travel counseling capacity, community education focusing on consumer problem-solving around mobility needs both now and in the future, a centralized

provider scheduling option to coordinate existing travel resources, and a volunteer driving component to help create new ones.

Participants will:

Hear information about travel counseling and mobility management as a way to better address the mobility needs of older adults.

Gain information about replicable approaches for informing and supporting older adults' transportation decisions through community engagement and education.

Increase awareness of how ADRCs can create innovative programming in response to diverse consumer needs

Presenters:

Joseph Lugo, Aging Services Program Specialist, Administration on Aging

Lucinda Shannon, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist, National Center on Senior Transportation

Valerie Parker-Callahan, Director, Planning & Development, Greater Lynn Senior Services

Emily Kearns, Assistant Director, Planning & Development Greater Lynn Senior Services

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

Please 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.

<http://www.CuidadoDeSalud.gov> helps Spanish-speaking Americans take control of their health care by connecting them with new information and resources that help them access quality, affordable health care coverage. Similar to <http://www.HealthCare.gov>, <http://www.CuidadoDeSalud.gov> offers an insurance finder, explains the Affordable Care Act in step-by-step detail and offers information for families with children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and others.

The call-in information is below. We hope you are able to join.

### **CALL DETAILS**

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

If you have questions, please email [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov)

### **Health Care Interactive Conference Call on ACA**

Host:

Department of Health and Human Services Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships for Faith and Community Leaders

Topic: *ACA and Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP)*

Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Time: 3:00 p.m. ET

To register, go to

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USHHS\\_264](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USHHS_264)

Dial-in information and Power Point Slides will be sent to those who RSVP.

Please send any questions you may have prior to the calls [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov)

### **Tools & Information**

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#### **Census Data Shows Fast-Growing 90-and-Older Population**

The nation's 90-and-older population nearly tripled over the past three decades, reaching 1.9 million in 2010, according to a recently released report by the US Census Bureau and supported by the National Institute on Aging. Over the next four decades, this population is projected to more than quadruple.

The report, *90+ in the United States: 20006-20008*, presents an overview of this age group and a comparative analysis of selected demographic and socio-economic differences between people 90 and older and their younger counterparts within the older population. To download a copy of the report, go to <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acs-17.pdf>

## **Seasonal Flu Guide for Community & Faith-based Organizations and Leaders in English and Spanish**

The Department of Health and Human Services Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships (Partnership Center) has developed a guide to the seasonal flu, in English and Spanish, for leaders of faith-based and community organizations. In addition to providing information about the flu, this guide includes specific action steps faith and community leaders can take to help keep their communities healthy.

To download the guide, go to

[http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/resources/Pubs/seasonal\\_flu\\_gd.pdf](http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/resources/Pubs/seasonal_flu_gd.pdf)

To learn more about the Partnership Center, go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/>

### **AHRQ Launches *Toma las riendas* ("Take the reins") Campaign**

*Campaign Encourages Hispanics to Work with Their Doctors to Make the Best Treatment Decisions*

The US Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is partnering with Hispanic-serving organizations to promote the Agency's Spanish-language resources and to encourage consumers to become more active partners in their health care.

AHRQ's easy-to-read resources help consumers understand the benefits and risks of treatment options and encourage shared decision-making between patients and their health care teams.

To date, ten organizations have signed a pledge of commitment to promote AHRQ's Spanish-language, evidence-based resources, including the National Hispanic Medical Association, Latino Student Medical Association, National Association of Hispanic Elderly, District of Columbia Office on Latino Affairs, National Latina Health Network, Telemundo, and the National Center for Farmworkers Health.

To assist in this effort, AHRQ recently launched the "*Toma las riendas*" ("Take the reins") campaign, a nationwide effort to encourage Hispanics to take control of their health and explore treatment options. The campaign addresses the need for high-quality health information in Spanish. It promotes a wide variety of resources produced by AHRQ's Effective Health Care Program. These tools, which include consumer-friendly publications that summarize treatment options for common health conditions, help Hispanics work with their health care teams to select the best possible treatment option. The tools do not tell patients and doctors what to do but offer factual, unbiased information to help answer questions such as: What are the benefits and risks of different medical

treatment? How strong is the science behind each option? Which treatment is most likely to work best for me?

To learn more about the *Toma las riendas* Campaign, go to <http://ahrq.hhs.gov/news/press/pr2011/riendaspr.htm>

### **Over 100,000 Primary Care Providers Sign Up to Adopt EHRs**

The Department of Health and Human Services Office for the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology announced last week that more than 100,000 primary care providers are adopting certified Electronic Health Records (EHRs) to help improve their quality of care and ultimately lower health care costs. This commitment by more than one-third of all primary care providers nationwide to work with their Regional Extension Center (REC) to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs as a way to transition from paper records to certified EHRs represents a major step toward broader and more meaningful use of health IT.

To read the entire press release regarding this announcement, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/11/20111117a.html>

### **SSA Upgrades Its Spanish-Language Website**

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has upgraded its Spanish-language website, Seguro Social. The expanded online services include the ability to apply online for retirement and Medicare benefits, completely in Spanish. In as little as 15 minutes, a person can apply for retirement benefits. In addition to applying for retirement benefits, visitors to the website can apply for Medicare. Applications for Medicare take as little as ten minutes from start to finish.

At the website visitors can access a wealth of information and publications written in Spanish, and get an instant, personalized estimate of future Social Security benefits using SSA's *Retirement Estimator*.

To learn more about Seguro Social, go to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/espanol/>

### ***Facing AIDS* for World AIDS Day**

World AIDS Day is December 1, 2011. Show your support of The National HIV/AIDS Strategy by sharing photos and messages about why you are *Facing AIDS* for World AIDS Day. This year you can upload your pictures directly to our gallery at [facing.AIDS.gov](http://facing.AIDS.gov), and share them through Facebook and Twitter. It is as easy as Write. Snap. Share.

To learn how *Facing AIDS* works or to learn about hosting a *Facing AIDS* event, go to <http://facing.aids.gov/>

To learn more about how you can support the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, go to <http://www.aids.gov/federal-resources/policies/national-hiv-aids-strategy/what-you-can-do/>

### **The Aging and Health Report**

*Disparities and Resilience among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults*

Aging and health issues facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) baby boomers have been largely ignored by services, policies and research. These seniors face higher rates of disability, physical and mental distress and a lack of access to services, according to the first study on aging and health in these communities.

A new study led by Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen and colleagues at the University of Washington's School of Social Work, indicates that prevention and intervention strategies must be developed to address the unique needs of these seniors, whose numbers are expected to double to more than 4 million by 2030. Fredriksen-Goldsen and her co-authors surveyed 2,560 LGBT adults aged 50-95 across the United States. The researchers found that the study participants had greater rates of disability, depression and loneliness and increased likeliness to smoke and binge-drink compared with heterosexuals of similar ages.

The study has been posted on the AoA website at [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/Tools\\_Resources/diversity.aspx#LGBT](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Tools_Resources/diversity.aspx#LGBT).

### **New SAGE Public Policy & Aging Report Focuses on LGBT Aging**

For the first time, the SAGE Public Policy & Aging Report is devoted entirely to issues relevant to LGBT aging. *Integrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults into Aging Policy and Practice* addresses a range of issues that will influence discussion on aging nationwide. The report was published in partnership with the National Academy on an Aging Society.

To download a copy of the report, go to <http://www.sageusa.org/uploads/PPAR%20Summer20111.pdf>

***Together on Diabetes*<sup>®</sup> Marks First Anniversary and World Diabetes Day with Awards of \$18.4 Million in Grants**

On November 14, the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation marked World Diabetes Day and the first anniversary of its *Together on Diabetes*<sup>®</sup> initiative by awarding eight grants totaling \$18.4 million to help communities and populations disproportionately affected by type 2 diabetes. The grants will help develop effective, comprehensive solutions that integrate public health, health care services, community supportive services, and the strengths of the communities in order to improve health outcomes and reduce disease burden.

The eight grants announced—to Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health, Duke University Medical Center, Feeding America, Camden Citywide Diabetes Collaborative, Marshall University Center for Rural Health, Mississippi Public Health Institute, National Network of Public Health Institutes, and Riverview Medical Center—focus on communities or populations with high prevalence and burden of type 2 diabetes: Native Americans, Appalachia, the Mississippi Delta region, urban and rural poor, people who are food insecure, and people who suffer from both depression and diabetes.

To learn more about the awards, go to

[http://www.bms.com/news/press\\_releases/pages/default.aspx?RSSLink=http://www.businesswire.com/news/bms/20111114006272/en&t=634568693768451772](http://www.bms.com/news/press_releases/pages/default.aspx?RSSLink=http://www.businesswire.com/news/bms/20111114006272/en&t=634568693768451772)

To learn more about *Together on Diabetes*<sup>®</sup>, go to

<http://www.bms.com/togetherondiabetes/pages/home.aspx>

## **I&R Gets Its Day in the Senate**

Last week the US Senate passed Senate Resolution 241, which designated November 16, 2011 as “National Information and Referral Services Day.”

The resolution will help to raise public awareness about the existence and importance of information and referral services available to all people and to more effectively target those services to reach individuals most in need. It also reaffirms the importance of clear and consistent professional standards to govern every aspect of quality information and referral services.

To read the entire resolution, go to <http://www.airs.org/files/public/CREC-2011-11-15-pt1-PgS7583-4-I&Rday.pdf>

## **Observances**

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### **November Observances**

#### ***National Diabetes Month, 2011***

To read President Obama's proclamation on National Diabetes Month, 2011, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-diabetes-month-2011>

For more information, including guidance on taking the pledge to stop diabetes, please visit the American Diabetes Association website at <http://www.diabetes.org/in-my-community/programs/american-diabetes-month/>

### ***National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2011***

To read President Obama's proclamation on National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2011, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-alzheimers-disease-awareness-month-20>

For more information, please visit the Alzheimer's Association® website at [http://www.alz.org/nca/in\\_my\\_community\\_20898.asp](http://www.alz.org/nca/in_my_community_20898.asp)

### ***National Family Caregivers Month, 2011***

To read President Obama's proclamation on National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2011, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-family-caregivers-month-2011>

For more information, please visit the National Family Caregivers Association website at <http://www.nfcacares.org/>

### ***National Hospice /Palliative Month***

For more information, please visit the National Hospice and Palliative Organization website at <http://www.nhpco.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=5754>

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