



## News and Info

Monday, October 17, 2011

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## **HealthCare Blog on the CLASS Program**

Last week the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) offices of CLASS (Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Program), ASPE (Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation) and the General Counsel issued a report on the actuarial, marketing and legal analyses of the CLASS program. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius detailed the report's findings in a recent blog post, which is accessible along with the report and other supporting documents, at <http://www.healthcare.gov/blog/2011/10/class10142011.html>

## **A Message from ASA Greenlee on Medicare Open Enrollment**

Your health needs change from year to year. And, your health plan may change the benefits and costs each year too. That's why it's important to evaluate your Medicare choices every year. Open Enrollment is the one time of year when all people with Medicare can see what new benefits Medicare has to offer and make changes to their coverage.

Saturday, October 15, marks an early beginning for the 2012 Medicare Open Enrollment period. Medicare Open Enrollment has been expanded to last seven weeks to give seniors and people with disabilities more time to compare and find the best plan that meets their unique needs. This year, it also ends early. The closing date for open enrollment is December 7. This change ensures Medicare has enough time to process your choice, so your coverage can begin without interruption on January 1.

I encourage all Medicare beneficiaries and their families to begin reviewing drug and health plan coverage options for 2012 now. Visit Medicare's Plan Finder today, available at <http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan>

What you'll find this year are more benefits, better choices and lower costs. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, additional benefits to people with Medicare include lower prescription drug costs through a 50 percent discount on covered brand name drugs in the coverage gap (also referred to as the "donut hole"), wellness checkups, and access to certain preventive care with no copayments – a benefit that all Medicare Advantage plans will offer starting in 2012.

For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day/7 days a week to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You can also visit the AoA webpage on Open Enrollment Resources for Medicare Beneficiaries at [http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/AoA\\_Programs/Special\\_Projects/Medicare\\_Outreach/enrollment\\_resources.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/AoA_Programs/Special_Projects/Medicare_Outreach/enrollment_resources.aspx)

**AoA Funds First National Adult Protective Services Resource Center**

The Administration on Aging (AoA) will award nearly \$200,000 to the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) to establish a new National Adult Protective Services Resource Center to serve as a knowledge base for the fight against elder abuse.

“Adult protective services are the boots on the ground in the fight against elder abuse,” said Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee. “The resource center will support these first responders with the best information, research and evidence-based practices available.”

The federally funded APS Resource Center will help state and local adult protective services systems, agencies and staff across the nation respond more quickly and intervene more effectively in cases of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The center will identify evidence-based practices for APS programs and interventions, compile research relevant to APS programming and provide technical assistance to state and local APS programs.

To read the entire press release regarding this announcement, please go to [http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press\\_Room/For\\_The\\_Press/pr/archive/2011/October/2011\\_10\\_13.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/pr/archive/2011/October/2011_10_13.aspx)

For more information about the National Adult Protective Services Resource Center, please visit the website at [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/docs/2011/FY\\_2011\\_PA\\_APS\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/docs/2011/FY_2011_PA_APS_FINAL.pdf)

For more information about elder abuse, please visit the National Center on Elder Abuse website at [http://ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main\\_Site/index.aspx](http://ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main_Site/index.aspx)

For more information about the National Adult Protective Services Association, please visit the website at <http://www.napsa.org>

### **AoA Awards National Hispanic SMP Grant**

The Administration on Aging (AoA) recently announced the award of \$640,000 for the National Hispanic Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). The National Hispanic SMP is a Medicare fraud prevention program that targets its education efforts specifically to Hispanic older adults, their families, and caregivers. The grant goes to the National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA), which established the National Hispanic SMP with AoA funding in 2008.

“Hispanic older adults are one of the fastest growing demographics in the United States,” said Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee. “That’s why it’s important that we develop targeted, culturally-appropriate education efforts

to ensure Hispanic older adults have the tools they need to protect themselves and the Medicare program from fraud.”

To read the entire press release associated with this grant, please go to [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/For\\_The\\_Press/pr/archive/2011/October/2011\\_10\\_14.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/pr/archive/2011/October/2011_10_14.aspx)

To learn about how the Senior Medicare Patrol works, go to [http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/aoa\\_programs/elder\\_rights/smp/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/aoa_programs/elder_rights/smp/index.aspx)

For information and resources in the SMP effort to reduce Medicare Fraud, go to <http://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov/preventfraud/smp/forthepublic/aboutthesmpprogram/index.html>

### **Number of National Health Service Corp Members on the Rise**

*More than 10,000 primary care providers-- largest number in history supported by Obama Administration investments.*

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced that the number of participants in the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) has nearly tripled. Today, more than 10,000 National Corps members – doctors, nurses and other health care providers – care for Americans in communities nationwide. Thanks to investments in the National Health Service Corps through the Affordable Care Act, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and annual appropriations, the NHSC has awarded nearly \$900 million in scholarships and loan repayment to health care professionals to help expand the country’s primary care workforce and meet the health care needs of communities across the country.

The number of field clinicians as well as patients has almost tripled since 2008, increasing from 3,600 providers and 3.7 million patients. There are currently more than 10,000 National Health Service Corps members and over 17,000 NHSC-approved rural and urban sites across the country.

“Thanks to the National Health Service Corps, more Americans can see a doctor and get the health care they need,” said HHS Secretary Sebelius. “The investments we made are improving health and creating access to care, fueling economic activity nationwide.”

To read the entire press release associated with this announcement, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/10/20111013a.html>

To learn more about the National Health Service Corps, please visit the website at <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/>

## Funding Opportunities

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### 2012 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Funding Opportunities

The two funding opportunities noted below build upon the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Both Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (MLK Day) funders, HOPE *worldwide* and the HandsOn Network, seek to support projects that are designed to inspired Americans to transform their communities through service and civic dialogue, as did Dr. King.

For additional information about MLK Day, visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day website at <http://www.mlkday.org>

**1. HOPE *worldwide*** is now accepting proposals for the 2012 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service for fire prevention education activities on the weekend preceding and the legal holiday on Monday, January 16, 2012. Grants will be offered in increments of \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000, \$7,500 or \$10,000 depending on the number of volunteers projected.

The grants are a part of the 2012 *Protecting Our Neighbors* fire prevention education campaign to reach neighbors most at-risk of residential fires. Projects should focus on neighborhoods with recent high incidents of residential fires or statistically at-risk populations. Volunteers should promote practical and simple safety habits; the value of smoke alarms in working condition; and/or the need to create and practice a fire escape plan.

**The deadline for the Intent to Apply Notification is Monday, Oct. 17, 2011.** An email including the name of the organization and the contact person's name, email address and phone number should be sent to [MLKDay@hopeww.org](mailto:MLKDay@hopeww.org)

**All applications are due Friday, October 28, 2011 (by midnight EST).**

For more information on this funding opportunity and to download a copy of the Request for Proposal and a copy of the application, please go to the HOPE *worldwide* funding webpage at

<https://www.hopeww.org/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=1808>

Questions regarding this funding opportunity should be directed to Melisa Aranda by phone at 516-292-1586 or by email at [MLKDay@hopeww.org](mailto:MLKDay@hopeww.org)

To learn more about HOPE *worldwide* please visit the website at <http://www.hopeww.org>

**2. The HandsOn Network**, with the support of its national partners and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), is pleased to announce the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Grants for the annual MLK Day on January 16, 2012.

Awards will be available in two categories, Leadership Grants (two for \$30,000 each) and Signature Grants (four for \$15,000 each).

Two important elements will differentiate HandsOn Network Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service grants from other funding opportunities. In addition to the expectations for activation of volunteers, HandsOn Network projects will include a special focus on activating and serving the veteran and military community, as well as intentional focus on civic dialogue.

The HandsOn Network's 2012 MLK Day grant strategy prioritizes service to veterans, active military and their families to improve outcomes for those who have made sacrifices to this country. It also seeks to engage veterans, active duty military and their families as volunteers, empowering them to address needs in their communities, strengthen their skills, and increase their connections to their local communities.

**The application deadline is Monday, November 7, 2011, 5 p.m. ET.**

For an electronic version of the Request for Proposal or other related materials to this grant, please go to the HandsOn Network website at <http://www.handsonnetwork.org>

Questions regarding this funding opportunity should be directed to HandsOn Network staff by telephone at 202-729-8202 or by email to [MLKgrant@pointsoflight.org](mailto:MLKgrant@pointsoflight.org)

### **Rural Health Care Services Outreach Grant Program**

The Office of Rural Health Policy's Outreach Program in the US Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources Services Administration is soliciting proposals for support projects that demonstrate effective models of outreach and service delivery through collaboration, adoption of an evidence-based or promising practice model, demonstration of health outcomes, replicability and sustainability. Proposed projects should have an outcomes-oriented approach that will enhance and sustain the delivery of effective health care in rural communities by tracking specific health indicators that will demonstrate the impact of their project at the end of their grant period. They will be based on evidence-based or promising practice models in order to avoid "reinventing the wheel" and demonstrate health status improvement in rural communities. Proposed projects can take the framework of an evidence-based

or promising practice model and tailor it to their community's need and organization.

**The application deadline is November 22, 2011.**

To learn more details about this funding opportunity, please go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=24vzTLVLRc4fvWdW62w1NJL7BttTtdw2JJOYnL0wOp8FM1XWMwJP!-1138132090?oppId=124153&mode=VIEW>

### **Interventions for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Native American Populations**

The National Institutes of Health is providing this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) to develop, adapt, and test the effectiveness of health promotion and disease prevention interventions in Native American (NA) populations. NA populations are exposed to considerable risk factors that significantly increase their likelihood of chronic disease, substance abuse, mental illness, and HIV-infection. The intervention program should be culturally appropriate and promote the adoption of healthy lifestyles, improve behaviors and social conditions and/or improve environmental conditions related to chronic disease, the consumption of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, mental illness or HIV-infection. The intervention program should be designed so that it could be sustained within the entire community within existing resources, and, if successful, disseminated in other Native American communities. The long-term goal of this FOA is to reduce mortality and morbidity in NA communities. For the purposes of this FOA Native Americans include the following populations: Alaska Native, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian. The term Native Hawaiian means any individual any of whose ancestors were natives, prior to 1778, of the area which now comprises the State of Hawaii.

**The application deadline is May 15, 2014.**

To learn more about this funding opportunity, please go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=24vzTLVLRc4fvWdW62w1NJL7BttTtdw2JJOYnL0wOp8FM1XWMwJP!-1138132090?oppId=124173&mode=VIEW>

### **Stay Informed**

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#### **ACA Webinar on Medication Management Tools and Resources**

On Tuesday, October 25, the Administration on Aging (AoA) will continue its series of webinars focused on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of

2010 (also known as the Affordable Care Act, or ACA) and its impact on the aging network.

**Title:** Medication Management Tools and Resources

**Date:** Tuesday, October 25, 1:00-2:30 pm Eastern

**Description:**

Medication reconciliation and management are core components of effective care transitions. In our October webinar, we will explore this critical topic, including tools, technology and partnerships that can help avoid medication errors and improve client/patient safety.

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To register for the online event  
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1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=664641344&t=a>
2. Click "Register".
3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

Once your registration is approved, you will receive a confirmation email message with instructions on how to join the event.

**Please note:** Space is limited, so please register as early as possible. This webinar will also be recorded and posted on the AoA web site ([http://www.aoa.gov/Aging\\_Statistics/Health\\_care\\_reform.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx)) soon after the webinar concludes.

**Webinar on *From Bad to Worse: Senior Economic Insecurity on the Rise***

In only four years, the ranks of seniors at risk of outliving their resources increased by nearly 2 million households. Using the Senior Financial Stability Index, economic insecurity among senior households increased by one-third, rising from 27% to 36% from 2004 to 2008. This steady and dramatic increase was in progress even before the full force of the Great Recession hit.

Join NCOA (National Council on Aging) to explore the findings of two recent studies on this issue from the Institute on Assets & Social Policy:

*From Bad to Worse: Senior Economic Insecurity on the Rise*  
*The Crisis of Economic Insecurity for African American and Latino Seniors*

Date: Thursday, October 20, 2011

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET

To learn more about the webinar's content and to register, please go to <http://www.ncoa.org/calendar-of-events/from-bad-to-worse-senior.html>

## **Tools & Information**

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### **CMS Consumer Alert**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has recently become aware of a website that has the appearance of being an official government website for the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan.

This new website - <http://preexistingconditioninsuranceplan.com> - is not maintained by any government programs and consumers are strongly urged not to submit any personal information requested by this website under the assumption that it is a government website.

CMS is taking the appropriate steps to protect consumers from being misled.

The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan made available through the Affordable Care Act makes health insurance available to people who have had a problem getting insurance due to a pre-existing condition. It covers a broad range of health benefits, including primary and specialty care, hospital care and prescription drugs. Enrollees are not charged a higher premium just because of previous medical conditions. Also, eligibility is not based on income.

Individuals interested in Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan should visit the website at <http://www.pcip.gov>

### **It's Time to Get Vaccinated**

It's flu season and time to get vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone six months of age or older get vaccinated against the flu every year. This year, in addition to the regular flu shot and the nasal spray vaccine, there is a flu shot given with a much smaller needle.

There is also a high-dose flu shot for those 65 and older.

Where to go to get vaccinated is a click away. Just enter your zip code in the Flu Vaccine Finder to find locations near your home. The Flu Vaccine Finder is accessible at <http://www.flu.gov/>

### **Retirement Disparity**

*Given how few African-American and Latino seniors have a solid economic footing, economic insecurity is truly a disturbing norm, rather than the exception to the rule.*

*The Crisis of Economic Insecurity for African-American and Latino Seniors*, a recent report by the Institute on Assets & Social Policy (IASP) and Demos, a national policy center, concluded that while the 2008 Great Recession slammed most seniors, people of color were especially hard hit. While only about one in four white senior households has enough resources for a secure retirement—a percentage that should be unacceptable for any group—the low level of security among white seniors is substantially greater than that of seniors of color. With limited assets and resources to cushion the blow, many have fallen deeper and deeper into the well of financial insecurity. The study found that just four percent of Latino seniors and eight percent of African-American seniors have adequate resources to maintain economic security for the length of their lives.

The report gives an analysis of historical factors that have contributed to the disparity and offers efforts that could the retirement gap as well as broaden security among today's seniors and future retirees.

To download a copy of the report, please go to <http://iasp.brandeis.edu/pdfs/InsecuritySeniorsOfColor.pdf>

To learn more about the Institute on Assets & Social Policy, please visit the website at <http://iasp.brandeis.edu/>

To learn more about Demos, please visit the website at <http://www.demos.org/>

### **Register Now for the 2012 Aging in America Conference**

*Aging in America*, the 2012 Annual Conference of the American Society on Aging (ASA) is now underway. The 2012 conference will take place March 28–April 1 in Washington, DC. The ASA Conference is recognized as a showcase for programs and projects that can be replicated, a forum for policy discussion and advocacy and a prime source of information on new research findings in aging. The conference provides attendees with the opportunity to network with new and old friends, gain insight from voices from the front line and find new grassroots and national partners for advocacy.

To learn more and to register, please go to conference website link at <http://asaging.org/general-info>

### **Observances**

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#### **October Observances**

#### ***Domestic Violence Awareness Month***

In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year marks the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989 Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and such legislation has passed every year since.

To learn more about Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to download resource materials to promote the observance, please go to <http://dvam.vawnet.org/>

### ***National Breast Cancer Awareness Month***

For more information, including helpful resources, please visit the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month website at [http://www.nbcam.org/about\\_nbcam.cfm](http://www.nbcam.org/about_nbcam.cfm)

### ***National Disability Employment Awareness Month***

To learn about actions you can take to promote this observance in your community, please visit the Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy website at <http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/NDEAM.htm>

### ***National Substance Abuse Prevention Month***

To learn about actions you can take to promote this observance in your community, please visit the SAMHSA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration) website at <http://www.samhsa.gov/>

## **Conferences**

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### **October Conferences**

The listing below reflects submissions for posting to the AoA Calendar of Events.

#### **26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>: 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Arkansas Aging Conference**

Sponsor: Arkansas DHS Division of Aging and Adult Services  
Website:

<http://www.daas.ar.gov/agingconf.html?ID=2&Source=https%3A/ardhs.sharepoint.net/HCBS/default.aspx>

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 Events to Paulette Nowden at [Paulette.Nowden@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:Paulette.Nowden@aoa.hhs.gov)

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