



News and Info

Monday, April 2, 2012

2012 Older Americans Month: *Never Too Old to Play.*
For more information and downloadable materials, go to

http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/Observances/2012/Older_Americans.aspx

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Messages from Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee

World Health Day, April 7, 2012

“Good Health Adds Life to Years”

I join the international community in celebrating World Health Day. Every year, World Health Day is celebrated on April 7 to mark the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. World Health Day is a global campaign, inviting everyone – from global leaders to the public in all countries – to focus on a single health challenge with global impact.

This year’s theme, *“Good Health Adds Life to Years,”* focuses on how good health throughout life can help older men and women lead full and productive lives. It stresses that older people are a valuable resource for their societies and that societies that take care of their older populations, and support their active participation in daily life, will be better prepared to cope with the changing world.

These themes are in keeping with the programs promoted through the Older Americans Act (OAA) to help older Americans maintain their health and independence in their homes and communities. For example, the Administration on Aging’s (AoA) chronic disease self-management programs provide older adults with education and tools needed to help them cope with chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, or arthritis. These programs help participants manage stress, understand the benefits of physical activity and good nutrition, and communicate more effectively with health care providers. AoA is working with the American Diabetes Association and the American Association of Diabetes Educators to increase the availability of accredited diabetes self-management training. Qualified Medicare beneficiaries who complete accredited programs are then eligible to receive a prevention benefit under Medicare Part B.

Other evidence-based prevention programs provide safe and effective low-impact aerobic exercise, strength training, and stretching. Falls management programs address the fear of falling while our nutrition education programs teach older adults the value of choosing and eating healthy foods, and maintaining an active lifestyle. Depression and substance abuse programs teach older adults how to manage their mild to moderate depression. All of these programs are built on research and have been proven to be effective in reducing risk of disease, disability and injury. These programs are all in addition to the many other OAA health-related programs, such as health screenings and nutritious congregate and home delivered meals.

The AoA funded Center for Healthy Aging helps community-based organizations develop and implement evidence-based programs that promote healthy lives for older adults. For further information, please go to <http://www.ncoa.org/improve-health/center-for-healthy-aging/>

Working with other agencies, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we are building bridges between health and social services networks and developing interventions that promote healthy aging. For example, AoA and CMS are funding states to help seniors, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers better understand and navigate their health and long-term care options. For example, CMS recently funded 30 sites, including 23 Area Agencies on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Centers in equal partnership with health systems, to expand community-based approaches for reducing hospital readmissions and supporting individual care across settings.

As a member of the CDC Healthy Aging Research Network, we are working to develop and implement a national research and dissemination agenda related to the public health aspects of healthy aging.

The AoA Health, Prevention, and Wellness Program website offers a number of resources and related links. Please go to http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/index.aspx

The WHO put together a toolkit to help communities organize events for World Health Day. It is available at <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2012/en/index.html>. In addition, the Pan American Health Organization, WHO's regional office for the Americas, will hold a Healthy Aging symposium at 9:30 am, EST on April 12th. You may participate by going to either <http://www.paho.org/virtual/WHD2012> or <http://www.livestream.com/PAHO>

National Volunteer Week, April 15 - 21, 2012

Volunteering is an American tradition and I am pleased to celebrate the contributions of all volunteers, but especially those who serve older Americans and their families all across this country. Whether you deliver a meal, look out for the interests of nursing home residents or help seniors recognize and report Medicare and Medicaid fraud, what you do makes a difference.

Many older people, especially the Boomers, are looking for new kinds of volunteer experiences that utilize their skills and abilities honed in the world of work. We value their willingness to share their talents, skills and education to help the aging network and older adults and their caregivers.

To support state and local volunteer efforts in the aging network, the Administration on Aging (AoA) established a National Resource Center for

Engaging Volunteers in the Aging Network. The Center will help to significantly expand the use of volunteers in the Aging Network by developing new approaches and adopting emerging effective practices and standards to attract new cohorts of volunteers. The Center will be the “go to” place for the latest research, tools and toolkits, and to learn “What’s Working” to attract new volunteers.

The Points of Light Institute, which sponsors National Volunteer Week, has developed a resource guide for recognizing volunteers and equipping organizations with the valuable tools they need to make their work successful for the 2012 National Volunteer Week. The guide is available at http://www.handsonnetwork.org/files/nvw_resourceguide_2012.pdf

Thank you for giving of your time, talent and expertise to benefit the lives of older Americans.

Funding Opportunity

M·A·C· AIDS Fund Food and Nutrition Funding Opportunity

The [M·A·C AIDS Fund](#) United States Community Grants Program supports organizations working to address the link between poverty and AIDS through grants for programs that provide food and nutrition or housing services to people living with HIV and AIDS.

The Fund has released the guidelines and application for the food and nutrition component of the program. (The housing services application will be available July 13, 2012. Eligible organizations may apply for only one of the two grant opportunities each year.)

To be eligible, organizations must have 501(c) (3) status; operate an HIV/AIDS food and nutrition program five days or more per week and supply 50 percent or more of a person's daily nutritional requirements in the form of prepared meals, congregate meals or pantry bags; and have been in operation for a minimum of three years. Organizations also must have a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and specifically protects LGBTQ clients.

Grants range up to a maximum of \$25,000. Grant requests should not exceed 20 percent of the total HIV/AIDS food or nutrition program budget. Funding categories include food purchases, capacity building, organization sustainability, and collaborations between organizations.

The application deadline is May 4, 2012.

Visit the M·A·C AIDS Fund website for complete program guidelines and to access the eligibility questionnaire and online application.

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=375300033

Contact:

[Link to Complete RFP](#)

Funding Opportunity Reminders

Department of Labor Senior Community Service Employment Program National Grants for Program Year (PY) 2012

The Department of Labor Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) grant funds are awarded to states and territories, and to competitively-chosen national grantees. SCSEP is a Federally-sponsored employment and training program targeted specifically to low-income older individuals who want to enter or re-enter the workforce. Program participants receive work experience at local public or non-profit agencies and are paid the higher of the Federal, State or local minimum wage, or the prevailing wage for similar employment, for approximately 20 hours per week while in community service and other job training. The dual goals of the program are to promote useful opportunities in community service job training and to move SCSEP participants into unsubsidized employment, where appropriate.

The application deadline is May 10, 2012.

[Click here](#) for more info on this funding opportunity

Applicants must apply for this grant through Grants.gov at

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=9ydhPgkZRk2yj2LplkpQh0BIMN154c2Sq4RGRXn91XCyJhbtIXkj!712472910?oppld=150653&mode=VIEW>

Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration Solicitation

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced a call for applications for a new Affordable Care Act (ACA) initiative designed to strengthen primary care in the United States. Under the Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration, CMS will provide hospitals working with nursing schools to train advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) with payments of up to \$200 million over four years to cover the costs of APRNs' clinical training.

For more information including how to apply, visit the Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration website at

<http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/gne/>

New Initiative to Reduce Costly and Avoidable Hospitalizations Announcement of Request for Applications

In March 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a request for applications to participate in the Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents. This new effort aims to improve the quality of care for people residing in nursing facilities.

Organizations interested in applying to participate in this initiative must submit a proposal by June 14, 2012.

The Request for Applications is available by searching for CFDA Number 93.621 at <http://www.grants.gov>

Fed Challenges Web Developers

Federal officials are challenging developers to design Web-based applications that use Twitter to track health trends in real time. Health officials may be able to use knowledge of these trends as an early indicator of emerging health issues and a warning of public health emergencies in a community.

The online challenge runs through June 1, 2012.

To learn more and to register to participate in the Now Trending - #Health in My Community Developer Challenge, visit <http://challenge.gov/HHS/334-now-trending-health-in-my-community>. Upon submission participants must warrant that they are the sole authors and owners of the final product.

National Service Agency Announces RSVP Funding Opportunities

On March 19th, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) announced the availability of federal funding for the agency's RSVP program, part of Senior Corps.

The deadline for applications is May 15, 2012, 5:00 p.m. EDT. All applications must be submitted via egrants, CNCS's grants system at <https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp>

CNCS will host six technical assistance calls and/or workshops to answer questions about this funding opportunity, including how to submit an application. Calls for new grant applicants are taking place on March 26, at 2:00 pm Eastern; April 9, at 1:00 pm Eastern; or April 11, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Calls for existing RSVP grantees interested in augmentation grants will take place on March 27, at 2:00 Eastern; April 10, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern; and April 12, 2:00 p.m. Eastern.

Stay Informed

Webinar on *The National Legal Resources Center Trains on Responses to Abuse in Later Life*

This webinar will provide an introduction for aging advocates to the universe of domestic violence and sexual assault services and resources available for older victims, including screening, safety planning, legal and social service responses, and community collaborations.

Learning Objectives:

Understand abuse in later life as a subset of elder abuse

Learn how to effectively screen and safety plan with every client

Recognize services available to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in later life

Identify potentially new community partners for collaboration and referral

Speakers:

Rebecca Henry, Deputy Chief Counsel, ABA Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence

Bonnie Brandl, Director of the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL), a project of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV).

This webinar is part of a series of National Elder Rights Training Project webinars for the National Legal Resource Center. Additional sponsorship for this Webinar is provided by a grant from the Administration on Aging.

Title: *Abuse in Later Life: Responses, Resources, Collaborations*

Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. EDT

Reserve your Webinar seat now at

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/672186912>

Upcoming Health Care Conference Calls

The HHS Partnership Center continues to host a series of interactive conference calls discussing the benefits and provisions of the health care reform law, the Affordable Care Act.

All calls are open to the public and include a question and answer session where you can ask HHS staff any questions you may have about the health

care reform law. Questions you would like to have answered on the calls may be submitted to ACA101@hhs.gov

To participate in one of the April conference calls, please select your preferred date from the list below and submit the necessary information. Call-in information and Power Point slides will be made available 24 hours in advance.

[April 5 at 12:30 pm ET - The Health Care Law 101 \(in English\)](#)

[April 17 at 2:00 pm ET](#) - Tour of <http://www.HealthCare.gov>

[April 24 at 2:00 pm ET - Health Care 101 \(in Spanish\)](#)

Webinar Reminder

Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services (OAA Title IIID) Webinar

While the aging network has been moving towards evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion programs for the past several years, the FY-2012 Congressional appropriations now require that Older Americans Act (OAA) Title IIID funding be used only for programs and activities which have been demonstrated to be evidence-based. The full final appropriations along with additional guidance, including the Administration on Aging's (AoA) tiered set of criteria for defining evidence-based health promotion interventions, can be found at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/Title_IIID/index.aspx

Description:

Have you reviewed the AoA guidance related to the new evidence-based Title IIID requirement, including the frequently asked question section on the [OAA Title IIID Webpage](#), yet you still have questions? If so, please join us for a webinar outlining the new Title IIID evidence-based requirement and exploring the most recently asked questions by fellow Aging Services Network professionals for additional clarification. Two communities will give a brief overview of their Title IIID programs, one meeting the minimal criteria and the other meeting the highest-level criteria as outlined in the [new AoA evidence-based health promotion definition](#)

Date: Thursday, April 5, 2012

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

Presentations will last 30 minutes with a question and answer session to follow.

Moderator:

Greg Case, Director of the Office of Home and Community Based Services

Speakers:

Edwin Walker, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Operations
Danielle Nelson, Aging Services Program Specialist

To register for the online event

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=661219991&t=a>
2. Click "Register".
3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

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/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/Title_IIID/index.aspx) soon after the webinar.

Tools & Information

AoA's April Widget Highlights World Health Day

April 7th is World Health Day and AoA's April widget invites you to celebrate this international observance. World Health Day was established by the World Health Organization (WHO). The topic for this year's World Health Day is Aging and Health and the April widget offers statistics on the world's older population. The widget also features WHO's toolkit that provides key messages on aging and health and images of older adults worldwide. You can view AoA's statistics widget at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx. If you want to add AoA's widget to your site or blog, click the "share" button on the widget and the code of the widget will display.

In addition to widgets, AoA's social media includes e-cards with tips on healthy eating, exercise and volunteer opportunities. You'll also find e-cards with health tips for caregivers. You can view and select an AoA e-card for a friend at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/index.aspx

Connect with AoA on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube! You can follow AoA on Twitter by visiting <http://www.twitter.com/aoagov>. AoA is also on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/aoa.gov> and our YouTube channel is online at <http://www.youtube.com/user/AoA25>. Please click the "Like" button for us on Facebook and view and share our videos on YouTube. We've added videos that feature the stories of caregivers on our YouTube channel.

Do you have questions or comments about AoA's social media? Feel free to send them to Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov

New Look for NIHSeniorHealth

[NIHSeniorHealth](#) was recently redesigned. The updated website features more menu choices, longer pages and a new search feature that lets you quickly and easily find the health and wellness information you're looking for.

With nearly [50 health topics](#), more than [150 health videos](#), plenty of frequently asked questions ([FAQs](#)), easy quizzes and more, the new NIHSeniorHealth should be a first stop for anyone seeking fast, reliable, up-to-date information about older adults and health.

Check out the new site, and use "Contact Us" to let us know what you think.

New SAMSHA Manual Provides Guidance in Managing Chronic Pain in Adults

Managing Chronic Pain in Adults with or in Recovery from Substance Use Disorders is a new manual developed to equip clinicians with practical guidance and tools for treating chronic non-cancer pain in adults with histories of substance use disorders.

The manual was developed by the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The manual is one of the latest in the Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) series. TIPs are best-practice guidelines developed by SAMHSA to help provide state-of-the-art information to behavioral health care providers about effective treatment approaches.

To download a free copy of the manual, go to <http://kap.samhsa.gov/products/manuals/tips/pdf/TIP54.pdf>

Printed copies may be obtained free of charge by contacting SAMHSA's Health Information Network by ordering online at <http://kap.samhsa.gov/products/manuals/tips/numerical.htm> or by calling at 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727). Request inventory number (SMA) 12-4671.

For related publications and information, visit <http://www.samhsa.gov/>

HHS Heart Health Apps Challenge Winner

The winner of a search for innovative technology applications to help solve tough health IT problems was announced on March 25. The creators of

[THUMPr](#)--a web-based application whose simple, immersive interface enables users to easily create personal heart health profiles—will be awarded \$50,000.

The Investing in Innovation (i2) program’s “One in a Million Hearts Challenge” uses prizes and challenges to foster innovative health IT solutions that empower patients to pursue healthy lifestyles and improve their heart health. It is the first federal program to operate under the authority of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act.

To learn more about THUMPr and its creators as well as the second and third place teams, go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/03/20120326c.html>

For more information about the Million Hearts initiative, visit the

<http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/index.html>

For more information about the One in a Million Hearts Challenge, visit

<http://www.health2challenge.org/one-in-a-million-hearts-challenge/>

For more information about Investing in Innovation (i2), visit

<http://www.healthit.hhs.gov/innovations>

National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging ’s *Perspectives Challenge*

We are standing at the precipice of a new era, shaped by the changing needs of our nation’s aging population. By 2045, for the first time in human history, there will be more seniors than children in the world. Even as our current population strains our capacity to provide services and supports for older adults, we know that far greater challenges lie ahead. The new issues we face cut across industries, sectors and geographic boundaries – and so, too, must the solutions!

We want to hear from you. We’re interested in learning about your solutions to the big and small challenges of America’s aging population. Send us your promising ideas for addressing the challenges of today, tomorrow and our future. We invite you to think BIG and differently. And to share your *Perspective* – because it matters and can make a difference.

Participate in the National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging’s *Perspectives Challenge* and you could be selected to share your Perspective – either in person or virtually – at the *Perspectives on Nutrition and Aging: A National Summit*, on August 23, 2012, near Washington, DC.

Visit the [Summit website](#) to learn more and register for the National Summit on Nutrition and Aging.

Ready.Save.Grow

With millions of people indicating they need a safe and convenient way to save for their long-term goals, the US Department of the Treasury last week announced a new public education initiative, *Ready.Save.Grow*. The campaign will provide information and access to affordable, safe and convenient Treasury savings options that can help people take control of their future.

The Treasury Department has created a user-friendly website, <http://www.treasurydirect.gov/readysavegrow>, offering turnkey resources for organizations so they can educate their community members and other stakeholders on ideas for growing their savings.

Follow the campaign on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/#!/ReadySaveGrow>

To learn more about this new initiative, go to <http://www.treasurydirect.gov/readysavegrow/newsroom/Treasury-Launches-Ready-Save-Grow-Savings-Campaign.htm>

Information Reminders

Submit Your Creative Expressions

Creative artists of all ages and levels of experience are invited to submit creative expressions that transform parking lots and other paved areas into healthy, sustainable environments. Winning submissions will be available for viewing at the *Healthy Environments across Generations Conference* to be held June 7-8, 2012, at the New York Academy of Medicine.

Submissions and questions should be sent to info@healthandenvironment.org

Deadline for submission: May 15, 2012

After the conference, the compositions will be posted to the conference website, <http://www.healthandenvironment.org>

Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest

Share your love for water through a creative project that captures water around us. Capture what you hear, see, feel, and taste as you explore and study water. Contestants will work across generations to share their own interactions with and reflections about the sense of water.

The deadline for entries is June 1, 2012.

For further information, please go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/index.htm>

Observances

April Observances

National Minority Health Month

This year's theme, *Health Equity Can't Wait. Act Now in Your CommUNITY!*, is a call to action and unity for all government agencies, organizations and individuals involved and invested in reducing health disparities.

To register a Minority Health Month event or to find activities taking place in your community, go to the Department of Health and Human Services National Minority Health Month webpage at <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/Actnow/>

At the website, you can also download free materials, including the 2012 National Minority Health Month Poster and several fact sheets, to promote this observance.

***National Retirement Planning Week*[®] - April 9-13**

Sponsor: National Retirement Planning Coalition

Website: <http://www.retireonyourterms.org/>

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