



News and Info

Monday, March 19, 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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White House Conference Call – Two Year Anniversary of ACA



Please join the White House Office of Public Engagement on Tuesday, **March 20th at 3PM EDT**, for a conference call with **Kathleen Sebelius**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and **senior White House officials** to discuss the two year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Please [RSVP](#) if you are able to join us. Note that you will receive the call-in number after you RSVP for the call.

RSVP Link: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/webform/affordable-care-act-anniversary-call>

WHAT: White House Conference Call

DATE: Tuesday, March 20th at 3PM EDT

TIME: 3:00 p.m. EDT ***(Please be sure to dial in 5 minutes early)***

Passcode: Affordable Care Act Conference Call

Please note that this call is off-the-record and is not for press purposes.

Congratulations to SE Tennessee AAAD's Katherlyn Geter

Katherlyn Geter, SHIP Coordinator at the [Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability](#), a program of the [Southeast Tennessee Development District](#), will be among a group of local leaders who this week will be honored as a Champion of Change at the White House.

Each week, Champions of Change are honored at the White House to recognize a group of Americans, businesses or organizations who embody “Innovate, Educate and Build”. Different groups are highlighted from educators to entrepreneurs to community activists. Katherlyn is being recognized for her work in educating older Tennesseans and disabled adults about Medicare programs through the Tennessee State Health Insurance Assistance Program.

To learn more about Katherlyn’s work, watch the 90-minute program live on March 21st starting at 1:30 p.m. at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/live>

Afterwards, it will be posted on Youtube at http://www.youtube.com/user/whitehouse?ob=4&feature=results_main

To learn more about Champions of Change and to submit a nomination, go to the White House Champion of Change webpage at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/champions>

America’s Best Intergenerational Communities - Spread the Word!

The competition was tough; the choices were difficult. But with the help of an elite panel of judges, MetLife Foundation and Generations United were able to select the five best intergenerational communities in America today. These communities, through their policies, programs and services, engage and serve all ages and forge strong connections between the generations.

On March 28, join MetLife Foundation and Generations United at a special event on Capitol Hill to learn more about what the winning communities—Lamoni, Iowa; Georgetown, Texas; Oberlin, Ohio; Virginia Planning District 10; and the County of San Diego, California—are doing to serve and engage all generations. For more details and to register for the event, go to <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=eqlpogdab&oeidk=a07e5m3uhhu2e27443f>

You can also help to spread the word about these communities and promote their cutting-edge work.

- Pass on this article.
- Tweet it; follow Generations United @gensunited and re-tweet the “Best Intergenerational Communities” tweets.
- Facebook it; post the March 28 event and send it to your families, friends, and networks.

OMB Seeks Input on Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM) on February 28 seeking public comments on reform of Federal policies relating to grants and cooperative agreements and cost principles and administrative requirements. The reform ideas would be applicable to agreements that involve state, local and tribal governments as well as universities and nonprofit organizations.

Comments are due by March 29, and may be submitted electronically or by mail.

For more information, go to

https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/02/28/2012-4521/reform-of-federal-policies-relating-to-grants-and-cooperative-agreements-cost-principles-and#print_view

Funding Opportunity

A Call for “What’s Working

The National Resource Center for Engaging Volunteers, funded by the Administration on Aging, has a [new website](#), and is seeking "What's Working - Effective Practices." Share your effective practices for engaging older adults through volunteer initiatives and receive an opportunity for funding to replicate “What's Working.”

The deadline to submit an application is April 2, 2012.

For further information, go to http://www.n4a.org/pdf/What%27s_Working-ALL_3_Documents.pdf.

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?oppId=150653&mode=VIEW>

Partnerships for Sustainable Research and Dissemination of Evidence-Based Medicine (R24)

This Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) funding opportunity announcement (FOA) solicits Resource-Related Research Project (R24) applications from applicant organizations that propose to build new and/or enhance existing capacity in research and dissemination infrastructure that will bridge the gap between clinical and health services research and everyday practice by building a knowledge base about how to improve the translation and dissemination of evidence-based health information, interventions, and clinical practices to populations not traditionally reached by such information or practice. In addition, AHRQ is aiming through this FOA to seed a sustainable infrastructure that would continue to disseminate appropriate evidence-based health information to such a population independent of research grant support.

Innovations should aim to increase the impact and effective use of evidence-based health information and/or tools by developing, implementing and evaluating customizations that target important audiences, stakeholders, systems, or settings; these customizations should engage multiple user-stakeholders, including the target audience, and be grounded by the original evidence-based information/tools' contents.

AHRQ intends to commit a total of \$2.3 million annually to fund an anticipated seven-ten awards.

Letters of Intent are due by April 27, 2012 and the application deadline is May 22, 2012.

To read the full announcement regarding this funding opportunity, go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=9ydhPgkZRk2yj2LplkpQh0BIMN154c2Sq4RGRXn91XCyJhbtIXkj!712472910?oppId=151093&mode=VIEW>

Funding Opportunity Reminders

Research Grants on SSA's Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Programs

On March 1, 2012 the Social Security Administration (SSA) issued a Request for Application (RFA) soliciting applications for a cooperative agreement to be awarded in FY 12. The cooperative agreement is for a new extramural research initiative called the Disability Research Consortium (DRC).

Applications are due by no later than April 30, 2012.

For more information please go to the web link below or [view this .pdf file.](#)

Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Grants

For the second round of the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) grant program, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is making \$25 million of Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities funds, as well as approximately \$5 million of Section 5312 Research Program funds available. FY 2012 VTCLI grants can consist of two separate awards.

The application deadline is 11:59pm April 19, 2012.

For more information on the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative, including eligibility and evaluation criteria, a list of the previously selected projects and instructions on how to apply, go to please visit the VTCLI webpage: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/veterans>

HHS Health IT Challenge

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) new health IT challenge, *Discharge Follow-Up Appointment Care Transitions Challenge* challenging software developers to create an easy-to-use web-based tool that will make post-discharge follow-up appointment scheduling a more effective and shared process for care providers, patients and caregivers. Total Prizes for this challenge is \$5,000 + extras.

The deadline is April 30, 2012.

To learn more about the *Discharge Follow-Up Appointment Care Transitions Challenge*, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/01/20120126b.html>

Stay Informed

ACA Webinar Series

On Tuesday, March 27, 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).

Title: Transitions and Long-Term Care: Reducing Preventable Hospital Readmissions among Nursing Facility Residents

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

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

Description:

This month we continue our webinar series on transitions and long-term services and supports, focusing on transitions between hospitals and long-term care facilities. Our March 27 webinar will present an overview of an upcoming initiative from the CMS Innovation Center and the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office which will test a series of interventions to improve the health of and health care for nursing facility residents and reduce the frequency of preventable hospital admissions and readmissions. We will also take a closer look at INTERACT II ("**I**nterventions to **R**educe **A**cute **C**are **T**ransfers"), a quality improvement program designed to improve the identification, evaluation, and communication about changes in resident status.

Speakers:

Tim Engelhardt, Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Washington, DC

Joseph Ouslander, M.D., Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Geriatric Programs

Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Moderator:

Marisa Scala-Foley, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC

To register for the online event

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=668507106>

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) soon after the webinar.

SSA Webinar on Providing Effective Communication for Individuals with Mental or Cognitive Disabilities

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will host a webinar titled *Providing Effective Communication for Individuals with Mental or Cognitive Disabilities*. The webinar is a part of SSA's ongoing Section 504 self-evaluation. Additional information about Section 504 is available at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/accessibility/504_faq.html

Date: Monday, March 26, 2012
Time: 1:00 p.m. EDT

During this webinar, Social Security will review how we communicate with individuals with mental or cognitive disabilities. At the end of the webinar, we will ask you to complete a survey to obtain your ideas on the subject.

To view the webinar, we ask that you RSVP no later than March 25, 2012. Please [click here](#) to register.

National Center for Benefits Outreach & Enrollment Spring Webinar Series

The Center for Benefits Outreach & Enrollment will sponsor two webinars this month that will address SNAP & the Aging Network.

Five million seniors will experience hunger this year, but only 1 out of every 3 eligible seniors receives SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program).

The discussion topics for each webinar will include:
The basics of the SNAP benefit.

Why seniors don't apply for SNAP and what aging network advocates can do about it.

Opportunities to expand your resources to help older adults obtain this valuable benefit.



The dates and times are:

Tuesday, March 20, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET

To register, click here [Register](#)

Thursday, March 22, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ET

To register, click here [Register](#)

If you need further assistance, please contact abctraining@ncoa.org

To learn more about the Center for Benefits Outreach & Enrollment, go to <http://www.centerforbenefits.org>

FNS Outreach Coalition: 2012 Webinar Series

The Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Outreach Coalition will continue its monthly webinar series on various topics of interest to members of the Coalition.

Details on the next session are:

Topic: FNS 101

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST

To register, click here: [Register online](#)

Note: The remaining webinars will be the 3rd Thursday of every month from 2:00-3:00pm EST.

New AARP Webinar Series: Learn to Fix More on Less

AARP Offering Webinars on Aging in Place – Sign Up Now!

If you have ever put off home improvements because you think you can't afford them, AARP has the webinar for you.

On April 12th, join AARP and nationally syndicated radio show host, Tom Kraeutler of The Money Pit, for "Safe and Sound for \$100 or Less" - a FREE online chat to learn the top ten, inexpensive things you can do to help make your home safe and comfortable. Whether you are a weekend warrior or new to home repair, Tom will share simple fixes that will help get you the most bang for your buck.

Learn the basics and get your questions answered. This webinar is designed for everyone – from new homeowners, to caregivers, to retirees on fixed income - who is interested in home repair on a budget.

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.aarp.org/homewebinars>

Note: “Safe and Sound for \$100 or Less” is the first of a free webinar series AARP is offering to provide people with the information and resources they need to be able to live comfortably, safely, and freely in their homes and communities – even as their needs change. To learn more about upcoming webinars, go to <http://www.aarp.org/homewebinars>

The presentation materials, as well as free tools and information, will be available to participants for downloading after each webinar. Closed captioning is offered.

Webinar and Conference Call Reminders

AARP Webinar on Social Security Facts

Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012

Time: 7:00 p.m. ET

The webinar is free but registration is required. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/yE7pt1>

Health Care Conference Calls in March

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Partnership Center continues to host a series of interactive conference calls discussing the benefits and provisions of the health care 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 law. You may submit questions you would like to have answered on the calls to ACA101@hhs.gov

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

[March 21 at 2:00 pm ET - The 2nd Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act](#)

[March 27 at 2:00 pm ET - The Health Care Law 101 \(in Spanish\)](#)

Tools & Information

Policies Give States More Flexibility to Establish Affordable Insurance Exchanges

Last week Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced policies to assist states in building Affordable Insurance Exchanges. Starting in 2014, these one-stop marketplaces will allow consumers and small businesses to choose a private health insurance plan and offer the public the same kinds of insurance choices as members of Congress.

The policies released will help states in designing their Exchanges to best meet the needs of their consumers. They offer states substantial flexibility as they design a marketplace that works for their residents.

For more information on this announcement, go to

<http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2011/07/exchanges07112011a.html>

CMS Continues Effort to Improve Quality of Care for People with Medicare

New partners named in efforts to improve transitions between the hospital and other care settings

As part of the new health care law's policies to improve the quality of care available to people with Medicare and all Americans, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced 23 additional participants in the Community-based Care Transitions Program (CCTP). These participants will join seven other community-based organizations announced in November 2011 that are already working with local hospitals and other health care and social service providers to support Medicare patients who are at high-risk of being readmitted to the hospital while transitioning from hospital stays to their homes, a nursing home or other care setting.

To learn more about these 23 participants and those announced last November, go to <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Partnership-for-Patients/CCTP/index.html>

CCTP is designed specifically to provide support for high-risk Medicare beneficiaries following a hospital discharge. These 23 sites will work with CMS and local hospitals to provide support for patients as they move from hospitals to new settings, including skilled nursing facilities and home. Community organizations will help these patients stay in contact with their doctors to ensure their questions are answered and they are taking medications they need to help them stay healthy. The 23 additional sites will support more than 126 local hospitals and help more than 223,000 Medicare beneficiaries in 19 states across the country.

To learn more about CCTP, go to
<http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Partnership-for-Patients/CCTP/index.html>

Taking Care of Myself: A Guide for When I Leave the Hospital Is Now Available in Spanish

The guide—*Taking Care of Myself: A Guide for When I Leave the Hospital*—is now available in Spanish. *Cómo Cuidarme: Guía Para Cuando Salga del Hospital* can help hospitals reduce their readmission rates by better preparing patients for self-care and follow-up appointments before they leave the hospital.

The guide is adapted from Project RED (Re-Engineered Discharge), which was funded by Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and developed by Brian Jack, M.D., and colleagues at Boston University Medical Center.

For a copy of the guide in Spanish, go to
<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/goinghomesp.htm>

The English version of the guide is available at
<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/goinghomeguide.htm>

To order print copies, email your request to AHRQPubs@ahrq.hhs.gov or call 800-358-9295.

For the brochure in Spanish, please reference AHRQ Pub. No. 10-0059-C. For the brochure in English, please reference AHRQ No. 10-0059 with your request.

To learn more about RED and its health-literacy-informed approach, go to
<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/pips/jack.htm>

National Resource Center on LGBT Aging Releases Guide to Creating Inclusive Services

This month, SAGE's National Resource Center on LGBT Aging released its first comprehensive guide for aging service professionals and agencies. The guide offers a range of tools and tips on creating affirming services for LGBT older adults. Titled *Inclusive Services for LGBT Older Adults: A Practical Guide to Creating Welcoming Agencies*, this guide can help agencies foster a welcoming environment for many diverse populations, including LGBT older adults.

[Download a PDF of the guide, or request print copies](#) and visit the [National Resource Center on LGBT Aging](#) for more great resources.

SSA Open Government Plan

It is time to refresh the Social Security Administrations (SSA) Open Government Plan, and we are inviting you to help us. Two years ago, in response to the President's call for greater openness across government, SSA published its first [Open Government Plan](#). In it, we outlined our steps to increase transparency, expand opportunities for public participation and enhance efforts to collaborate with other organizations to improve service to the public. To contribute your thoughts and ideas for our refreshed plan, which we expect to publish in April, visit this link:

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/open>. We want to benefit from your insight.

NCOA Virtual Advocacy Day

March 28: Bring the voices of older adults to Congress!

It's an election year, and there's no better time to educate Congress about critical issues facing America's seniors, especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Join the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and hundreds of your fellow aging advocates on March 28 as we ask Congress to:

- Protect and invest in funding for aging programs and services
- Support Older Americans Act reauthorization
- Protect and strengthen health care

To register your participation go to <http://www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/virtual-advocacy-day.html>.

To get logistic details to help plan your visit to Capitol Hill, go to <http://www.asaging.org/how-prepare-visits-congress>

Those who are unable to visit Congress can download the advocacy toolkit at <http://www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/advocacy-toolkit/>

2012 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report

Medicare costs for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias are three times higher than for older people without these conditions. Medicaid costs are 19 times higher. These are just a few of the sobering statistics featured in the Alzheimer's Association *2012 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report*, which captures the rapidly escalating impact of the Alzheimer's epidemic.

While care costs for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias are significant to the nation, the newly released report also illustrates the burden of the disease on caregivers. More than 15 million friends and family members provide 17.4 billion hours of unpaid care valued at \$210 billion.
http://www.alz.org/alzheimers_disease_facts_and_figures.asp

Information Reminders

Nominees Wanted for Maryland Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Secretary of Aging Gloria Lawlah will recognize outstanding contributions made by older Marylanders, and groups or organizations that serve them. The awards will be presented at the Fifth Annual Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards ceremony to be held May 3-5, 2012.

The public is invited to nominate individuals, groups, or organizations that meet the criteria. The nomination form can be found on the Maryland Department of Aging website, <http://www.aging.maryland.gov>

The deadline for receipt of nominations is March 30, 2012.

For more information about the Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards, or to obtain a nomination form, contact Wesley Wood at the Maryland Department of Aging at 410-767-2075 or toll free: 1-800-243-3425.

Search Begins for America's Outstanding Oldest Worker

Experience Works, the nation's largest organization serving older workers through the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), announces its search for America's Outstanding Oldest Worker for 2012.

The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2012.

To download the nomination form and to learn more about the award, including information on the 2011 winners, go to
<http://www.experienceworks.org>

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

March Observances

National Nutrition Month®

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

<http://www.eatright.org/nnm>

To learn more about healthy eating, go to the US Department of Agriculture Choose My Plate web page at <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>

Save Your Vision Month

American Optometric Association

<http://www.aoa.org/>

Women's History Month

2012 Theme: Women's Education – Women's Empowerment

National Women's History Project

<http://www.nwhp.org//whm/index.php>

To read HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius' statement on Women's History Month, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/03/20120301a.html>

National Poison Prevention Week (March 18-24)

Poison Prevention.org

<http://www.poisonprevention.org/poison.htm>

National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (March 20)

National Native American AIDS Prevention Center

<http://www.nnaapc.org/news/awareness-day.htm>

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