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AoA Funded Resource Centers – Spotlight on NCBOE

The Administration on Aging funds a number of resource centers designed to provide information to consumers and technical assistance to professionals on a variety of topics.

One AoA funded Resource Center, the National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment (NCBOE), is administered by the National Council on Aging. The resource center provides information and assistance to organizations allowing them to enroll seniors and younger adults with disabilities with limited means into the benefits programs for which they are eligible. NCBOE assists with enrollment and utilization of core benefits including Medicare, the Medicare Low Income Subsidy for Prescription benefits, SNAP (Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program), and LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program). The Center also assists with other programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Respite Care and Veterans' Benefits.

NCBOE also acts as a technical assistance resource for the AoA funded Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Grantees. The Center provides training, collects data, and disseminates information and best practices to grantees.

Information about the National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment can be found on their website - <http://www.centerforbenefits.org/>.

If you would like to know more about the Resource Centers that AoA funds, you can find information at: http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Resource_Centers/Index.aspx. AoA will be featuring the other resource centers in future newsletters.

Funding Opportunity

Reminder: HRSA Funding Opportunity

The Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration Area Health Education Center (AHEC) programs consist of interdisciplinary, community-based, primary care training programs wherein academic and community-based leaders work to improve the distribution, diversity, supply, and quality of health personnel, particularly primary care personnel in the health care services delivery system and more specifically in delivery sites in rural and other underserved areas. This funding opportunity announcement solicits applications for a five-year project period for AHEC Infrastructure Development awards and AHEC Point of Service Maintenance and Enhancement awards. Successful applicants will be awarded cooperative agreements to establish and advance statewide or multi-county AHEC programs.

The application deadline is February 15, 2012.

To learn more and to download an application, go to <https://grants.hrsa.gov/webexternal/FundingOppDetails.asp?FundingCycleId=58DB07A1-7ED2-429C-9879-B4A8B8B95C1A&ViewMode=EU&GoBack=&PrintMode=&OnlineAvailabilityFlag=True&pageNumber=1>

Stay Informed

ASA January Webinars

The American Society on Aging (ASA) will host the following webinars during the month of January.

The 50/50 Rule

Date: January 18th

Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.asaging.org/january-18-2012>

Best Practices in Cognitive Fitness for Adults 40+

Date: January 19th

Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.asaging.org/web-seminars>

NCOA January Webinars

NISC National Senior Center Accreditation

Date: January 19th:

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.ncoa.org/calendar-of-events/nisc-national-senior-center.html>

Thinking Outside the Bus: The Impact of Transportation on Economic Security

Date: January 19th

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.ncoa.org/calendar-of-events/thinking-outside-the-bus-the.html>

Webinar: Community Mapping

Date: January 20th

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.ncoa.org/enhance-economic-security/center-for-benefits/events/webinar-community-mapping-jan-20.html>

Webinar: Community Mapping

Date: January 23rd

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.ncoa.org/enhance-economic-security/center-for-benefits/events/webinar-community-mapping-jan-23.html>

Prescription for Life: Building Community Partnerships to Promote Physical Activity and Social Engagement for Older Adults

Date: January 26th

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.ncoa.org/calendar-of-events/prescription-for-life.html>

Tools & Information

HHS Launches First Consumer Health IT Video Challenge Of 2012

The National Coordinator for Health Information Technology recently announced a nationwide, open call for entries in the *Healthy New Year Video Challenge*, highlighting personal stories of patients and families using health technology to improve health. The video challenge, launched by the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), kicks off the first in a series of consumer video contests in 2012 as a way to engage consumers to integrate technology into their health care.

To learn more, go to <http://healthynewyear.challenge.gov/>

CDC Vital Signs January 2012

This month's issue of *CDC Vital Signs* focuses on binge drinking. New estimates show that binge drinking is a bigger problem than previously thought. Binge drinking is about more than just the number of binge drinkers. The amount and number of times binge drinkers drink are also important to address. While most binge drinkers are in the 18-34 age group, the age group that binge drinks most often is 65+ years.

To read the entire January 2012 *CDC Vital Signs*, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/BingeDrinking/index.html>

To access the archive of past issues of *CDC Vital Signs*, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/VitalSigns/Issues.html>

NIH News in Health January 2012

This month's issue of *NIH News in Health* focuses on breaking bad habits. NIH-funded scientists have been searching for answers. They have studied what happens in our brains as habits form. They have found clues to why bad habits, once established, are so difficult to kick. And they are developing strategies to help us make the changes we would like to make.

To read the entire January 2012 *NIH News in Health*, go to <http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/issue/Jan2012/Feature1>

To access the archive of past issues of *NIH News in Health*, go to <http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/past/Jan2012/all>

Winter Warmth and Safety: Home Energy Tips for Older Adults

To download a copy of this new brochure produced by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), go to <http://www.n4a.org/pdf/HomeEnergyTips.pdf>

New Reports

2011 Impact Report: Changing the Debate on Retirement Security
http://www.nirsonline.org/storage/nirs/documents/nirs_annualreport2011_web.pdf

Annual Report of National Health Expenditures: 2010
https://www.cms.gov/nationalhealthexpenddata/02_nationalhealthaccountshistorical.asp

Aging in Place: A State Survey of Livability Policies and Practices
<http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/liv-com/aging-in-place-2011-full.pdf>

Observances

January Observances

National Glaucoma Awareness Month

More than 2.2 million Americans age 40 and older suffer from glaucoma. Nearly half do not know they have the disease—it causes no early symptoms.

For more information, visit the Prevent Blindness America
<http://preventblindness.org/>

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