



News and Info

Monday, January 30, 2012

2012 Older Americans Month Theme: *Never Too Old to Play!*

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February Is American Heart Month

The month of February is dedicated to raising awareness about heart disease and increasing knowledge about prevention. Heart disease can be prevented. Educate yourself on the dangers of heart disease and get on track to better heart health.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. About every 25 seconds, an American will have a coronary event, and about one every minute will die from one. The most common heart disease in the United States is coronary heart disease, which often appears as a heart attack. In 2010, an estimated 785,000 Americans had a new coronary attack, and about 470,000 had a recurrent attack.

The chance of developing coronary heart disease can be reduced by taking steps to prevent and control factors that put people at greater risk. Knowing the signs and symptoms of heart attack are crucial to the most positive outcomes after having a heart attack. People who have survived a heart attack can also work to reduce their risk of another heart attack or a stroke in the future. For more information on heart disease, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division (CDC) for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/DHDSP/>

National Wear Red Day® is this Friday, February 3. To learn more or to download an event toolkit, go to <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/educational/hearttruth/materials/wear-red-toolkit.htm>

For additional information on reducing the risk of a heart attack or surviving a heart attack, visit the following websites:

Million Hearts™ Campaign: <http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/index.html>

The Heart Truth®:
<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/educational/hearttruth/about/index.htm>

"Act in Time" Campaign: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/actintime/index.htm>

Women and Heart Disease: Quick Facts: [WISEWOMAN](#)

Men and Heart Disease: Quick Facts:
http://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fs_men_heart.htm

National Heart Lung and Blood Institute: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>

American Heart Association website: <http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/>

Funding Opportunity

FOA: Building the Science of Public Reporting

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is from the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. It solicits applications that propose to build the scientific evidence base for effective public reporting for consumers through innovative, actionable studies that address pressing questions in the field.

The FOA seeks to support research that will inform the development of a health care system in which every consumer has ready access to reports that allow meaningful comparison of providers based on measures of quality and resource use. This FOA will fund exploratory and developmental studies that seek to fill knowledge gaps around public reporting and establish an evidence base to inform the content, design, dissemination, and use of public reports, guiding the way toward enhanced reporting practices.

Important Dates:

Letters of Intent Deadline: February 27, 2012

Application Deadline: March 28, 2012

To learn more about this FOA and to download the application, go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=tgLpPpQSwkt5RpYrG4vBTkjSNydjcKSHsJ2S0NLysWzr2fLMq6ms!1368593367?oppId=139273&mode=VIEW>

New HHS Health IT Challenge

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched a new health IT challenge to improve care transitions for hospital-discharge patients. It is the second challenge as part of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) Investing in Innovation (i2) Initiative. The *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 30th.

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

The i2 Initiative is a bold new effort to spur innovations in health IT. The program utilizes prizes and challenges to facilitate innovation and obtain solutions to intractable health IT problems. Aligned with the Obama

administration's innovation agenda, i2 is the first federal program to operate under the authority of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010. The first health IT challenge, *Ensuring Safe Transitions from Hospital to Home*, called upon developers to create a web-based application that could empower patients and caregivers to better navigate and manage a transition from a hospital.

To learn about the winners of the *Ensuring Safe Transitions from Hospital to Home Challenge*, go to <http://www.health2challenge.org/care-transitions/>

To learn about other Health 2.0 challenges, go to <http://www.health2challenge.org/challenges/>

Housing Counseling Training Program

This funding opportunity is available through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Funds are available to provide training activities designed to improve and standardize the quality of counseling provided by housing counselors employed by agencies participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Counseling Program.

Applicants must be public or private nonprofit organizations and must have "tax exempt" status under section 501(a) pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 USC 501(a) and (c)(3)).

The last day to apply is March 5, 2012.

To read the full announcement and to download the application, go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=wKDtPN6PQN4C5YLTZWZncLQLmdYynfrQbW3yyXttcjSktB6xWnWY!347337819?oppId=137033&mode=VIEW>

Connections for Cardiovascular Health Accepting Grant Applications

The AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation is accepting applications for the 2012 Connections for Cardiovascular Health program. Launched in 2010, the program seeks to improve cardiovascular health within the United States and its territories. In 2011, the program awarded more than \$3.6 million in grants to over twenty organizations working to improve cardiovascular health in their communities.

To qualify for a grant, applicants must be a US-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) or similar organization and be engaged in charitable work in the United States or

its territories that addresses the program's mission of improving cardiovascular health. Programs selected for funding will be working to address an unmet need related to cardiovascular health in a community, respond to the urgency around addressing cardiovascular health issues (including cardiovascular disease or conditions contributing to cardiovascular disease) and improve patients' lives through the services provided.

Grants of \$150,000 and up will be provided annually to innovative initiatives that are focused on clearly defined and measurable results and processes. The recipient organization must be able to demonstrate ongoing activity to improve cardiovascular health and the ability to sustain the initiative after the grant funds are spent.

The application deadline is March 15, 2012.

For complete program guidelines and to download the online application form, go to <http://www.astrazeneca-us.com/foundation/>

To learn more about the foundation, go to [AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation](#)

Stay Informed

Reminder: AoA Webinar on *Transitions and Long-Term Care: A Look at the Minimum Data Set 3.0 Section Q and Money Follows the Person*

On Monday, January 30, 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, beginning a multi-webinar series on transitions and long-term supports and services.

Title: Transitions and Long-Term Care: A Look at the Minimum Data Set 3.0 Section Q and Money Follows the Person

Date: Monday, January 30, 2012

Time: 3:00-4:30 pm Eastern

Description:

This month we begin a multi-webinar series looking at transitions and long-term supports and services. Our January 30 webinar will focus on the Minimum Data Set (or MDS) 3.0 Section Q and the Money Follows the Person demonstration, both of which help people living in institutions transition back

into their homes or the community. This webinar will include both policy and programmatic updates from federal agencies working on these programs, and a practical look at how these programs work – and interact – in the field.

Speakers:

Trish Farnham, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Raleigh, NC

Becky Kurtz, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC

MaryBeth Ribar, Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD

John Sorenson, Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD

To register for the online event

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=663905636&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) soon after the webinar.

Health Care Conference Calls

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Partnership Center is continues its series of interactive conference calls discussing the benefits and provisions of the health care reform law. All calls are open to the public and include a question and answer session where participants can ask HHS staff any questions they may have about the Affordable Care Act. Participants are encouraged to submit questions via email to ACA101@hhs.gov

To participate in one of this week’s conference calls, please select your preferred date from the list below and enter your email address to be registered. Call-in information will be sent to registered callers 24 hours in advance of the calls.

[January 31, 12:30 p.m. EST](#) – ACA 101

[February 2, 12:30 p.m. EST](#) – ACA and Behavioral Health

Seasonal Flu Call for Latino Faith and Community Leaders

Sponsors: HHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
HHS Office of Minority Health
HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Time: 4:00 p.m. EST

RSVP by clicking [here](#)

Call-in information will be sent to registered callers 24 hours in advance of the call.

If you have any questions, email partnerships@hhs.gov

Webinar: *Online Services from Social Security - in Spanish!*

The Social Security Administration will present information about online services offered in Spanish and give you an opportunity to ask questions during a live interactive broadcast.

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. EST

You can apply online for Social Security retirement benefits, Medicare, and Extra Help with the cost of Medicare prescription drugs. You can also get an estimate of your future retirement benefits using the Retirement Estimator - all in Spanish! Links to all of the applications to be discussed during the webinar are available at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/espanol/>

Community Organizing Webinar Series

Hear from expert community organizers and learn more about identifying, developing and empowering leadership through organizing concepts, tools and strategies. Participation is free and does not require pre-registration.

Upcoming Sessions:

February 9, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET: *Introduction to Leadership & Organizing*

February 23, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET: *Public Narrative: Story of Self*

Call-in Information:

Number: 866-639-0744

Webex Link: <https://qualitynet.webex.com>

Password: Community

The series is sponsored by the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care. To learn more about this organization, go to

<http://www.cfmc.org/integratingcare/Default.htm>

Tools & Information

Report on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

One Year of Innovation provides a one-year assessment of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. Created by the Affordable Care Act, the Innovation Center has already worked to test and support innovative new health care models that can reduce costs and strengthen the quality of health care.

To download a copy of the report, go to

http://innovations.cms.gov/documents/pdf/CMMIreport_508.pdf

New AHRQ Toolkit Supports Hospital Efforts to Improve Quality and Safety

The Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently put online a free toolkit designed to guide hospitals through the process of using the AHRQ Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs) and Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs) to improve care. The AHRQ Quality Indicators™ Toolkit for Hospitals is designed and tested to meet the needs of a variety of hospital-based users, including senior leaders, quality staff and multi-stakeholder improvement teams.

The toolkit includes an “Introduction and Roadmap” to help users identify the resources that are best suited to their specific needs at any given point in the

improvement process. To download the toolkit, go to <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/qitoolkit>

To learn more about the toolkit from the developers and hear from a quality expert at a hospital that tested it, register for a free AHRQ-sponsored Webinar on February 15 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. ET:
http://meet63385651.adobeconnect.com/hospitaltoolkitregistration/event/event_info.html

The Webinar *How to Improve Performance on the AHRQ Inpatient Quality and Patient Safety Indicators: Introducing a Toolkit for Hospitals* will cover:

The purpose of the toolkit.
How it was developed.
How it is organized for easy use.
How a hospital has used it to assess performance on the indicators, identify priorities, and implement changes to improve quality and safety.

For more information on the AHRQ Quality Indicators, go to <http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/>

Know Before You Owe

Millions of times every year, financial institutions issue a new credit card agreement to their customers. And every year, millions of consumers receive new agreements and do not read them.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has an idea that may make things better: a simplified credit card agreement. Giving consumers a short, understandable document with the key terms they need to know while giving issuers the option to use CFPB definitions, freely available on their website may be the solution for both credit card holders and issuers.

Check it out, and tell CFPB what you think. Go to <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/credit-cards/knowbeforeyouowe/>

Observances

February Observances

African American History Month
Association for Study of African American Life and History
<http://www.asalh.org/aboutasalhmain.html>

Low Vision Awareness Month
Prevent Blindness America
<http://www.preventblindness.org/about-us>

February 14: *National Donor Day*
OrganDonor.gov
<http://www.organdonor.gov/index.html>

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