



**Monday, November 5, 2012**

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## **National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, November 2012**

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is pleased to join the President in recognizing November as Native American Heritage Month. What started in the early 1900s in the State of New York as a day to recognize the first Americans has become a month long National recognition of these individuals and their significant contributions to the growth of the United States.

The 2012 theme, “Native Families Moving Ahead – Together We Strengthen Our Nations”, encourages the nation to reflect and celebrate the cultures, histories and traditions of American Indians and Alaska Natives. We at ACL are committed to working with Native American elders and their caregivers. We recognize the need and desire of elders to remain in their homes and communities close to their family, friends, traditions and culture as they age. It is through the hard work of our Program Directors who administer our Tribal Senior Programs that elders and their caregivers are supported to enable elders to remain independent, at home and in the community.

To read more, go to

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Press\\_Room/Observances/2012/NatAmHeritage.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Press_Room/Observances/2012/NatAmHeritage.aspx)

To read the National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, November 2012 Presidential Proclamation, go to

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-native-american-heritage-month-2012>

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## **Health Care Law Delivers Higher Payments to Primary Care Physicians**

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius last week announced the final rule implementing the part of the health care law that delivers higher payments to primary care physicians serving Medicaid beneficiaries. The new rule raises rates to ensure doctors are paid the same for treating Medicare and Medicaid patients and does not raise costs for states. This payment increase goes into effect in January of 2013.

For more information about this final rule, go to [http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact\\_sheets.asp](http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp)

To view a copy of the final rule, go to [www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx](http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx)

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## **ACL Provides New Funds for Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions Program**

The Administration on Community Living (ACL) recently awarded a total of \$5,700,000 to States and Tribes to test interventions designed to prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. These grants will span three years.

This initiative helps to implement the Elder Justice Act, which was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. These prevention projects will draw on existing research and promising practices, while building a stronger evidence base and improving data collection systems that are needed to more effectively address this troubling issue.

Cooperative agreements totaling \$5 million were awarded to five organizations in four states:

- Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
- California University of California, Irvine
- New York New York State Office for the Aging
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Texas University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Cooperative agreements totaling \$700,000 were awarded to the following Tribal Organizations:

- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians

- Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

To read more about this initiative and the awardees, go to [http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press\\_Room/News/2012/ElderAbusePreventionGrants.pdf](http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/News/2012/ElderAbusePreventionGrants.pdf)

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## **Stay Informed**

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### **Upcoming Webinars Sponsored by the Aging Network's Volunteer Collaborative**

*Knox County RSVP Program Management – Generations, Vincennes, IN*

The 25 members of the RSVP Advisory Council play not just an active role, but a vital role, in program management and serve as either a station supervisor or program coordinator. They ensure that the 300 plus RSVP volunteers have rewarding and meaningful experiences.

Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2012

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

[REGISTER!](#)

*Livin' the Good Life Cable Access Show – Beverly Council on Aging and Senior Community Center, Beverly, MA*

Volunteers produce a monthly cable access TV show by developing topics, recruiting and vetting the guests, working the cameras and video boards, and

editing and producing each show. They are celebrating their 5th anniversary of the show this May.

Date: Thursday, November 15, 2012

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

[REGISTER!](#)

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### **ASA Family Caregiver Support Webinar Series**

The Family Caregiver Support Webinar Series, hosted by the American Society on Aging (ASA), is sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care. All are encouraged to participate in this upcoming webinar.

#### *Helping Seniors with Loss and Independence*

Ignoring the warning signs that an older adult needs some assistance will likely lead to the kind of dependence that they are trying to avoid.

This webinar will provide some easily identifiable signs to look for, including physical symptoms and mental or emotional changes, loss of attention signals and environmental clues.

Participants in this web seminar will:

- Learn to identify the warning signs of failing health in older adults
- Gain insight into some common fears related to aging
- Discover ways to ward off frailty and help care for the entire older adult: mind, body, and soul

Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. PT / 11:00 a.m. MT / 12:00 p.m. CT / 1:00 p.m. ET

[Register Now!](#)

### **Webinar on *Making the Most of the New NCOA Crossroads***

Attend this free one-hour webinar on how to use the National Council on Aging's (NCOA) newly updated online community, Crossroads. Learn how it can connect you with aging-field professionals nationwide and help you in your job.

See how Crossroads can help you:

- Connect with colleagues.
- Share best practices.
- Find ways to do your job better--and improve the lives of older adults.

Speaker: Donna Childress, administrator for NCOA Crossroads

Date: Thursday, November 15, 2012

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

[Register](#)

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## **Webinar Reminder**

*Ninth Annual Interdisciplinary Women's Health Research Symposium*

The Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research on Women's Health is pleased to announce the Ninth Annual Interdisciplinary Women's Health Research Symposium. This event will feature the latest interdisciplinary research findings on women's health and sex differences research that affect health and disease.

Date: Thursday, November 15, 2012

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET

Site: National Institutes of Health Natcher Conference Center Auditorium,  
Building 45,  
Bethesda, Maryland

To register for this free symposium or for more information, visit:

<http://www.orwhmeetings.com/>

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## **Tools & Information**

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### **Disability.Gov Launches 'What's Your Connection?' Campaign**

*Campaign to emphasize disability as a universal link; encourage inclusion in all aspects of life*

The Disability.gov website has launched "What's Your Connection?" to commemorate the site's 10th anniversary. The initiative emphasizes that disability is a natural part of the human experience and focuses on the integral role people with disabilities play in American society. Disability.gov is managed

by the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy in collaboration with 21 federal agency partners.

People nationwide can participate in the campaign by submitting a captioned photograph or video that answers the question "What's your connection to disability?" Submissions will be accepted through July 31, 2013.

Read more about this campaign at

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20122184.htm#.UJLBRHU712w>

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### **Recent Justice Department Actions Regarding Persons with Disabilities**

*Justice Department Intervenes in Lawsuit against Law School Admission Council on Behalf of Test Takers with Disabilities Nationwide*

A federal judge issued an order allowing the Justice Department to intervene in a disability discrimination lawsuit against the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). The department's intervention expands the case from a statewide class action limited to California residents to a nationwide pattern or practice lawsuit.

The lawsuit, *The Department of Fair Employment and Housing v. LSAC Inc. et al.*, charges LSAC with widespread and systemic deficiencies in the way it processes requests by people with disabilities for testing accommodations for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). As a result, the lawsuit alleges, LSAC fails to provide testing accommodations where needed to best ensure that those test takers can demonstrate their aptitude and achievement level rather than their disability.

Read more about this action at

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2012/October/12-crt-1261.html>

*Justice Department Reaches Settlement with Maryland Restaurant over Accessibility Violations*

The Justice Department announced that it reached a settlement with Mrs. K's Tollhouse Restaurant of Silver Spring, Maryland, to remedy alleged violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The agreement resolves allegations that the restaurant failed to remove architectural barriers that made parts of it inaccessible to people with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs.

Read more about the settlement at the following link:

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2012/October/12-crt-1282.html>

*Justice Department Reaches Settlement Agreement with City of North Adams, Mass., to Ensure Civic Access for People with Disabilities*

The Justice Department recently announced an agreement with the city of North Adams, Massachusetts, to improve access for people with disabilities to civic life in North Adams. The agreement was reached under Project Civic Access (PCA), the Justice Department's initiative to ensure that cities, towns and counties throughout the country comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The compliance review was initiated in response to a complaint that the city's police station was physically inaccessible.

Read more about the settlement at the following link:

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2012/October/12-crt-1243.html>

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**New Video on Culture, Language and Health Literacy**

The Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has released a new video discussing how culture, language and health literacy are important to effective health communication.

The video also describes HRSA's free online course, *Effective Communication Tools for Health Care Professionals*.

To access the video, *Culture, Language and Health Literacy* go to:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/culturalcompetence>

To access *Effective Communication Tools for Health Care Professionals*, go to:

[www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/healthliteracy/index.html](http://www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/healthliteracy/index.html)

You can find additional links to health literacy and cultural competence resources from the Department of Health and Human Services at

[www.ahrq.gov/browse/hlitres.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/browse/hlitres.htm)

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**New AIDS.gov App for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Service Providers**

Little is more powerful than taking action to find or help someone else find services for his/her health. Last year on World AIDS Day, people conducted over 60,000 searches, 30% of which were mobile, on the [HIV/AIDS Prevention & Service Provider Locator](#) to help connect people to services offering testing, treatment and care.

Since then, the Locator has gone from the [web](#), to a [widget](#), to mobile, to [Facebook](#) □, and to an [API](#). Now, it is available as an [app](#) □ for your iPhone and iPad. Anyone with an iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch can download and use this free app. Outreach workers, social workers and other clinicians will be able to find services for their clients anytime and anywhere. The iPhone app also has a few new features that you won't find on the web or mobile versions.

How It Works:

- [Download the app](#) □ from the iTunes store.
- Allow the app to use your mobile phone GPS to find sites near your current location or type in the ZIP code for another location.
- The results are populated on a Google map.
- Select any of the results to link to the organization's webpage and find directions via Google Maps.

The locator includes data from:

- Housing: [HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS \(HOPWA\) Program](#)
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse: [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#)
- AIDS Care Services & Health Centers: [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#)
- HIV Testing: [CDC](#)
- Family Planning: [Office of Population Affairs](#)

If you don't have an iPhone, visit <http://locator.aids.gov> to use the web or mobile version.

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## **Flu Risks for People with Diabetes**

People with diabetes are at unique risk for flu-related complications. In recognition of American Diabetes Month, Flu.gov wants to give you the knowledge you need to fight illness this flu season.

Diabetes can weaken your immune system, which makes it harder for your body to fight the flu virus. Being sick can raise your blood glucose and prevent you from eating properly.

The best protection is to get the [flu vaccine](#). People with diabetes should get the flu shot, not the nasal spray. Because you are at an increased risk of

getting pneumonia, talk to your health care provider about the [pneumococcal vaccine](#).

[If you have diabetes and think you have the flu, what should you do?](#)

[Video: What is the best protection against the flu?](#)

[Find a place to get the flu vaccine in your area](#)

Everybody can do their part to help prevent the spread of germs and protect themselves from the flu. Follow us on [Twitter](#) (@FluGov) for a different flu tip each Friday (#FluTips).

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### **ANTHC Elder Care Director Wins Community Health Leaders Award**

Congratulations to Kay Branch, director of the statewide Elder Care Program for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), a not-for-profit health organization managed by Alaska Native tribal governments and their regional health organizations. Kay was one of just ten recipients of the 2012 Community Health Leaders Award presented last month by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Community Health Leaders Award recognizes individuals who overcome significant challenges to improve health and health care in their communities, awarding them with \$125,000, the majority of which is infused into the work for which they are being recognized.

To read more about Branch's work, go to

[http://www.communityhealthleaders.org/news\\_features/pr/102772](http://www.communityhealthleaders.org/news_features/pr/102772)

To learn more about the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leaders Award*, go to [www.communityhealthleaders.org](http://www.communityhealthleaders.org)

To learn more about the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, go to

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

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### **Susan M. Daniels Scholarship Fund Gets Founding Gift**

In October of 2011, the disability community lost a great friend in Dr. Susan Marie Daniels. As a scholar, advocate, friend, colleague, and mentor, she touched the lives of many with her inspiring vision and can-do approach to bettering the lives of people with disabilities. Dr. Daniels led the Administration on Developmental Disabilities in the US Department of Health

and Human Services (HHS) and served on the President's Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities. It was her wish that a fund be established to support quality graduate level research to benefit the disability community.

This fund has now been established at Claremont Graduate University (CGU). The Kay Family Foundation has generously provided the founding gift for an endowed scholarship at CGU to inspire innovative new leaders researching disability issues, rights, and policies. The National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) is partnering with CGU and the Kay Family Foundation to support this effort, as Susan was an invaluable member of the NASI Board of Directors.

To learn more about Dr. Daniels and the scholarship fund visit <http://www.cgu.edu/danielsscholarship>

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### **November Is...**

#### *National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month*

This November, and throughout the year, there are many ways to take action and help raise awareness for Alzheimer's disease. To learn how, visit the Alzheimer's Association's National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month webpage at [http://www.alz.org/stl/in\\_my\\_community\\_20875.asp](http://www.alz.org/stl/in_my_community_20875.asp)

To read the National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month 2012 Presidential Proclamation, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-alzheimers-disease-awareness-month-20>

#### *National Diabetes Month*

In observance of National Diabetes Month, including World Diabetes Day on Nov. 14, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) urges people to take action and make simple but important lifestyle changes to achieve their health goals — whether they have diabetes or are at risk for the disease.

For information on federal government programs and resources to help people to make healthy lifestyle changes, go to <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/nov2012/niddk-02.htm>

To read the National Diabetes Month 2012 Presidential Proclamation, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-diabetes-month-2012>

## *National Family Caregivers Month*

To read the National Family Caregivers Month 2012 Presidential Proclamation, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-family-caregivers-month-2012>

National Family Caregivers (NFC) Month is a time to thank, support, educate and empower family caregivers. Celebrating Family Caregivers during NFC month enables all of us to:

- Raise awareness of family caregiver issues
- Celebrate the efforts of family caregivers
- Educate family caregivers about self-identification
- Increase support for family caregivers

To learn more, visit the National Family Caregivers Association's NFC Month webpage at

[http://www.thefamilycaregiver.org/national\\_family\\_caregiver\\_month/](http://www.thefamilycaregiver.org/national_family_caregiver_month/)

## *Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month*

There is no cure for pulmonary hypertension, and it can be difficult to diagnose. However, with early diagnosis, treatments and medications do exist to help those with the condition live longer, healthier lives.

This November, Women In Government will recognize [Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month](#) by launching a social media campaign to increase both awareness of pulmonary hypertension and support for more research into this deadly disease.

If you are interested in participating in Women In Government's social media campaign this November, please e-mail [smoen@womeningovernment.org](mailto:smoen@womeningovernment.org), or simply follow the group on [Facebook](#) and Twitter ([@WomenInGovt](#))

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## **Recent Reports**

*National Directory of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Programs*

<http://FindTreatment.samhsa.gov/>

Source: HHS Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration

Date: October 2012

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