



Monday, November 26, 2012

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In This Issue:

[Obama Administration Moves Forward to Implement Health Care Law](#)

[December 1st Is World AIDS Day](#)

Funding Opportunity

[National Neighbors Silver Program](#)

[Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Invites Grant Proposals for Public Health Services and Systems Research](#)

[Department of Education Funding Opportunity](#)

Stay Informed

[Webinar on *Building Integrated Care Coalitions: The California Community of Constituents Initiative*](#)

[AHRQ TweetChat on Nurse-Led Innovations](#)

[Make Your Community a Source of Health and Wellness Webinar](#)

[Webinar on *The Future of Medicare: Understanding the Issues and Implications*](#)

[Webinar on *Introduction to Quality Measures in Managed Long-Term Services and Supports*](#)

[Webinar For Legal Professionals: Advance Care Planning with People with Dementia](#)

[Upcoming Webinars Sponsored by the Partnership Center](#)

[Webinar Reminders](#)

Tools & Information

[Eldercare Locator Campaign Focuses on Preventing Financial Exploitation of Older Adults](#)

[Winter Preparedness Tips for Persons with Disabilities](#)

[Is It a Cold or the Flu?](#)

[The Deadline Is Less Than 100 Days Away!](#)

[Consumer Input Council](#)

[Recent Reports](#)

[Share this on Facebook](#)

[Tweet this to a friend](#)

[Email this to a friend](#)

Obama Administration Moves Forward to Implement Health Care Law

The Obama administration moved forward last week to implement provisions in the health care law that would make it illegal for insurance companies to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions. The provisions of the Affordable Care Act also would make it easier for consumers to compare health plans and employers to promote and encourage employee wellness.

The Obama administration issued three proposed rules:

- A proposed rule that, beginning in 2014, prohibits health insurance companies from discriminating against individuals because of a pre-existing or chronic condition. For more information regarding this rule,

visit: <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2012/11/market-reforms11202012a.html>

- A proposed rule outlining policies and standards for coverage of essential health benefits, while giving states more flexibility to implement the Affordable Care Act. For more information regarding this rule, visit <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2012/11/ehb11202012a.html>
- A proposed rule implementing and expanding employment-based wellness programs to promote health and help control health care spending, while ensuring that individuals are protected from unfair underwriting practices that could otherwise reduce benefits based on health status. For more information regarding this rule, visit: <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2012/11/wellness11202012a.html>

To read the complete announcement on these actions, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/11/20121120a.html>

To read Health and Human Services Secretary Sebelius' blog on this announcement, go to <http://www.healthcare.gov/blog/2012/11/marketrules112012.html>

[Back to the top](#)

December 1st Is World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is a key opportunity to raise awareness and renew and invigorate your commitment to ending AIDS. December 1st is fast approaching and plans are underway throughout the HIV/AIDS community to mark this international health observance. The 2012 theme for World AIDS Day is "Working Together for an AIDS-Free Generation".

Visit AIDS.gov (link to: <http://aids.gov/news-and-events/awareness-days/world-aids-day/>) to learn how you can get involved to raise awareness about this important health issue.

[Back to the top](#)

Funding Opportunity

National Neighbors Silver Program

The National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) with support from Atlantic Philanthropies is pleased to issue its third Request for Proposals (RFP)

for National Neighbors Silver Program, an initiative to strengthen economic security opportunities for low- and moderate-income older adults and to empower older adults to organize and advocate for greater economic security for elders.

All proposals must be received no later than **December 7, 2012** at 5pm Eastern Standard Time.

To learn more and to download the full RFP, go to <http://www.ncrc.org/component/k2/item/790-national-neighbors-silver-film-rfp>

[Back to the top](#)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Invites Grant Proposals for Public Health Services and Systems Research

The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) has announced a Call for Proposals for Public Health Services and Systems Research. Studies funded through the call will focus on research projects that examine the organization, finance and delivery of public health services and the subsequent impact on health outcomes.

Approximately \$3.2 million will be awarded in two funding categories:

1) Short-term studies — Grants will provide up to \$200,000 for a maximum of twenty-four months. This category includes qualitative or quantitative studies that use research to explain how elements of the public health system influence the effective implementation of evidence-based public health strategies and/or implementation of public health-primary care integration strategies.

2) Complex and comprehensive studies — a limited number of grants will provide up to \$450,000 for a maximum of thirty-six months. This category includes multistate time-series analyses and other in-depth studies focusing on comparative effectiveness studies that test the impact of alternative strategies for delivering evidence-based public health services and/or public health-primary care integration. Proposals exceeding either twenty-four months or \$300,000 should specify the data collection or analysis steps that justify a longer grant period and larger budget.

The application deadline is December 18, 2012. [Link to Complete RFP](#)

[Back to the top](#)

Department of Education Funding Opportunity

Applications for New Awards; National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program—Field Initiated Projects Program

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)—Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program—Field Initiated Projects Program is now accepting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2013.

The purpose of the Field Initiated (FI) Projects program is to develop methods, procedures and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities.

The CFDA Numbers: 84.133G-1. The deadline is January 22, 2013.

The complete announcement for this funding opportunity is accessible for download at <http://go.usa.gov/ggzd>

[Back to the top](#)

Stay Informed

This Week's Quick Facts

The proportion of supported employment workers in all day and work programs managed by state I/DD agencies dropped to 21.0% in 2008 and 21.3% in 2009. These rates were the lowest since the 22% rate in 1998 and well below the peak of 24% reached in 2001.

The prevalence of certain chronic health conditions differs by sex. Men report higher levels of heart disease, cancer, and diabetes; women report higher levels of asthma, arthritis, and hypertension.

Webinar on *Building Integrated Care Coalitions: The California Community of Constituents Initiative*

On Tuesday, December 11, in partnership with The SCAN Foundation, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will continue its series of webinars

on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (also known as the Affordable Care Act, or ACA) and its impact on older adults, people with disabilities and the aging and disability networks, focusing on integrated care partnerships.

Title: Building Integrated Care Coalitions: The California Community of Constituents Initiative

Description:

Finding strength in numbers, state, regional and community-based organizations are increasingly coming together to collaborate and respond to state efforts to build integrated care systems. One example of such a collaborative is the Community of Constituents Initiative in California. Funded by The SCAN Foundation, this Initiative is building a statewide movement to transform the system of care so that all Californians can age with dignity, choice and independence. In this webinar we will present an overview of the Initiative, and spotlight three participating communities and the opportunities and challenges they have faced in responding to California's Coordinated Care Initiative.

Presenters:

Jack Hailey, Government Action and Communication Institute
Leann Marchese, San Diego Senior Alliance
Kali Peterson, The SCAN Foundation
Wendy Peterson, Senior Service Coalition of Alameda County

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Time: 2:30 p.m. -4:00 p.m. Eastern

To register for the online event

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=669580677&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 our web site (http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx#webinar) soon after the webinar.

[Back to the top](#)

AHRQ TweetChat on Nurse-Led Innovations

Join the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) Health Care Innovations Exchange for a live TweetChat on Nurse-Led Innovations

Julie Kliger, MPA, BSN, RN, Director of the Integrated Nurse Leadership Program at the University of California San Francisco will discuss nurse-led innovations including her own, *Nine-Hospital Collaborative Uses Patient Screening Criteria, Fast-Track Diagnosis, and Treatment Protocols to Reduce Sepsis Mortality by More Than 50 Percent* (<http://go.usa.gov/gqY9>).

Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

To Join:

Join the TweetChat on Twitter at @AHRQIX and use the #AHRQIX hashtag to participate in the conversation.

[Back to the top](#)

Make Your Community a Source of Health and Wellness Webinar

Join this *Let's Move Faith and Communities* webinar to learn about the role of faith and community organizations as catalysts for health and wellness, and hear from faith leaders as they share how they have successfully established programs for healthy living in their communities.

Sue Heitmuller, Manager of Health Ministry and Community Benefits for Adventist HealthCare, will offer thoughts on the important role of health in faith settings and provide an overview on how to develop health leadership in your community. We'll also hear from faith community leaders who have successfully integrated health and wellness into the lives of their congregations.

The presentation will be followed by a Question & Answer session.

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. ET (1:00 p.m. CT, 12:00 p.m. MT, 11:00 a.m. PT)

[Click here](#) to reserve a spot for this Let's Move Faith and Communities event

[Back to the top](#)

Webinar on *The Future of Medicare: Understanding the Issues and Implications*

The webinar is the next session in the National Council on Aging and IlluminAge *Aging Briefing Series*.

With the 2012 election over, questions about the future of Medicare are only beginning. Both President Obama and Governor Romney promised support for Medicare and a plan to safeguard its future. Yet their visions for the future of Medicare varied dramatically. Campaign rhetoric aside, what are the real questions facing Medicare in the future? Can Medicare be made secure just by eliminating “waste, fraud and abuse” or will more fundamental changes be required? How can we promote informed public discourse about the future of Medicare?

This webinar promises a thoughtful, informed discussion of the difficult challenges we face as a country in reforming Medicare, with particular emphasis on issues and implications that will be important to professionals in the aging service and senior care network and to the clients and families they serve.

Presenters:

Harry R. Moody, Ph.D., and Jennifer Sasser, Ph.D., co-authors of *Aging: Concepts and Controversies* (7th Edition), one of gerontology's most respected and widely used textbooks.

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2012
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time

[Register Now](#)

Notes:

Webinars in this series are free and open to the public. Attendance is first come, first served.

If you aren't able to attend on November 29, the full webinar archive will be available free within a day or two of the event at www.illuminAge.com/webinars

[Back to the top](#)

Webinar on *Introduction to Quality Measures in Managed Long-Term Services and Supports*

Hosted by the [Friday Morning Collaborative](#), a coalition of national aging and disability organizations working together to advance home and community-based services and supports, with support from The SCAN Foundation, this webinar is the first in a series that will promote learning and discussion to build the capacity of stakeholders on these issues.

States are increasingly establishing or expanding Medicaid managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) programs. However, there are significant gaps in the development of validated LTSS quality measures that adhere to the non-medical, person-centered quality framework of home and community-based services. There is also a lack of guidance to states and advocates on a core set of measures and reporting requirements that can be used within MLTSS.

This webinar will provide an introduction to the world of quality measurement. It will provide an overview of NCQA (National Committee on Quality Assurance), HEDIS (Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set), and CAHPS (Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems). It will also provide background on the National Quality Forum (NQF) and the “big picture” of the state of LTSS quality measures—what we know now that can be used, gaps we need to fill, and the process and timeline that might be involved in measure development.

Speakers:

Sarah Scholle, National Committee on Quality Assurance
Alice Lind, Center for Health Care Strategies

Date: Friday, November 30, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET - 3:30 p.m. ET

[Register](#)

Note: Space is limited, so please register early and share lines when possible. Close captioning is available. The webinar will also be recorded and made available for viewing following the event.

[Back to the top](#)

Webinar For Legal Professionals: Advance Care Planning with People with Dementia

Presented by the Administration for Community Living’s Administration on Aging and the American Bar Association, this webinar is part of the Legal Resources and Alzheimer’s Webinar Series which aims to provide continuing education to develop dementia capable legal professionals. It is open to any professional in law or aging.

Topic: *For Legal Professionals: Advance Care Planning with People with Dementia*

Participants will:

- Learn of the characteristics and types of dementia
- Be able to identify dementia capable legal services
- Understand the essentials of advance planning for health care
- Understand the essentials of advance planning for financial needs
- Learn about counseling clients with dementia
- Be familiar with drafting accountability into planning documents
- Be aware of the risks of abuse, neglect and exploitation in drafting and reviewing documents for persons with dementia
- Become aware of best practices for attorneys

Presenters:

Charlie Sabatino, Esq., Director, ABA Commission on Law and Aging
David Godfrey, Esq., Senior Attorney, ABA Commission on Law and Aging

Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2012

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

Registration Required. Register at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/643530305>

The Legal Resources and Alzheimer's Webinar Series covers legal issues of people with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and their caregivers. Persons with Alzheimer's disease are particularly vulnerable to financial exploitation, physical or emotional abuse, and neglect both at home and in care facilities. These webinars, as outlined in the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, will help ensure that people with AD have their dignity, safety, and rights maintained.

[Back to the top](#)

Upcoming Webinars Sponsored by the Partnership Center

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood continues to host a series of webinars for faith and community leaders. All webinars are open to the public and include a question and answer session where you can ask HHS staff any questions you may have. Questions may be submitted prior to the webinar to ACA101@hhs.gov

To participate in one of the webinars, please select your preferred topic from the list below and submit the necessary information. After registering you will receive an e-mail confirmation containing information about joining the webinar.

Please contact us at ACA101@hhs.gov if you have registration problems.

All of the webinars are closed to the press.

[The Health Care Law 101 \(in Spanish\)](#)

Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. ET

A presentation on the main provisions in the Affordable Care Act and how to access care in your community.

[Introduction to the HHS Office for Civil Rights](#)

Date: Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Time: 11:00 a.m. ET

An introduction to the HHS Office of Civil Rights. The Office of Civil Rights will share information about what their office does, how they can help faith and community leaders and will answer questions.

[Tour of \[www.HealthCare.gov\]\(http://www.HealthCare.gov\)](#)

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2012

Time: 12:30 p.m. ET

A tour of the www.HealthCare.gov website, including how to access private and public insurance in your community; when parts of the law are going into effect; and how to access care if you don't have insurance.

Webinar Reminders

Kids Eat – FREE – Concho Valley RSVP, San Angelo, TX (Rural)

This webinar is sponsored by the Aging Network's Volunteer Collaborative.

Through the initiative of two RSVP volunteers, this best practice was a result of their efforts to make nourishing meals available during the summer months to school children. Originally developed to serve hunger-insecure children during the summer months, this program can be modified to help feed community members of all ages through community collaborations and partnerships.

It's for agencies and volunteer coordinators who wish to engage a unique population in volunteer service, including those 55 and older serving through RSVP.

What you will learn:

- Why and how the Kids Eat FREE program was started and how the RSVP volunteer driven program has grown.
- How you can replicate Kids Eat Summer Feeding Program in your communities and modify it to serve your population.
- How to effectively engage adults 55+ in leadership roles in both the program design and development enhancing RSVP recruitment efforts
- How the program is funded – both cash and in-kind support
- The importance of the first organizational meeting and how churches have been an integral partner in the Kids Eat FREE initiative
- How the neighborhood feeding sites were chosen

Date: Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST

[REGISTER!](#)

NCOA Webinar on Evidence-Based Physical Activity Programs

Interested in offering a proven physical activity program within your organization? Join the National Council on Aging (NCOA) to learn about two widely implemented evidence-based physical activity programs, EnhanceFitness and Fit and Strong!

Speakers:

Susan Synder, [EnhanceFitness](#)

Sue Hughes, [Fit&Strong!](#)

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2012

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET

[Register](#)

Hunger and Nutrition: What's at Stake for Children, Families & Older Adults?

Join Generations United on December 4 for a provocative discussion on how to address hunger and improve nutrition across the generations. Hear first-hand accounts of innovative approaches in communities across America and re-examine the issue of hunger through the eyes of a family.

Generations United's new report, *Hunger and Nutrition: What's at Stake for Children, Families and Older Adults*, challenges traditional approaches to addressing the problem of hunger and elevates intergenerational solutions that strengthen our families and communities. The report examines the results of a new public opinion survey on the current state of hunger among families of all

ages and makes recommendations for policymakers, community leaders and the business community to reduce hunger across the generations.

When: Tuesday, December 4, 2012
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. EST

Where: National Press Club Holeman Lounge
529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20045
Nearest Metro: Metro Center (Red Line) or McPherson Square
(Blue/Orange Line)

Register at ow.ly/f69gD

Note: This event will not be live-streamed. Registration is for people planning on attending the event in person.

For more information, contact Generations United at 202-289-3979 or gu@gu.org

[Back to the top](#)

Tools & Information

Eldercare Locator Campaign Focuses on Preventing Financial Exploitation of Older Adults

As part of its 10th Annual Home for the Holidays campaign, the Eldercare Locator, a public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) is encouraging older adults, caregivers and their families to use their time together this holiday season to discuss and get informed about strategies to prevent financial exploitation. The AoA-funded National Center on Elder Abuse partnered with the Eldercare Locator to produce a consumer guide, [Protect Your Pocketbook: Tips to Avoid Financial Exploitation](#), to help inform this discussion with older adults during the holiday season.

To learn more about the Eldercare Locator, which is marking its 20th Anniversary, please visit www.eldercare.gov or call 800.677.1116.

[Back to the top](#)

Winter Preparedness Tips for Persons with Disabilities

Disability.gov has highlighted information for [people with disabilities](#) on ways to get ready for the cold weather season and precautions to take to avoid frostbite and [hypothermia](#).

People with disabilities can register with the [Special Needs Registry](#), which allows medical agencies to provide them with information about emergency preparedness.

Click [here](#) to read these tips.

[Back to the top](#)

Is It a Cold or the Flu?

As winter approaches, more and more people start to feel like they're coming down with "something." With [flu season](#) just around the corner, how do you know if you have the flu or the common cold?

Both have similar symptoms, so it can be hard to tell the difference. In general, the flu is worse than the common cold. [Symptoms](#) such as fever, body aches, tiredness, and cough are more common and intense with the flu. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose.

Your health care provider can give you a test within the first few days of your illness to determine whether or not you have the flu. If you have been diagnosed with the flu, you should stay home. Talk to your health care provider or pharmacist about over-the-counter and prescription medications to ease flu symptoms and help you feel better faster.

And remember, the best protection against the flu is the [flu vaccine](#).

[Video: What Is Seasonal Flu?](#)

[Video: What Are The Symptoms Of 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 Flu.gov us on [twitter](#) (@flugov) for a different flu tip each Friday (#flutips).

[Back to the top](#)

The Deadline Is Less Than 100 Days Away!

There are less than 100 days left until the March 1, 2013, deadline before all federal beneficiaries will begin to receive their payments electronically. The **Go Direct**[®] campaign is urging partners to pull out all the stops in the final months to ensure all federal benefit check recipients switch to electronic payments before the deadline.

[A list of easy activities](#) you can do from now until the deadline is available to help remind the people you serve that they are required by law to make the switch. It is easy to inform them how to sign up for **direct deposit** or the **Direct Express**® Debit MasterCard® card.

As part of this last effort, join **Go Direct** for its final Month in January, which will be filled with a flurry of media outreach and partner activity across the country. A new **Go Direct** Month toolkit is available for [financial institutions](#) and [community-based organizations](#) on www.GoDirect.org, and it includes free materials to help you get involved. Materials include newsletter copy, social media posts, talking points, and more. Fliers and posters also are [available to order](#).

[Back to the top](#)

Consumer Input Council

The Consumer Voice is launching a brand new Consumer Input Council as a way for consumers receiving services and supports at home to stay involved and informed on long-term care issues.

By joining the Consumer Input Council, participants will have the opportunity to regularly provide Consumer Voice staff members with feedback about their experiences with home care. That information will help guide the Consumer Voice in its policy work. In addition, participants will receive regular policy and advocacy updates and opportunities to take action themselves. The council will meet by phone, using a toll-free number.

This council is only open to consumers who receive long-term services and supports at home.

First Meeting:

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:15p.m. ET

If you receive long-term services and supports at home and would like to participate in the call, click [here](#) to register.

If you can't make the call, but would like to be part of this council, please contact Sara Cirba at scirba@theconsumervoice.org or at 202-332-2275 x 221.

[Back to the top](#)

Recent Reports

[Long-Term Care for Older Adults: A Review of Home and Community-Based Services versus Institutional Care](#)

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Date: November 7, 2012

National Strategy Needed to Effectively Combat Elder Financial Exploitation

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-110>

Source: General Accounting Office

Date: November 2012

Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment Report: Summary Statistics as of July 1, 2011

<http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Data-and-Systems/Downloads/2011-Medicaid-MC-Enrollment-Report.pdf>

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Date: November 2012

National Summary of State Medicaid Managed Care Programs as of July 1, 2011

<http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Data-and-Systems/Downloads/2011-National-Summary-MC-Report.pdf>

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Date: November 2012

The 2012 MetLife Market Survey of Nursing Home, Assisted Living, Adult Day Services, and Home Care Costs

<https://www.metlife.com/mmi/research/2012-market-survey-long-term-care-costs.html#keyfindings>

Source: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

Date: November 2012

[Back to the top](#)

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