



**Wednesday, October 31, 2012**

**Medicare Open Enrollment Ends December 7**  
Compare Your Coverage Options Now—Go to <http://www.medicare.gov/>

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## **ACA Enables People with Medicare to Save \$4.8 Billion on Prescription Drugs**

*Over 20.7 million with Medicare also receive free preventive services in the first nine months of 2012*

As a result of the Affordable Care Act, 5.6 million seniors and people with disabilities have saved \$4.8 billion on prescription drugs since the law was enacted, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced today. This year alone, 2.3 million people in the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap known as the “donut hole” have saved an average of \$657. During the first nine months of 2012, over 20.7 million people with original Medicare got at least one preventive service at no cost to them.

In 2012 alone, over 20.7 million people with original Medicare have received at least one preventive service at no cost to them. This includes 2.13 million who

have taken advantage of the Annual wellness Visit provided by the health care law – almost 650,000 more than had used this service by this point in the year in 2011. In 2011, an estimated 32.5 million people with original Medicare or Medicare Advantage received one or more preventive benefits free of charge.

For state-by-state information on savings in the donut hole, please visit: [http://downloads.cms.gov/files/Donut Hole Savings Summary - September 2012.pdf](http://downloads.cms.gov/files/Donut_Hole_Savings_Summary_-_September_2012.pdf)

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### **Washington State First State to Partner with CMS in Financial Alignment Demonstration**

*Initiative will provide better, more coordinated care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees*

The Department of Health and Human Services last week announced that the state of Washington will become the first state to partner with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the Financial Alignment Demonstration to test a managed-fee-for-service model for providing Medicare-Medicaid enrollees with a more coordinated, person-centered care experience.

Through the Demonstration, Washington will use a managed-fee-for-service care model that will build upon its planned Medicaid Health Homes targeting Medicare-Medicaid enrollees with chronic health conditions. The program is planned to launch on April 1, 2013.

The Demonstration is the culmination of an extensive planning and development process through which Medicare-Medicaid enrollees, caregivers, advocates, and other stakeholders partnered with Washington State and CMS to help shape the design of the new integrated care program.

Under the Demonstration, Medicare-Medicaid enrollees will have a care coordinator working with a collaborative care team responsible for their comprehensive care management. Beneficiaries in the Demonstration and their families will have access to enhanced services to help support the family and caregivers as well as improve coordination of care and the beneficiary experience. In addition, the new program will promote access to community supports and services.

Beneficiaries may choose whether to receive these new services. All beneficiaries will continue to have access to all of their existing Medicare and Medicaid benefits. CMS will measure quality including the beneficiary overall experience of care, level of care coordination, beneficiary care transitions, and the support of community living in Washington. CMS will also sponsor a rigorous independent evaluation of both the quality of care received by

participants as well as any impact the demonstration has on Medicare and Medicaid costs.

To learn more about the Washington-CMS partnership and to see proposals submitted by other states, visit: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-and-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination-Office/FinancialModelstoSupportStatesEffortsinCareCoordination.html>

To learn more about the Medicaid Health Home please visit: <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Long-Term-Services-and-Support/Integrating-Care/Health-Homes/Health-Homes.html>

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## **Funding Opportunities**

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### **Funding Opportunity Reminders:**

*Safety and Health for Older Women*

Funding through this request from the Department of Health and Human Service Office of Women's Health is available for activities and events that enhance access to information and health care resources that promote the safety and health of older women (women 50+) in the United States and its affiliated territories.

Priority consideration will be given to proposals which demonstrate collaboration among two or more local community resources. Community resources may include (but are not limited to) senior services, Area Agency on Aging, health care providers, patient advocacy and education organizations, local hospitals, health care professional organizations, and local media.

Projects will be funded up to a maximum amount of \$2,500. Proposals must be received no later than November 15, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time.

John Snow, Inc. (JSI) will be the lead contractor for administration of this RFP. OWH contracted with JSI to provide general program support to its Central Office and ten Regional Offices on Women's Health to manage regional health projects and activities in women's health in the ten HHS regions. For more information and to obtain an application, telephone JSI at 1-866-224-3815.

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*Cardinal Health Foundation Offers Grants to Improve Patient Safety*

[Cardinal Health Foundation](#) has announced that, for the sixth consecutive year, it will award grants to help United States, Canadian and Puerto Rican hospitals, health systems, community health clinics, and other nonprofit healthcare institutions improve the efficiency and quality of their patient care.

The foundation's E3 Grant Program Focus areas includes those designed to improve medication safety, particularly as patients transition from hospital environments to home and other healthcare settings. The program supports the implementation of evidence-based practices that have been identified as successful and lead to positive patient outcomes. While the implementation of evidenced-based practices with quantifiable outcomes is the goal, the program also encourages grantees to be innovative in the way the projects are implemented so that the work can be sustained as well as spread to other institutions.

The foundation anticipates awarding approximately twenty-five grants of between \$15,000 and \$35,000. Deadline is December 7, 2012.

The foundation will host a final webinar to provide an overview of this funding opportunity and to answer questions. Note that the capacity for each of these webinars is 150. They will be first come, first served so it is recommended that you join early.

Date: Wednesday, October 31, 2012

Time: 2:30 p.m. EST

Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-692-5721 (US)

Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-444-9940 (US)

Show global numbers:

<https://wbbc.verizonbusiness.com/wbbcClick2Join/servlet/WBBCClick2Join?TollNumCC=1&TollNum=517-444->

[9940&TollFreeNumCC=1&TollFreeNum=866-692-](https://wbbc.verizonbusiness.com/wbbcClick2Join/servlet/WBBCClick2Join?TollNumCC=1&TollNum=517-444-9940&TollFreeNumCC=1&TollFreeNum=866-692-)

[5721&ParticipantCode=2141094&customHeader=mymeetings&dialInNumbers=true](https://wbbc.verizonbusiness.com/wbbcClick2Join/servlet/WBBCClick2Join?TollNumCC=1&TollNum=517-444-9940&TollFreeNumCC=1&TollFreeNum=866-692-5721&ParticipantCode=2141094&customHeader=mymeetings&dialInNumbers=true)

Attendee access code: 214 109 4

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WebEx Information

Meeting Number: 749 223 338

Meeting Password: E3

To join this meeting (Now from mobile devices!), go to

<https://cardinalhealth.webex.com/cardinalhealth/j.php?J=749223338&PW=NTY1ODZhMjE2>

Enter the meeting password: E3

Click "Join Now"

Follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

Complete proposal guidelines, an FAQ, and summaries from successful E3 Grant Program proposals including one that features a collaborative with an AAA are available at the Cardinal Health Foundation community Web site, <http://www.cardinalhealth.com/us/en/CommunityRelations/Apply/E3>

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## **Stay Informed**

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### **Webinar on *Part D in 2013***

Open Enrollment for Medicare prescription drug coverage and Medicare Advantage plans has begun!

Join the National Council on Aging's (NCOA) National Center for Benefits Outreach & Enrollment to talk through what is important for your clients to know during this critical time of the year.

Discover:

- Important dates and mailings your clients need to understand.
- Changes coming to Part D in 2013.
- How to help your clients be savvy consumers in choosing plans and understanding costs.

- How the low-income subsidy (LIS)/Extra Help program redetermination and reassignment processes work.

Presenter:

Leslie Fried, Policy Director, NCOA National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment

This webinar will be offered twice:

Dates: Friday, November 2, 2012      Monday, November 5, 2012

Times: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET      2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET

[Register for this webinar](#)

[Register for this webinar](#)

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### **Healthdata.gov Tweet Chat**

Do you have an interest in using health data but need some expertise to help you better understand the data? Join Healthdata.gov for its first chat on Twitter. Get connected with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) data experts to discuss data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

Date: Thursday, November 1, 2012

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET

To learn more and to register, go to

<http://www.healthdata.gov/blog/join-us-tweet-chat-nov-1st-1-%E2%80%93-2-pm-et-have-your-health-data-questions-answered#XRbpj0DCWjQIUoZ7.99>

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

*Comprehensive Volunteer Handbook Strengthens the Foundation of a Volunteer Program – Loudoun County AAA, Loudoun County, VA*

Loudoun County's perspective has been that a comprehensive volunteer handbook serves as an essential guidebook in volunteer orientation. The handbook represents the agency's mission, expectations and commitment to volunteer placement and supervision. The handbook increased the effectiveness of Loudoun County's service delivery.

If you have limited time and/or resources to develop or update your volunteer handbook, join the webinar to learn ways to easily create or revise your current handbook to a comprehensive professionally designed handbook.

Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2012

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

[REGISTER!](#)

*Friends in School Helping (FISH) – Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA), Charlottesville, VA*

Friends in Schools Helping (FISH), an intergenerational tutoring and informal mentoring program for elementary-aged students designed to help close the achievement gap, was created by the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA) and is coordinated by an all-volunteer team of adults aged 50+.

One effective way to grow a volunteer program is to enlist volunteers to train and mentor their peers. In this webinar, you will learn how the FISH Program was able to thrive, and sustain its volunteer tutor-mentor program in spite of economic challenges and budget constraints.

Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2012

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

[REGISTER!](#)

*COVE Savvy Seniors – Community of Vermont Elders, Berlin, VT (Rural)*

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) uses volunteer teams to provide statewide education, including resource information and assistance, to community members regarding health care, fraud, consumer issues and other mishaps. It was transformed from lecture format to a more-engaging theatrical format with skits and actors.

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2012

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

[REGISTER!](#)

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**Webinar on Recreational and Social Activities: Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Dementia**

Hosted by the American Society on Aging, this webinar is part two of the Healthy Longevity Webinar Series, sponsored by Home Care Assistance.

The webinar will cover activities that provide a sense of purpose and enjoyment along with emotional support for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Research suggests that physically and socially stimulating recreational activities can decrease problem behaviors, increase overall functioning, and slow the progression of cognitive decline. Likewise, lack of pleasurable activities may further exacerbate the impairment associated with dementia.

This webinar aims to improve attitude, mood and quality of life for clients who have dementia, as well as provide for more meaningful engagement in life and a strengthened sense of dignity.

Participants will:

- Understand the effects of dementia on a person's life, and the importance of recreational and social activities.
- Learn about recreational activities that are active, interactive, and engaging.
- Receive strategies for making routine activities recreational, and strategize ways of socially engaging clients.

Date: November Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Time: 11:00 a.m. PT / 12:00 p.m. MT / 1:00 p.m. CT / 2:00 p.m. ET

[Register Now!](#)

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### **Webinar on *Change the Outcomes: Nutritional Intervention as a "Must Have" in Treating Chronic Conditions***

Hosted by the American Society on Aging, this webinar is part of the "Nutrition Matters" web seminar series, sponsored by Mom's Meals.

Is your patient care plan complete? Research reveals that nutritional intervention is essential as an integral part of the patient care plan for people with chronic conditions. Learn how nutritional intervention can help in the treatment of chronic conditions, resulting in better patient outcomes and quality of life, plus contributes toward reducing the cost burden on the healthcare system and readmission rates.

This webinar will concentrate on nutritional intervention benefits for the chronic conditions of coronary heart disease, diabetes, and renal disease.

Participants in this webinar you will:

- Learn which critical patient outcomes can be impacted by nutritional interventions.
- Recognize that evidence-based data shows nutritional interventions improve quality of life for people with heart disease, diabetes and renal disease.
- Learn three solutions available to help patients more easily comply with their ideal diet.
- Be able to identify the correlation between patient outcomes and healthcare costs.

Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2012

Time: 11:00 a.m. PT / 12:00 p.m. MT / 1:00 p.m. CT / 2:00 p.m. ET

[Register Now!](#)

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### **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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### **Webinar Reminder: *Volunteering and Community Service***

Hosted by the Social Security Administration, this webinar will address [volunteering and community service](#) as a path to employment for Social Security disability beneficiaries. A panel of experts will provide information on ways to make community service a part of your career path.

Date: Wednesday, October 31, 2012  
Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Register online at <https://www.chooseworkttw.net/wise/jsp/wise.jsp> or call 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD).

Visit [Disability.gov](http://Disability.gov) for more information about community service and volunteer opportunities.

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## **Tools & Information**

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### **You Are Not Alone**

You are not alone in this fight” when it comes to mental illness.

The video or short story you tell can be the one that lets someone know that they are not alone. Whether you or someone you know is experiencing a mental illness, that same experience is shared by millions of Americans. Your words of inspiration can let others know that there is hope.

To get details on how to submit your story or a video, go to the National Alliance on Mental Illness website (<http://www.nami.org/>) “You Are Not Alone” webpage or click below

[http://www.nami.org/Template\\_EoY.cfm?Section=not\\_alone&Template=/custo\\_msource/EOY2012/eoy.cfm](http://www.nami.org/Template_EoY.cfm?Section=not_alone&Template=/custo_msource/EOY2012/eoy.cfm)

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### **The Flu Season Is Upon Us**

The flu season is upon us! The best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated each year during the fall season. Because flu viruses change from year to year, it is important to get a flu shot each year.

Medicare pays for the influenza immunization or "flu vaccine." The resources on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Immunization webpage ([www.cms.gov/Immunizations/](http://www.cms.gov/Immunizations/)) have been updated to help educate caregivers and beneficiaries about the flu and encourage vaccination against it.

Use the [Flu Vaccine Finder](#) to find a flu vaccine location near you.

Add the [Vaccine Finder widget](#) to your website.

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## **NOD Launches “NOD Salutes” Series for National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

This October, the National Organization on Disability (NOD) salutes Sodexo, the leading provider of quality of daily life services in the US, Canada and Mexico, for its support of disability employment initiatives.

This is the inaugural salute in a monthly series highlighting employers who supports NOD’s mission by hiring people with disabilities. The recognition of Sodexo’s work with the Bridges to Business program, and as a member of the NOD CEO Council, comes during National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a national campaign to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

To learn more about the NOD Salutes Series and it first honoree, go to [http://www.nod.org/news/national\\_organization\\_on\\_disability\\_salutes\\_sodexo/](http://www.nod.org/news/national_organization_on_disability_salutes_sodexo/)

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## **Sign Up for the *Retirement Security SmartBrief***

Are you interested in getting the latest news in retirement? The *Retirement Security SmartBrief* provides a quick summary of the top daily news stories impacting the retirement and investing community. *Retirement Security SmartBrief* is published by WISER (Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement) in partnership with the Retirement Security Coalition.

You can [click here](#) to see a sample issue and sign up for this free service.

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## **Recent Issue of *Innovation Exchange* Focuses on Integrated End-of-Life Care**

The October 24<sup>th</sup> issue of *Innovation Exchange*, produced bi-weekly by the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) gives attention to end-of-life care.

The spotlight article, “Effective Palliative Care Programs Require Health System Change,” explores the development of successful palliative care programs in the

current health care system. The article is an interview of two experts in palliative care and organizational change.

To read this issue and to download past issues, go to the *Innovations Exchange* webpage, <http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov>

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## **Recent News from the AARP Public Policy Institute**

Reports:

*Proposed Changes to Social Security's Cost-of-Living Adjustment: What Would They Mean for Beneficiaries?*

[http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public\\_policy\\_institute/econ\\_sec/2012/proposed-changes-cola-insight-AARP-ppi-econ-sec.pdf](http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public_policy_institute/econ_sec/2012/proposed-changes-cola-insight-AARP-ppi-econ-sec.pdf)

*Boomer Women Feeling More Financially Insecure than Men*

[http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public\\_policy\\_institute/econ\\_sec/2012/boomer-women-feeling-financially-insecure-AARP-ppi-econ-sec.pdf](http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public_policy_institute/econ_sec/2012/boomer-women-feeling-financially-insecure-AARP-ppi-econ-sec.pdf)

Fact Sheet:

*Understanding the Impact of Family Caregiving on Work*

[http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public\\_policy\\_institute/ltc/2012/understanding-impact-family-caregiving-work-AARP-ppi-ltc.pdf](http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public_policy_institute/ltc/2012/understanding-impact-family-caregiving-work-AARP-ppi-ltc.pdf)

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## **Save the Date! WISER's Annual Symposium**

WISER (Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement) will host its annual symposium on December 6th and 7th this year. The symposium will take place at 101 Constitution Avenue, NW in Washington, DC.

The WISER symposium offers a great way to hear from experts in the fields of women, aging and retirement, and to meet people in the financial, policy and government communities.

Stay tuned for more details.

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