



Monday, September 17, 2012

In This Issue:

[National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2012](#)

[Share Your Older Americans Month 2013 Theme Ideas!](#)

[New Resources Help Older Americans and People with Disabilities Maintain Their Independence](#)

[Health Care Law Saved an Estimated \\$2.1 Billion for Consumers](#)

[Veterans in Rural Areas to Get Expanded Access to Health Care](#)

Funding Opportunities

[Funding Reminder](#)

Stay Informed

[ACA Webinar on *Integrating Care: Partnerships between Community-Based Organizations and Accountable Care Organizations*](#)

[Webinar on *Moving Forward with Alzheimer's & Dementia*](#)

[Training Personal Care Aides: The Latest Research Findings and Strategies from the States](#)

[Webinar on *Innovations in HIV Prevention for Gay and Bisexual Men*](#)

[Webinar on *It's All About Content: Using the Internet and Social Media to Reach and Inform Older Adults*](#)

[Domestic Violence Awareness Month: 3rd Annual National Call of Unity](#)

[Webinar Reminders](#)

Tools & Information

[National Falls Prevention Awareness Day](#)

[Justice Releases Report on Federal Agencies' Electronic and Information Technology \(EIT\) Accessible to People with Disabilities](#)

[September Is National Recovery Month](#)

[September Is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[Got Your Flu Shot?](#)

[Ten Years of NAMIWalks](#)

[Elder Services Director Marks 25 Years with Wyandotte Nation](#)

[Recent Reports](#)

[Share this on Facebook](#)

[Tweet this to a friend](#)

[Email this to a friend](#)

National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2012

National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15, is a time to give special attention to the many achievements and contributions generations of Hispanics have made to the progress of our nation. The Administration for Community Living joins President Obama in saluting their leadership and service.

To read the National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2012 Presidential Proclamation, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/09/14/presidential-proclamation-national-hispanic-heritage-month-2012>

[Back to the top](#)

Share Your Older Americans Month 2013 Theme Ideas!

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy established May as a month of recognition and celebration of our nation's older adults. As we approach the 50th anniversary of Older Americans Month (OAM) in May 2013, the Administration for Community Living is requesting your thoughts and ideas on a theme to commemorate this important milestone.

To learn more about Older Americans Month and to review themes from years past visit

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/archive/archive.aspx

Send your ideas and suggestions for consideration via e-mail to communityliving@acl.hhs.gov . All suggestions must be received by October 1, 2012.

Remember to include your name, address, e-mail address, and phone number.

We look forward to hearing from you!

[Back to the top](#)

New Resources Help Older Americans and People with Disabilities Maintain Their Independence

Seniors, people with disabilities and their families get assistance from local resource centers

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius last week announced \$12.5 million in awards to Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to support older Americans and people with disabilities stay independent and receive long-term services and supports.

These grants, funded by the Affordable Care Act and the Older Americans Act, support counselors who help individuals and their caregivers identify and access long-term services and supports, regardless of income or financial assets.

Two different types of grants were announced. Part A, for states or territories receiving an initial ADRC grant for an Enhanced ADRC Options Counseling Program and Part B, for states and territories receiving continuation funding.

For more information about the grants, recipients and the ADRC initiative, see <http://www.hhs.gov/acl/news/adrc-grants09112012.html>

You can read ACL Administrator Greenlee's September 11 blog on how the ACA is helping seniors and persons with disabilities get the supports and services they need to live in their homes and fully participate in their communities, rather than in nursing homes or other institutions at the ACL website at <http://www.hhs.gov/acl/2012/09/12/the-affordable-care-act-and-community-living/>

[Back to the top](#)

Health Care Law Saved an Estimated \$2.1 Billion for Consumers

The health care law – the Affordable Care Act – has saved consumers an estimated \$2.1 billion on health insurance premiums according to a new report recently released today by the Department of Health and Human Services. For the first time ever, new rate review rules in the health care law prevent insurance companies in all states from raising rates with no accountability or transparency. To date, rate review has helped save an estimated \$1 billion for Americans. Additionally, the law's Medical Loss Ratio (or 80/20) rule is helping deliver rebates worth \$1.1 billion to nearly 13 million consumers.

Beginning Sept. 1, 2011, the health care law implemented federal rate review standards. These rules ensure that, in every state, insurance companies are required to publicly submit for review and justify their actions if they want to raise rates by 10 percent or more. To assist states in this effort, the Affordable Care Act provides states with Health Insurance Rate Review Grants to enhance their rate review programs and bring greater transparency to the process. 42 states have used their rate review grant funds to make the rate review process stronger and more transparent.

The rate review report is available at:

<http://www.healthcare.gov/law/resources/reports/rate-review09112012a.html>

Information on how states are using their rate review grant funds is available at: <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/resources/reports/rate-review09202011a.pdf>

General information about rate review is available at:

<http://www.healthcare.gov/law/features/costs/rate-review/>

[Back to the top](#)

Veterans in Rural Areas to Get Expanded Access to Health Care

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Eric K. Shinseki last week announced a joint effort to expand health care delivery to veterans living in rural areas. The agreement between the two agencies promotes collaboration between VA facilities and private hospitals and clinics, and is supported by \$983,100 in grants to improve access and coordination of care through telehealth and health information exchanges in rural areas.

Three states with the highest density of veteran residents—Virginia, Montana and Alaska—will each receive approximately \$300,000 to implement or upgrade telehealth capabilities for veterans who must otherwise travel long distances to access medical, mental and behavioral health care. The grants will be used for telehealth equipment and to develop electronic health records that are compatible with the VA's Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VISTA) system.

To learn more, go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/09/20120912b.html>

[Back to the top](#)

Funding Opportunities

Funding Reminder

Rural Health Network Development Planning Program

This funding opportunity solicits applications for the Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant Program (Network Planning). The purpose of the Network Planning Program is to promote the development of integrated healthcare networks in order to:

- achieve efficiencies,
- expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential health care services and
- Strengthen the rural health care system as a whole.

This program brings together key parts of a rural health care delivery system, particularly those entities that may not have collaborated in the past, to work together to establish or improve local capacity and coordination of care. The grant program supports one year of planning to develop and assist health care networks in becoming operational. These networks can include a wide range of

community partners including social service agencies, faith-based organizations, mental health agencies, charitable organizations, educational institutions, employers, local government agencies, or other entities with an interest in a community's health care system.

The application deadline is October 15, 2012.

To learn more and to download an application, go to www.grants.gov; the CFDA Number is 93.912.

[Back to the top](#)

Stay Informed

ACA Webinar on *Integrating Care: Partnerships between Community-Based Organizations and Accountable Care Organizations*

On Friday, September 28, 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: *Integrating Care: Partnerships between Community-Based Organizations and Accountable Care Organizations*

Date: Friday, September 28, 2012

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

Description:

Part of the delivery systems reforms being implemented under the Affordable Care Act includes the development of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) which are organizations formed by groups of doctors, hospitals and other providers that have agreed to work together to coordinate care for people with Medicare across settings. They take responsibility for the quality of care they provide to people with Medicare in return for the opportunity to share in savings realized through high-quality, well-coordinated care. Community-based organizations can play an important role in this care coordination. In this webinar we will present an overview of ACO efforts to date, and spotlight a partnership developed between a Pioneer ACO and community-based providers in Massachusetts.

Presenters:

- Emily Duhamel Brower, Accountable Care Programs, Atrius Health
- Dan Farmer, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Amy MacNulty, Community Care Linkages, Mass Home Care

To register for the online event

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=669692973&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](#)

Webinar on *Moving Forward with Alzheimer's & Dementia*

Part one of a three part series sponsored by Senior Helpers and Alzheimer's Foundation of America

Date: Friday, September 21, 2012

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

This free web seminar will briefly review factors that affect nutrition and hydration in individuals with dementia. It will also help identify signs that should raise concern and suggest techniques and interventions to address issues, and promote safe and effective eating and drinking behaviors.

Discussion Topics:

- The need to recognize and change focus at each stage of the disease from previous abilities to current needs and interests, given the progressive nature of the condition.
- Strategies and approaches at the end of journey that allow the person to guide us in how to help and when to stop focusing on nutrition and hydration and provide comfort care will also be outlined.

- Strategies and techniques to help address concerns by providing the “just right” amount and type of assistance and environmental supports and set-ups that help with people with dementia.

Register Now!

[Back to the top](#)

Training Personal Care Aides: The Latest Research Findings and Strategies from the States

In response to a rapidly aging population in need of long-term services and supports, the Personal Care Aide (PCA) occupation is projected to grow by 71% between 2010-2020.

The US Senate Special Committee on Aging, the HELP Committee and PHI (Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute/<http://phinational.org>) invite you to attend a discussion of the results of new research on the existing requirements, or lack thereof, for PCA training in the states.

Date: Monday, September 24, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. ET

Site: Capitol Visitor Center, SVC 203-02, East Capitol Street & 1st Street NE, Washington, DC 20004

Attend Event

Representatives from three states participating in the Personal and Home Care Aide State Training (PHCAST) Demonstration Project will report on their strategies, challenges, and preliminary outcomes.

Speakers:

Anne Montgomery, US Senate Special Committee on Aging

Rodney Whitlock, Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (IA)

Dr. Marcia Brand, Deputy Administrator, Department of Health and Humans Services Health Resources and Services Administration

Dorie Seavey, Director of Policy Research, PHI

Mary Adney, Project Coordinator, Personal and Home Care Aide State Training Program, California

Erin Drinnin, Project Manager, Direct Care Workforce Initiative, Iowa Department of Public Health

Susan Harmuth, Senior Program Manager, North Carolina Foundation for Advanced Health Programs

[Back to the top](#)

Webinar on *Innovations in HIV Prevention for Gay and Bisexual Men*
In observance of National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2012

What are the latest HIV prevention activities and programs for gay and bisexual men? Do you know what efforts the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and partners are taking to curb the epidemic among gay and bisexual men? Are you wondering how these efforts will affect you? This webinar is your opportunity to hear directly from CDC in its first ever live webinar in recognition of National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

CDC leaders will discuss innovative HIV prevention activities aimed at reducing HIV-related inequities among gay and bisexual men. Partners are invited to view and participate in the webinar.

Date: September 25, 2012

Time: 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. ET

Registration is required for this event. To register [click here](#)

[Back to the top](#)

Webinar on *It's All about Content: Using the Internet and Social Media to Reach and Inform Older Adults*

Join the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and IlluminAge to discover how your aging services organization can maximize online communications and social media to better reach and serve older adults.

Date: September 27, 2012

Time: 1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m. ET

Discover:

What does it mean to be "content rich" and why is that important?
What are some examples of websites and social media that get this right?
What are some ways to publish excellent content on a tight budget?

Speaker: Amadie Hart, President, Hart Strategic Marketing, LLC

[Register](#)

[Back to the top](#)

Domestic Violence Awareness Month: 3rd Annual National Call of Unity

Each year on this free 45-minute call, approximately 400 listeners have joined the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, with many more listening together in counseling centers, domestic violence shelters, meeting rooms, at school and at home; each year our numbers continue to grow. This is a very special time for to come together in observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month to:

- Mourn those who have died because of domestic violence,
- Celebrate the advancements we have made to support those who have survived, and
- Connect those within the movement to end violence against women and girls.

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. EDT

This year's call will feature the story of [Christi Paul, CNN Headline News Anchor](#). Ms. Paul is a survivor of domestic violence and recently published author of a very inspiring and empowering book, *Love Isn't Supposed to Hurt*. She has a powerful voice and she uses it to help others in need, particularly children, as a Board of Directors member with Safe Kids Georgia and as an ambassador for [Liz Claiborne's Love Is Not Abuse](#).

Register for this FREE event at
<http://dvam2012nationalcallofunity.eventbrite.com>

Upon registering, you will receive two confirmation emails; one will ask you to "print your ticket and bring it to the event." Please print your ticket for the call-in details, but you do not need to bring it to the event. You can participate from any location using a landline or mobile phone.

[Back to the top](#)

Webinar Reminders

Reaching & Engaging Older Adults in Behavioral Health Interventions

Alcohol and prescription medication misuse and abuse, depression, and anxiety are growing and often under-recognized problems that can negatively impact the health and well-being of older adults. Sponsored by JBS International, Inc. (<http://www.jbsinternational.com/Pages/HomePage.aspx>), the purpose of this free webinar is to:

- Enhance attendees' understanding of behavioral health issues affecting older adult
- Provide practical examples of programs and associated implementation strategies targeting older adults with or at risk for mental health and substance abuse problems.

Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2012

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

To register, please [go here](#)

This webinar is supported through a partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration.

If you experience difficulty registering or signing on, please contact Donna Siu at JBS International, Inc. at dsiu@jbsinternational.com or 240-645-4898.

[Back to the top](#)

Senior Cognitive Issues

This webinar is part of the American Society on Aging's Family Caregiver Support Series, sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care (<http://www.homeinstead.com/Pages/home.aspx>).

The webinar will address how to recognize symptoms of cognitive problems and learn what might be causing them, as well as detail methods for how to cope with a loved one who is suffering with these problems.

Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2012

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

Register Now!

[Back to the top](#)

Tools & Information



National Falls Prevention Awareness Day

Reminder: September 22 is National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. [Plan an event](#) | [10 falls myths](#)

[Back to the top](#)

Justice Releases Report on Federal Agencies' Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) Accessible to People with Disabilities

Last week, the Justice Department released its report "[Section 508 Report to the President and Congress: Accessibility of Federal Electronic and Information Technology](#)." The report is authorized under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Specifically, Section 508 requires federal agencies to ensure that electronic and information technology (EIT) they develop, procure, maintain, or use allows employees with disabilities and members of the public seeking information or services to have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to that available to people who do not have disabilities. EIT includes telecommunications products (such as telephones), information kiosks and transaction machines, websites, multimedia, and office equipment, such as copiers and fax machines, computers, software, firmware and similar products and services.

In 2010-2011, the Department created survey instruments and solicited answers from federal agencies about their implementation of Section 508. The survey requested data in four important areas: procurement, general processes for implementing Section 508, administrative complaints and civil actions, and website compliance.

While there is always room for continued improvement, The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is particularly pleased to note that the DOJ report commends the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for developing best practices in ensuring "Accessibility of EIT Used in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance." The example DOJ commends is the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' *Guidance for Exchange and Medicaid Information Technology (IT) Systems, Version 2.0*, requiring health insurance exchanges and Medicaid enrollment and eligibility systems to be accessible under Section 504, which reflected vital input from ACL and the HHS Office for Civil Rights.

[Back to the top](#)

September Is National Recovery Month

National Recovery Month promotes the societal benefits of prevention, treatment and recovery for mental and substance use disorders, celebrates people in recovery, lauds the contributions of treatment and service providers, and promotes the message that recovery in all its forms is possible.

National Recovery Month spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover.

To learn more and to download information for planning an event in your community, visit the National Recovery Month website, <http://www.recoverymonth.gov/>

[Back to the top](#)

September Is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Ovarian cancer causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system. But when found in its early stages, treatment is most effective. Ovarian cancer often causes signs and symptoms, so it is important to pay attention to your body and know what is normal for you. Symptoms may be caused by something other than cancer, but the only way to know is to see your doctor, nurse, or other health care professional.

Learn more about ovarian cancer and its signs and symptoms by reading the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-produced [Basic Information about Ovarian Cancer](#) or downloading its *Inside Knowledge* campaign's ovarian cancer fact sheet. [\[PDF-859KB\]](#)

[Back to the top](#)

Got Your Flu Shot?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends an annual flu vaccination for everyone 6 months of age and older. Getting a [flu vaccine](#) is the first and most important step in protecting against this serious disease.

An annual flu shot is safe, effective, and the best way to help protect against flu. Getting the flu shot protects you and also helps prevent the spread of the flu to others you care about, including family members and friends who may not have gotten their flu shot.

For older adults, especially people aged 65 and older, an annual flu shot is critical and might even be life-saving.

Visit the CDC [2012-2013 Season: What You Should Know](#) for flu and flu vaccine information specific to the 2012-13 flu season.

[Back to the top](#)

Ten Years of NAMIWalks

Sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMIWalks celebrates its 10th Anniversary this fall. NAMIWalks is the largest and most successful mental illness awareness event in America. Through NAMIWalks' public, active display of support for people affected by mental illness, American communities are changing and ensuring that help and hope are available for those in need.

To register for a walk in your community or to learn more about planning a walk in fall 2013, go to the NAMIWalks website at <http://namiwalks.org/>

[Back to the top](#)

Elder Services Director Marks 25 Years with Wyandotte Nation

Brenda House has worked for Wyandotte Nation since July of 1987. She was originally hired as a cook. Today, Ms. House is the Elder Services Director.

Even though Ms. House is not a tribal member and doesn't even have an Indian card, she has been taken under the wing of the Wyandotte Nation and considered part of the family. She has received multiple awards for her continued support as an Elder Services Director. She is a proud member of the Oklahoma Indian Council, Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging and NICOA (National Indian Council on Aging) just to mention a few. She has also been recognized as Title VI director of the year.

To read testimonies about Brenda from members of the Wyandotte Nation, go to <http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/tribal-news/brenda-house-2012-honored-person/>

[Back to the top](#)

Recent Reports

AHRQ Health Care Innovations Exchange: Workforce Development and the Role of Community Health Workers

<http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov/>

Source: HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Date: September 12, 2012

Across the States 2012: Profiles of Long Term Services and Supports

<http://www.aarp.org/home-garden/livable-communities/info-09-2012/across-the-states-2012-profiles-of-long-term-services-supports-AARP-ppi-ltc.html>

Source: AARP Public Policy Institute

Date: September 2012

Meeting the Needs of Diverse Family Caregivers

<http://www.aarp.org/home-family/caregiving/info-09-2012/meeting-the-needs-of-diverse-family-caregivers-insight-AARP-ppi-ltc.html>

Source: AARP Public Policy Institute

Date: September 2012

[Back to the top](#)

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