



Newsletter

**Tuesday, February 19, 2013**

**2013 Older Americans Month Theme: *Unleash the Power of Age***

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**ACL Launches New Website – [www.ACL.gov](http://www.ACL.gov)**

Today the Administration for Community Living (ACL) launched its new website, [www.ACL.gov](http://www.ACL.gov). ACL created on April 16, 2012 brought together three agencies within the federal Department of Health and Human Services: the Administration on Aging, the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and the Office on Disability. The new website offers resources about the programs, services and issues facing persons with disabilities, older adults, and family caregivers.

This easy to navigate site features:

- Current issues and stories in its Features section
- Easily assessable icons to learn about ACL programs and initiatives
- Blog posts about current trends and stories of interest
- News and information disseminated to the disability and aging communities

Please visit our [website](http://www.ACL.gov) and tell us what you think at [aclinfo@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:aclinfo@acl.hhs.gov).

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## **HUD and HHS Partner to Provide Permanent Housing and Services to Low-Income People with Disabilities**

*\$98 million in rental assistance will prevent homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization*

To prevent thousands of people with disabilities from experiencing homelessness or unnecessary institutionalization, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) last week announced nearly \$98 million in funding for 13 state housing agencies for rental assistance to extremely low-income persons with disabilities, many of whom are transitioning out of institutional settings or are at high risk of homelessness.

The announcement reinforces the guiding principles of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the landmark 1999 Supreme Court ruling in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, which require state and local governments to provide services in the most integrated settings appropriate to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. It also supports the Obama Administration's long term strategy to prevent and end homelessness.

The initiative is beginning in ten communities: Atlanta, Chicago, Fresno County, Los Angeles County, Houston, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Phoenix/Maricopa County, Seattle, and Tampa.

[Click here](#) to read more about the state agencies awarded rental subsidy through this funding.

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## **Winner of the Million Hearts Risk Check Challenge**

*Application helps users calculate risk for heart disease*

A free, easy-to-use mobile application that helps people prevent heart disease is now available through iTunes. The app, created by the [Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation](#) as part of a nationwide competition, was announced last Thursday by Farzad Mostashari, M.D., the national coordinator for health information technology, and Janet Wright, M.D., the executive director of the Million Hearts initiative. Launched in support of Million Hearts, the competition received submissions by more than 35 entrants.

The winning mobile application, *Heart Health Mobile*, provides information about a person's risk for heart disease based on answers to questions about height, weight, cholesterol levels, blood pressure, diabetes, and smoking status. In areas with participating pharmacies and other retail clinics, the app

steers users to convenient locations for cholesterol and blood-pressure screening. A feature that tracks users' histories allows people to easily see if they have made progress as they work to lose weight or lower cholesterol and blood pressure levels.

*Heart Health Mobile* offers both a traditional version of the app and one that incorporates a game. Users who play the game earn points for completed tasks and awards for tracking their heart health and reaching their targets.

The app works on Apple iOS tablets, iPhones, and iPod Touch devices and can be [downloaded](#) free of charge.

Read more about the [Million Hearts](#)<sup>™</sup> Initiative.

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### **ACL Webinar Series on the Affordable Care Act**

On Tuesday, February 26, 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 and managed long-term services and supports.

Title: *Managed Long-Term Services and Supports: Measuring Outcomes*

Description:

Outcomes measurement is critical to the implementation of state managed long-term services and supports systems to ensure that the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities are being met. This month we will examine core principles and criteria for selecting measures, possible data sources, and methods for building infrastructure capacity to monitor the quality of managed long-term services and supports.

Presenter:

Mary Lou Breslin, Senior Policy Advisor, Disability Rights, Education and Defense Fund

Eric Carlson, Directing Attorney, National Senior Citizens Law Center

H. Stephen Kaye, Director, Center for Personal Assistance Services, University of California San Francisco

Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2013

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

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To register for the online event  
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1. [Click here](#).
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.

Notes:

- Space is limited, so please register as early as possible.
- This webinar will also be recorded and posted on the ACL [Affordable Care Act: Opportunities for the Aging Network webpage](#) soon after the webinar.

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### **Webinar on *Promoting Connectedness to Prevent Suicide***

Evaluations of interventions directed toward preventing suicidal behavior have shown that promoting connectedness is a promising suicide prevention strategy. Connectedness to others, including family members, teachers, coworkers, community organizations, and social institutions, is an important protective factor. Positive relationships can help increase a person's sense of belonging, foster a sense of personal worth, and provide access to sources of support.

During this webinar, participants will learn why and how the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention made connectedness promotion a central focus of its suicide prevention efforts. Presenters will describe programs that have promoted connectedness within specific populations including: older adults, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and African American youth.

Date: Thursday, February 28, 2013  
Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST

[Reserve](#) your seat now for this free webinar.

Event Contact: Dominique Lieu, Training Specialist, [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#) ([dlieu@edc.org](mailto:dlieu@edc.org))

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## **List of States Participating in the Health Insurance Marketplace Continues to Grow**

Illinois is the most recent state to receive conditional approval to operate a State Partnership Marketplace (Exchange), which will be ready for open enrollment in October 2013. This partnership will allow Illinois to make key decisions and tailor the marketplace to local needs and market conditions. Illinois joins 19 other states and the District of Columbia that have been conditionally approved to partially or fully run a marketplace.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, consumers and small businesses will, beginning next January, have access to a new marketplace, where they can access quality, affordable private health plans. These comprehensive health plans will ensure consumers have the same kinds of insurance choices as members of Congress, and will not be able to be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition. Consumers in every state will be able to buy insurance from qualified health plans directly through these marketplaces and may be eligible for tax credits and cost sharing assistance to help pay for their health insurance and out of pocket costs.

[Click here](#) for more information on the new health insurance marketplace.

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## **Funding Opportunities**

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### **New Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnership Project Issues RFP**

The Community Transportation Association of America, with support from the U.S. Administration for Community Living and in collaboration with the Federal Transit Administration and national partners, has published an opportunity for grants of up to \$20,000 for up to 20 organizations for a six month period.

The goals of the project are to:

- Have the successful applicants document in detail their current work with older adults and people with disabilities of all ages, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, in the transportation services planning and implementation process
- Undertake and complete a six-month project to expand upon their current inclusive planning and implementation work to make it more person-centered

- Outline a plan for next steps in FY 2014 should additional funding become available for further expansion of person-centered transportation planning that meaningfully involves older adults and people with disabilities. Recipients will be expected to share their practices at the national level through the project's Knowledge Sharing Network.
- Qualified organizations, including non-profit or county or city governmental agencies, regional planning organizations, councils of government, and Tribal Nations/Tribal Organizations that are involved in the administration, delivery or coordination of transportation, aging and/or disability services are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is March 20, 2013.

[Full Request for Proposals](#)

Note: A teleconference for interested applicants will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 2 p.m. Eastern Time.

Call in number: 1-800-245-1683

Passcode: 267438.

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### **Three New Funding Opportunities from HRSA**

Below are three funding opportunities recently announced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Research Administration (HRSA).

*1. Culturally Appropriate Interventions of Outreach, Access and Retention among Latino/a Populations – Demonstration Sites*

This announcement solicits applications for a Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program multi-site initiative entitled *Culturally Appropriate Interventions of Outreach, Access and Retention among Latino(a) Populations – Demonstration Sites*. This initiative is expected to provide funding during Federal fiscal years 2013 to 2017 to support organizations that will design, implement and evaluate culturally appropriate service delivery models focused on improving health outcomes among Latinos/as living with HIV disease. The initiative will focus on:

- Latinos/as who are at high risk of HIV infection or are infected with HIV but are unaware of their HIV status;

- Latinos/as who are aware of their HIV infection but have never been engaged in care
- Latinos/as who are aware but have refused referral to care; or have dropped out of care.

Applicants must:

- Propose innovative interventions that identify Latinos/as at high risk or living with HIV, and improve their access, timely entry and retention in quality HIV primary care.
- Have the clinical capacity to implement and sustain their interventions, and propose evaluation plans for these interventions that will enhance knowledge of the disparities in health outcomes affecting Latino populations living in the United States.

The application deadline is Mar 18, 2013.

[Full RFP.](#)

## *2. Culturally Appropriate Interventions of Outreach, Access and Retention among Latino/a Populations – Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center*

This announcement solicits applications for a Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program *Culturally Appropriate Interventions of Outreach, Access and Retention among Latino/a Populations – Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center*, for a new Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program multi-site initiative. Under this funding opportunity announcement (FOA), a cooperative agreement will be issued to support one organization for up to five years to evaluate and provide technical assistance for up to eight demonstration projects funded under a separate FOA, *Culturally Appropriate Interventions of Outreach, Access and Retention among Latino(a) Populations – Demonstration Sites*—noted above. Organizations that apply under this FOA are not eligible to also apply under the *Demonstration Sites* FOA. The successful applicant will demonstrate expertise in engagement and retention in HIV primary care.

The ETAC will:

- Provide technical assistance to the demonstration projects over the course of the initiative.
- Conduct a rigorous multi-site evaluation of the implementation and outcomes of all interventions and the multi-site cohort as a whole.
- Lead and coordinate the efforts for publication and dissemination of findings and lessons learned from the initiative.

The application deadline is Mar 18, 2013.

[Full RFP.](#)

### 3. *AETC Education for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants*

This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) solicits applications for the *AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETC) Education for Nurse Practitioners (NP) and Physician Assistants (PA)* program. The intention of this funding opportunity is to establish nurse practitioner and physician assistant HIV/AIDS primary care education programs designed to train nurse practitioners and physician assistants in HIV/AIDS care and treatment.

The funds will support developmental work toward expanding existing accredited primary care nurse practitioner and physician assistant programs to include HIV courses in the curriculum.

The application deadline is Mar 22, 2013.

[Full RFP.](#)

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**Stay Informed**

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#### **Next Innovation Exchange Twitter Chat**

*Chat on Change: Supporting At-Risk LGBT and Homeless Youth* will be the topic of the next session of the Health Care Innovations Exchange on Twitter. The chat will be held on Wednesday, February 27, at 3:00 pm EST. Lara Brooks from the Broadway Youth Center in Chicago will discuss how to enhance access to medical and social services for LGBT homeless youth.

[Health Care Innovations Exchange](#) is a program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. It was established to help speed the implementation of new and better ways of delivering health care.

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### **Webinars in February Sponsored by the HHS Partnership Center**

The Department of Health and Human Services Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (HHS Partnership Center) 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. We also encourage you to submit questions you would like to have answered on the webinars to [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov).

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

Please contact us at [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov) if you have problems registering or if you have any questions about the health care law.

[Tour of HealthCare.gov](#): February 21 at 12:30 pm ET

An online tour of [HealthCare.gov](#) that will help you and those in your congregation and community access health care, provide information on the Health Insurance Marketplace (Exchanges and Medicaid Expansion) and understand the main provisions of the health care law.

[The Health Care Law 101 \(in Spanish\)](#): February 26 at 3:00 p.m. ET

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

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### **NLRC Webinar Explores *What's in Store for Older Adults (50-64) Under Health Care Reform***

2014 marks a new era for health insurance in the United States. The establishment of health insurance exchanges, or marketplaces, and the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in many states will enable millions of people to access affordable insurance. Prior to health reform, older adults, between 50

and 64, faced significant challenges accessing insurance, including limited coverage in Medicaid, unaffordable premiums on the private insurance market, and policies on pre-existing conditions that render many effectively "uninsurable."

This webinar will focus on how key provisions of the Affordable Care Act can help older adults access the insurance and benefits they need, such as:

- Expanded Medicaid eligibility to 138% Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) for adults under 65
- Access to federal subsidies to help pay for insurance premiums for individuals and families up to 400% FPL
- Required Essential Health Benefits, including no cost sharing preventive screening and annual wellness visits
- Limitations on how much extra a plan can charge for premiums based on the beneficiary's age
- Guaranteed issue insurance that forbids health plans from denying coverage or charging extra for pre-existing conditions
- Delivery system innovations, including initiatives to coordinate care like the health homes

Presenters:

David Machledt, Ph.D., Policy Analyst, NHeLP  
Leonardo Cuello, J.D., Director of Health Reform, NHeLP

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013  
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. EDT

[Reserve](#) your Webinar seat now.

Hosted by the National Health Law Program ([NHeLP](#)), additional sponsorship for this webinar is provided by a grant from the Administration on Aging/Administration for Community Living. This webinar is part of a series of National Elder Rights Training Project webinars for the National Legal Resource Center.

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### **Webinar Reminders**

1. *NEA Interagency Task Force Hosts Public Webinar about Research on the Arts and Aging*

As the U.S. population ages, it faces more age-related diseases. How can the arts serve to treat, prevent, or improve these conditions?

In the next public National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Interagency Task Force webinar, representatives from the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the University of California will discuss current investigations on the arts and aging, including new resources for researchers and arts practitioners.

Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2013  
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., EST

This webinar is free but [registration](#) is required.

During the webinar, NEA will debut a new publication on arts and aging research based on a convening at the National Academy of Sciences last fall.

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2. *Webinar on Federal Deficit Debates: What's at Stake for Senior Services and Benefits*

Debates about reducing the federal budget deficit have dominated Congress' agenda in recent years. In an effort to curtail spending, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the Older Americans Act are all being targeted for cuts. These are benefits and services that seniors—particularly the most vulnerable—rely on to make ends meet, pay for health care, and remain independent in their own homes and communities.

In this webinar, sponsored by the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and IlluminAge, you will learn about what deficit reduction proposals have already been enacted, what else could happen to senior programs this year, and what can be done to influence the outcomes of these upcoming budget battles.

Speakers:

Howard Bedlin, NCOA Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy  
Marci Phillips, NCOA Director of Public Policy and Advocacy

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2013  
Time: 1:30 p.m. - 02:30 p.m. ET

[Register.](#)

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## Tools & Information

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### **New *Because* DOL PSA**

To help millions of people recognize what they can do to make a difference in the lives — and future careers — of young people with disabilities, the U.S. Department of Labor's [Campaign for Disability Employment](#) has released a new video Public Service Announcement (PSA) titled *Because*. The PSA features real people with disabilities — not actors — who are pursuing and realizing their goals and passions as a result of the support they received from everyday people in their lives. Because nearly 1 out of 5 Americans has a disability, the PSA is intended to replace myths and misperceptions about disability employment with new views of what people with disabilities can do.

[Download](#) the PSA and posters or learn more about the Campaign for Disability Employment.

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### **New DoD Training Video**

[New Online Training Video on Increasing Federal Employment of People with Disabilities](#) from the U.S. Department of Defense [Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program](#) (CAP) provides information for federal government hiring managers on recruiting, hiring and retaining people with disabilities.

The training provides information about accommodations and assistive technologies that can help people with a broad range of disabilities perform the essential functions of their jobs.

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### **2013 Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2013 Rachel Carson Contest. Now in its the 7th year, the contest artistic expressions that best communicate the Sense of Wonder that you feel for the sea, the night sky, forests, birds, wildlife, and all that is beautiful to your eyes. For 2013, music has been added to the list of creative formats to be considered, which includes poetry, essay, photography and dance.

Entries need to be by a team of at least two people from different generations. Teams can be of people who are related or not related to one another. The deadline for entries is Monday, June 10, 2013.

Beginning this year, the Legacy Project has joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Generations United, The Dance Exchange, the National Center for Creative Aging, and the Rachel Carson Council, Inc. as sponsors of the contest.

[Click here](#) for more information and to download an application.

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## **New Survey from Wireless RERC**

[2012 Survey on Emergency Communications & People with Disabilities](#) is a new survey launched by the Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center ([RERC](#)). The focus is on emergency communications to help improve accessibility of emergency response. You will be asked to share some information about yourself, your experience and your preferences for communicating during emergencies. You can take the survey [online](#), by telephone or on paper by calling 1-404-367-1348.

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## **Recent Reports**

[\*Leveling the Playing Field: Attracting, Engaging, and Advancing People with Disabilities\*](#)

Source: The Conference Board, Inc.

Date: February 2013

Note: The Report and Executive Summary are free to the public, but nonmembers must log into an existing account or create a new account to access the publications.

[\*2011 National and State Healthcare-associated Infections Standardized Infection Ratio Report\*](#)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Date: February 2013

[\*Understanding the Global Public Health Implications of Substandard, Falsified, and Counterfeit Medical Products; Board on Global Health; Institute of Medicine\*](#)

Source: Institute of Medicine of the National Academies

Date: February 2013

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## **February Observances**

*African-American History Month*

Resource: [Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#)

[Presidential Proclamation: National African American History Month, 2013](#)

*American Heart Month*

Resource: [The Heart Truth Campaign](#) and [Million Hearts Initiative](#)

[Presidential Proclamation: American Heart Month, 2013](#)

*Children's Dental Health Month*

Resource: [American Dental Association](#)

*Low Vision Awareness Month*

Resource: [American Optometric Association](#)

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