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### **Administrator Kathy Greenlee's Blog on National Family Caregivers Month**

Each November, we pause as a grateful nation and give thanks. Among the many blessings for which we are most thankful, are the more than 65 million family caregivers who provide assistance to friends and loved ones, making it possible for them to remain at home and in the community. At no other time in our history has the number of caregivers been greater. And as the baby-boom generation continues to age, this trend will continue to make understanding and supporting the needs of family caregivers even more important. [Read more.](#)

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### **National Council on Disability Releases Annual Report on Disability Policy**

Last week, the National Council on Disability released its annual report on federal disability policy. “[Strength in Our Differences](#)” looks at the nation’s progress in making sure that Americans with disabilities have equal opportunities and independent living options. [Read more.](#)

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## **November 14: Webinar on the National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging's Performance Outcome Measurement Project**

This webinar series covers the Performance Outcome Measurement Project, or [POMP](#) (an initiative of the ACL-funded [National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging](#)). Session Two, *How to Use Your Data Successfully*, will be held on November 14, 2013, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET. The webinar will provide specific examples about how states, area agencies on aging, and local service providers have used their own data to improve programming, secure funding, and expand service. There will be an interactive exercise on data collection efforts, as well as time for Q & A. [Please register here](#).

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## **November 21: ACL Webinar on Support for Demonstration Ombudsman Programs Serving Dually Eligible Medicare-Medicaid Beneficiaries**

Hosted by ACL's Center for Disability and Aging Policy, this webinar will focus on the funding opportunity announcement for the Demonstration Ombudsman Programs (which serve dually eligible beneficiaries of the Financial Alignment Model). The webinar will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2013 at 1:00 ET and will provide a program overview, eligibility requirements, proposal evaluation criteria, and examples of successfully funded program models. [Register here](#) for the webinar.

As a reminder, the deadline for this [funding opportunity](#) is January 14, 2014, 5:00 pm. ET.

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## **News from HHS**

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### **HHS Announces Health Center New Access Points**

Last week, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced \$150 million in awards under the Affordable Care Act to support [236 new health center sites](#) across the country. These investments will help care for approximately 1.25 million additional patients. [Click here](#) for the list of Health Center New Access Point grants.

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## **Medicare Open Enrollment**

When it comes to choosing a health plan: convenience matters. In addition to cost, coverage, and benefits, [here are some other things](#) beneficiaries may want to consider as they compare Medicare options this year.

Also useful is the [Medicare Plan Finder](#), which includes available health and drug plan options by state.

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### **National Epilepsy Awareness Month: Statement by Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health**

Epilepsy, which affects roughly 2.3 million Americans, is a common, yet poorly understood, neurological disorder. Epilepsy can have a devastating effect on individuals as well as their families. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is committed to boosting public awareness and improving the lives of those with epilepsy, as well as their loved ones. [Read more.](#)

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### **Webinars**

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#### **Disaster Information Specialists' Monthly Webinar Meeting**

***Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. ET: Resources to Assist Individuals with Access and Functional Needs During Preparedness, Response, and Recovery***

Sponsored by the HHS Office of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, this discussion will address specific resources and how they can be used to assist those with access and functional needs during emergencies. The Disaster Information Specialist monthly webinar meeting is open to all. [Click here](#) for more information.

To join the meeting:

[On Thursday, November 14, click here](#) at 1:30 p.m. ET  
Enter your name in the guest box and click "Enter Room".  
A box should pop up that ask for your phone number.  
Enter your phone number and the system will call you.

For those who cannot use this call-back feature, the dial-in information is:  
Dial-In Number: 1-888-757-2790  
Passcode: 745907

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**National Council on Aging Webinar: Partnerships with Accountable Care Organizations and Health Systems**

***Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. ET: Building Bridges: A Business Approach to Partnerships with Accountable Care Organizations***

This webinar will examine the strategy used by the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) to successfully build a bridge between the agency, the Detroit Medical Center, and their Pioneer Accountable Care. This approach allowed the DAAA to provide care coordination and transition services. Discussions will explore the importance of relationship building, understanding issues related to quality metrics, and identifying “value-added” delivery models.

[Register here.](#)

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**Work Incentive Webinar Series for Social Security Disability Beneficiaries**

***Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. ET: Ticket to Work: Social Security Disability Benefits Counseling, Protection, and Advocacy***

Work Incentive webinars are online events held for Social Security disability beneficiaries to learn about the Ticket to Work Program and available Work Incentives. [Register here to participate.](#)

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**Strengthening Inclusive, Coordinated Transportation Partnerships to Promote Community Living Webinar Series**

***Friday, November 22, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. ET: What's Research Got to do with It? Applying Evidence-based Practices to Improve the Participation of People with Disabilities and Older Adults in Coordinated Planning***

Sponsored by [ACL's Strengthening Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnerships to Promote Community Living Project](#), this webinar will address how to identify and use evidence-based practices to engage people with disabilities and older adults in coordinated transportation planning.

[Click here](#) for more information on this webinar and to register.

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**Tools & Information**

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## **New Department of Transportation Rules Make Flying Easier for Passengers with Disabilities**

Last week, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation, in its ongoing effort to ensure equal access to air transportation for all travelers, now requires airline websites and automated airport kiosks to be accessible to passengers with disabilities. Under this rule, covered airlines are required (within two years) to make web pages (that contain core information and services) accessible to people with disabilities, and to make all of their web pages accessible within three years. [Read more.](#)

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## **For Public Comment: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendations to Screen for Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults**

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force posted a [draft recommendation statement](#) on screening for cognitive impairment in older adults. The Task Force seeks outside input to ensure that their final recommendations are valid, reliable, and useful to clinicians, patients, and family members. The deadline to [submit comments](#) is December 2, 2013.

The [final evidence report](#) on screening for cognitive impairment in older adults is also available on the Task Force website.

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## **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office for Older Americans Releases New Tools for Caregivers**

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office for Older Americans recently released four, easy-to-understand booklets to help caregivers. The [Managing Someone Else's Money guides](#) are designed to assist court-appointed guardians, trustees, and government benefit fiduciaries (Social Security representative payees and Veteran Affairs fiduciaries).

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## **November Observances**

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National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month  
[Presidential Proclamation](#)

Resource: [ACL Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program](#)

National Diabetes Month

[Presidential Proclamation](#)

Resource: [HHS National Diabetes Education Program](#)

National Epilepsy Awareness Month

[Statement by Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health](#)

National Family Caregivers Month

Theme: Family Caregivers – Now More Than Ever!

[Presidential Proclamation](#)

[Blog by ACL Administrator Greenlee](#)

Resource: [ACL National Family Caregiver Support Program](#)

Native American Heritage Month

[Presidential Proclamation](#)

[Statement by HHS Secretary Sebelius](#)

Resource: [ACL Services for Native Americans](#)

*Week*

18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>: Get Smart About Antibiotics Week

*Day*

14<sup>th</sup>: World Diabetes Day

17<sup>th</sup>: Great American Smokeout

28<sup>th</sup>: Family Health History Day – Resource: [CDC Information Sheet](#)

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