



# Newsletter

**Monday, October 28, 2013**

[ASA Kathy Greenlee Discusses Elder Abuse in Interview with AARP](#)

[ACL Blog on Disability Employment Awareness Month](#)

[Medicare Open Enrollment: October 15 – December 7, 2013](#)

[Federal Interagency Group Report Offers Guidance on Privacy Laws and Reporting Financial Abuse of Older Adults](#)

[U.S. Labor Department Publishes Final Rule to Improve Employment of People with Disabilities](#)

## **Affordable Care Act/Health Insurance Marketplace**

[Healthcare.gov: We're Listening — And Improving Every Day](#)

[Affordable Care Act: Frequently Asked Marketplace Questions](#)

## **News from HHS**

[New Resource for American Indians and Alaska Natives](#)

[HHS Challenge to Empower People Who Rely on Durable Medical Equipment during Emergency Power Outages](#)

[2012 HHS National HIV/AIDS Strategy Progress Report](#)

## **Webinars and Conference Calls**

[Ageing Network Volunteer Collaborative Webinar Series](#)

[Transportation for Seniors Webinar Series](#)

[National Information & Referral Support Center Technical Assistance Conference Call](#)

[CMS Disability-Competent Care Webinar Series](#)

[Keeping Pace with the Affordable Care Act: What You and Your Clients Need to Know Webinar](#)

#### **Tools & Information**

[New Publications on Elder Abuse from the Institute of Medicine's Forum on Global Violence Prevention](#)

[New Resource to Help Older Survivors of Abuse in Rural Areas](#)

[Storytelling Contest for LGBT Older Adults](#)

[Public Health Tribal Support Fellowship](#)

[New Oral Health Resource, Toothwisdom.org](#)

[National Family Caregivers Month 2013](#)

[November 16th is National I&R Services Day](#)

[October Observances](#)

---

[Share this on Facebook](#)

[Tweet this to a friend](#)

---

#### **ASA Kathy Greenlee Discusses Elder Abuse in Interview with AARP**

“We all need to talk about it. It can’t be hidden. We need to raise awareness. I talk about it every chance I get,” says Administration for Community Living Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging (ASA) Kathy Greenlee on the growing problem of elder abuse. Greenlee shared her thoughts on the topic in a recent discussion with Wendy Fox-Grage, Senior Strategic Policy Advisor, AARP Public Policy Institute.

Noting that elder abuse is only going to intensify as the population ages and the number of older persons increases, Greenlee outlined steps needed in order to reduce the negative impacts of elder abuse, beginning with congressional funding for the [Elder Justice Act](#). [Read the whole interview](#) here.

[Back to the top](#)

### **ACL Blog on Disability Employment Awareness Month**

*By Sharon Lewis, Acting Principal Deputy Administrator, Administration for Community Living and Commissioner, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*

The recognition of this, the 68th National Disability Employment Awareness Month, is especially important this year, as it has been in certain years over the past seven decades.

In 1973, we were able to take special note of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and what that meant to increasing the employment of, and protections for, federal employees with disabilities and those working for entities in receipt of federal funding. In 1990, we were able to celebrate the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the protections that law provided for all qualified workers with disabilities. And in 2013, history is being made again as people with disabilities will no longer have to choose between employment and health care, because of the Affordable Care Act. [Read more](#).

[Back to the top](#)

### **Medicare Open Enrollment: October 15 – December 7, 2013**

- Medicare Open Enrollment started on October 15 and will continue through December 7, 2013. Make sure beneficiaries understand [how other types of health or prescription drug coverage works with Medicare](#).
- No matter what plan is selected, there are better choices and more benefits thanks to the [Affordable Care Act](#), such as:
  - A discount of more than [50% on covered brand-name drugs](#) if one hits the Part D prescription drug coverage gap (“donut hole”)
  - A free [yearly “wellness” visit](#), so one can sit down with his/her doctor and talk about health concerns and the best ways to stay healthy
  - A host of [preventive tests and screenings](#) — including cancer screenings — most at no cost.
- What’s the cost?
  - The lowest-cost health plan option might not be the best choice – consider things like the cost of premiums and deductibles, how much

one must pay for hospital stays and doctor visits, and whether it is important to have expenses balanced throughout the year.

- How about convenience?
  - Time is valuable. Where are the doctors' offices? What are their hours? Which pharmacies are available? Can one get prescriptions by mail? Do the doctors use [electronic health records](#) or [prescribe electronically](#)?

[Click here](#) to get education and promotional materials from the Medicare Open Enrollment Center.

[Back to the top](#)

### **Federal Interagency Group Report Gives Guidance on Privacy Laws and Reporting Financial Abuse of Older Adults**

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and other federal financial regulators recently released guidance on privacy law and reporting financial abuse of older adults. The [report](#) clarifies the applicability of privacy provisions of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to report suspected financial exploitation of older adults.

[Back to the top](#)

### **U.S. Labor Department Publishes Final Rule to Improve Employment of People with Disabilities**

The U.S. Department of Labor recently published a new final rule that improves hiring and employment of people with disabilities. The rule will make sure that qualified disabled workers have more meaningful opportunities to find, secure, and keep good jobs. [Click here](#) to read the posting in the Federal Register.

[Back to the top](#)

### **Affordable Care Act/Health Insurance Marketplace**

---

#### **Healthcare.gov: We're Listening — And Improving Every Day**

Yes, using HealthCare.gov has been frustrating for many Americans. Yes, Healthcare.gov is committed to doing better.

In response to the feedback from customer service representatives, social media channels, and through hundreds of thousands of online surveys and

comments, Healthcare.gov has been [making changes](#) to improve the website to ensure that it lives up to the expectations of the American people. And, it will continue to do so.

A few important changes so far. One can:

- [Preview plans and prices](#) available in one's area without filling out the online application.
- Find out, with an [improved calculator](#), whether one's income and household size qualify an individual or family for lower costs on monthly premiums and out-of-pocket costs.
- [Individuals can apply for coverage four \(4\) ways](#): By phone, online, by mail with a paper application, or with the help of an in-person assister.

More people are applying and getting covered every day. [Click here](#) to read some of the inspiring stories that remind us of how far we have come from the days when Americans without health insurance were locked out of the market. You can also share your story using #GetCovered on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Pinterest](#).

[Back to the top](#)

### **Affordable Care Act: Frequently Asked Marketplace Questions**

The Kaiser Family Foundation recently partnered with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and the Georgetown University Center on Health Insurance Reforms to answer several frequently asked questions about the Affordable Care Act. [Click here](#) for the full list.

[Back to the top](#)

### **News from HHS**

---

#### **New Resource for American Indians and Alaska Natives**

The new website, [American Indian/Alaskan Native Roadmap to Long Term Services and Supports](#), offers a step-by-step planning process for addressing Long Term Services and Supports needs in tribal communities. Each step helps planners and health professionals think broadly and strategically about participant needs, resources for services, and opportunities for collaboration. This tool was developed by CMS, ACL, and the Indian Health Service, all part of HHS.

[Back to the top](#)

## **HHS Challenge to Empower People Who Rely on Durable Medical Equipment during Emergency Power Outages**

**Deadline: Thursday, October 31, 2013:** This nationwide challenge seeks ideas on a system that can accomplish two goals in emergencies:

- 1) Determine the location and status of life-sustaining durable medical equipment, such as oxygen concentrators and portable ventilators
- 2) Provide strategies to get help to the equipment users in a timely manner

[Click here](#) for more details.

[Back to the top](#)

## **2012 HHS National HIV/AIDS Strategy Progress Report**

The HHS Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy recently released the [2012 HHS National HIV/AIDS Strategy Progress Report](#). This second annual progress report highlights HHS actions that have helped advance the Strategy's goals.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Webinars and Conference Calls**

---

### **Aging Network Volunteer Collaborative Webinar Series**

***Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. ET: "Got an Hour? Give it Back" Campaign***

This is the second session of a two-part series sponsored by the Aging Network Volunteer Collaborative. The "Got an Hour? Give it Back" Campaign was created to encourage community members to volunteer within the aging network. This webinar will offer strategies to help build an organization's volunteer base and to strengthen the involvement of current volunteers.

[Register](#) here.

[Back to the top](#)

### **Transportation for Seniors Webinar Series**

The National Center on Senior Transportation is offering a [series of webinars](#) that will provide participants with ideas and practical suggestions on how to secure local match dollars for federal grants. The series will offer expert presenters, resources, and brief practical homework assignments designed to

impact participants' agencies directly. Participants will develop a working document that can be used as a planning tool for future local match funding solutions. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to discuss solutions with fellow participants through an online course forum.

The remaining webinar dates are: October 30, November 13, & November 25, and each session will take place at 2:00 p.m. ET. [Click here](#) for more information. [Register](#) here.

[Back to the top](#)

### **National Information & Referral Support Center Technical Assistance Conference Call**

***Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. ET: Veteran Mental Health Needs: Facts, Services, and Resources***

Sponsored by the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, this call will address access to mental health services and supports for both older and younger veterans. It is aimed at Information & Referral professionals who come into contact with older adults, veterans of any age, and their caregivers. The PowerPoint presentation will be available prior to the call on the [Support Center's website](#).

Call-in Information: Phone Number: 888-346-3659; Passcode: 382574

[Back to the top](#)

### **CMS Disability-Competent Care Webinar Series**

The Disability-Competent Care Model is a resource for providers, health plans, and healthcare organizations to enhance capacity to integrate care for adults with disabilities. This webinar series is sponsored by the CMS Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office; details on each webinar are below. Please [register](#) here.

***Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. ET: Disability-Competent Care Planning: The Individualized Plan of Care***

Topics that will be covered:

- Interdisciplinary care team and the care planning process
- Applying the care planning process to adults with disabilities
- Aligning care coordination resources with the unique needs of each participant

***Tuesday, November 5, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. ET: Managing Transitions***

Topics that will be covered:

- Defining transitions
- Understanding the importance of managing these transitions
- Presenting the Transitional Care Model
- Understanding the need for managing non-medical transitions, including emotional, familial, social, vocational, financial, and housing
- Exploring special considerations for managing transitions of adults with disabilities

***Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. ET: Flexible Long Term Services and Supports***

Topics that will be covered:

- Understanding the existing disconnect between medical care and long-term services and supports
- Integrating and coordinating all health care services and supports
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of the disability-competent interdisciplinary care team
- Understanding and supporting participant choices for community-based living
- Promising practices in Long Term Supports and Services/Durable Medical Equipment allocation
- Supporting employment and promoting community participation

[Back to the top](#)

**Keeping Pace with the Affordable Care Act: What You and Your Clients Need to Know Webinar**

***Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. ET:*** Sponsored by the National Council on Aging and IlluminAge, this webinar will examine key provisions of the Affordable Care Act as it relates to older adults and younger adults with disabilities.

This webinar will cover:

- How the Affordable Care Act affects people with Medicare & Medicaid, as well as those without insurance
- The latest information on the law's Medicaid expansion and the Health Insurance Marketplace
- What the law means for you and the older adults you serve, including assistance available in your state

[Register](#) here.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Tools & Information**

---

### **New Publications on Elder Abuse from the Institute of Medicine's Forum on Global Violence Prevention**

The Institute of Medicine recently released two publications on elder abuse. Each publication summarizes a workshop from the Forum on Global Violence Prevention.

[\*Elder Abuse and Its Prevention\*](#): Convened in April 2013, this workshop explored the burden of elder abuse around the world, focusing on its impacts on individuals, families, communities, and societies.

[\*The Evidence for Violence Prevention Across the Lifespan and Around the World\*](#): Held in January 2013, the workshop explored the value and application of the evidence for violence prevention across the lifespan and around the world.

[Back to the top](#)

### **New Resource to Help Older Survivors of Abuse in Rural Areas**

The newest publication from the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life is a resource booklet, [\*Rural Domestic and Sexual Abuse Program Advocates: Making a Difference in the Lives of Older Survivors of Abuse\*](#). This resource provides domestic and sexual abuse service providers in rural areas with a variety of tools, strategies, and resources to respond to the unique challenges of abuse in later life.

[Back to the top](#)

### **Storytelling Contest for LGBT Older Adults**

[Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders \(SAGE\)](#) is holding a storytelling contest to draw on the unique life experiences of LGBT elders and diversify the public narratives on aging, long-term care, and LGBT rights.

Visit [SAGE Story](#), an online story booth for digital submissions, to share one's story! The submission deadline is **November 6, 2013 5 p.m. ET**.

[Click here](#) for more information about this initiative.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Public Health Tribal Support Fellowship**

A research opportunity is available in the CDC's Tribal Support Unit. The chosen applicant will be involved with the Tribal Support Unit's research and program integration and evaluation projects. The application deadline is December 16, 2013. [Click here](#) for more information.

[Back to the top](#)

## **New Oral Health Resource, Toothwisdom.org**

Maintaining a healthy mouth is essential for overall health and well-being at every age. Oral Health America is proud to announce a new oral health resource, [toothwisdom.org](http://toothwisdom.org), to help older adults do exactly that.

[toothwisdom.org](http://toothwisdom.org) is a first-of-its-kind, user-friendly online tool that connects older adults and their caregivers to local resources. It offers reliable oral care information from dental experts across the country. [toothwisdom.org](http://toothwisdom.org) features:

- [An interactive map](#) that links to local care resources by state, including dental, caregiving, financial, transportation, and other resources that address barriers in accessing care
- [Articles](#) written by dental professionals from across the country
- [The latest news](#) in oral health and caregiving for older adults
- Oral Health America's State of Decay report, which provides a state-by-state analysis of the oral health of older adults

[Back to the top](#)

## **National Family Caregivers Month 2013**

November is National Family Caregivers Month. This year's theme is "Family Caregivers – Now More Than Ever!" The [media toolkit](#) is now available for download. The toolkit includes:

[National Family Caregivers Month background information](#)  
[2013 Posters: Download for free!](#)  
[Sample Proclamation](#)

[Back to the top](#)

## **November 16th is National Information & Referral Services Day**

The first "National Information and Referral (I&R) Services Day" was held on November 16, 2011. Since then, the celebration has continued to help highlight the importance of the I&R field. People in search of critical services, such as

financial assistance, food, shelter, child care, jobs, or mental health support, often do not know where to begin to get help, or they get overwhelmed trying to find what they need. I&R departments across the country make this information available to the public with one simple phone call, text message, or website search.

The Alliance of Information and Referral Systems has created a National I&R Day logo and compiled a press release for individual I&R organizations to use to help get the word out about I&R Day. Please help spread the word, and celebrate the great work of your state and local I&R departments.

[Click here](#) to access the National I&R Day logo and press release (each can be modified for your organization).

[Back to the top](#)

## **October Observances**

### ***Month:***

#### **AIDS Awareness Month**

[AIDS.gov](http://AIDS.gov)

#### **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

[Statement from HHS Secretary Sebelius](#)

[HHS National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Toolkit](#)

[National Breast Cancer Awareness Month website](#)

#### **Health Literacy Month**

Theme: Be a Health Literacy Hero

[Health Literacy Month website](#)

#### **LGBT History Month**

[LGBT History Month website](#)

#### **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

Theme: Because We Are EQUAL to the Task

[Presidential Proclamation](#)

[U.S. Department of Labor Disability Employment Awareness Month Toolkit](#)

[U.S. Department of Labor Disability Employment Awareness Month webpage](#)

#### **National Substance Abuse Prevention Month**

[Presidential Proclamation](#)

[White House National Substance Abuse Prevention Month Information Flyer](#)

[HHS Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration website](#)

**Day:**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act: October 31**

Stay tuned for an ACL blog about this important anniversary.

[Back to the top](#)

*ACL News and Info* is an electronic newsletter distributed by the ACL Office of External Affairs. Its contents are for informational purposes. [More information on ACL](#). You can also contact us at 202-619-0724 (phone); 202-357-3555 (fax) or by Email at [ACLinfo@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:ACLinfo@acl.hhs.gov)

Use of trade names and commercial sources is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by ACL. References to non-ACL sites on the Internet are provided as a service to *ACL News and Info* readers and do not constitute or imply endorsement of these organizations or their programs by ACL or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ACL is not responsible for the content of pages found at these sites. URL addresses listed in *ACL News and Info* were current as of the date of publication.