

September 30, 2011

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VOLUNTEERS MATTER: NASUAD EXCELLENCE IN VOLUNTEER SERVICES AWARD

On the National Day of Service and Remembrance, September 11, 2011, at the HCB+S Conference, NASUAD kicked off *Volunteers Matter: NASUAD Excellence in Volunteer Services Award*, a competition highlighting state run volunteer programs. This program will highlight successful programs that are leading the way in the creative use of volunteers in the Long Term Services and Supports network.

Winning programs will demonstrate innovations in one or more of the following:

- Promoting intergenerational interaction
- Incorporating Baby Boomers as volunteers
- Including Veterans as volunteers or recipients
- Creative strategies for recruitment and retention of volunteers of varying backgrounds, ages, and abilities

Three awards will be given at the 2012 HCBS Conference. Winners will receive:

- A cash prize, to be used to strengthen the winning volunteer program
- NASUAD press release highlighting the program (will also be online)
- Free admissions to 2012 HCBS Conference where they will highlight their programs' success with the other two winners in a joint session

Submissions will be accepted from October 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012. Winners will be notified in June to prepare for formal announcement at the 2012 HCBS Conference. More information and submission instructions can be found at www.nasuad.org/volunteers_matter.html.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Department of Health and Human Services**HHS Launches New Affordable Care Act Initiative to Strengthen Primary Care***September 28, 2011*

On Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched a new initiative made possible through the Affordable Care Act to help primary care practices deliver higher quality, more coordinated and patient-centered care. Under the new initiative, Medicare will work with commercial and state health insurance plans to offer additional support to primary care doctors who better coordinate care for their patients. This collaboration, known as the Comprehensive Primary Care initiative, is modeled after innovative practices developed by large employers and leading private health insurers.

The initiative will begin as a demonstration project available in five to seven health care markets across the country. Public and private health care payers interested in applying must submit a Letter of Intent by November 15, 2011.

More information on Comprehensive Primary Care is available [here](#).

New Affordable Care Act Initiative Helps Create Healthier Communities, Fight Chronic Disease*September 27, 2011*

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced grants to 61 states and communities with over 120 million residents to fight chronic disease, which is the leading cause of death in Americans. Created by the Affordable Care Act, Community Transformation Grants help states and communities tackle the root causes of chronic disease such as smoking, poor diet and lack of physical activity. Grantees will use these funds, which total more than \$103 million, to transform where their residents live, work, play, and go to school so that they can lead healthier, more productive lives.

All grantees will work to address the following priority areas: tobacco-free living, active living and healthy eating, and quality clinical and other preventive services. Grantees will have an additional focus on reducing health disparities since, in addition to lacking access to the health care they need, many lower-income Americans, racial and ethnic minorities, and other underserved populations often have higher rates of disease.

The grants, which are expected to run for five years, will focus on implementation or capacity building. In terms of implementation, 35 grantees will implement proven interventions to help improve health and wellness. For capacity building, 26 grantees will lay a solid foundation for sustainable community prevention efforts.

More information about the Community Transformation Grant program is available [here](#).

Affordable Insurance Exchange Comment Period Extended

September 27, 2011

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced an extension of the comment period for the July 15, 2011 [proposed rules on the Affordable Insurance Exchanges](#). This aligns the comment period with another set of [Exchange-related proposed rules](#) that were issued on August 17, 2011. Now, instead of some being due on September 28, 2011, [all comments on the Exchange-related proposals are due on October 31, 2011](#).

This extension of the official comment period follows a robust outreach campaign to receive public input on these rules. HHS is encouraging stakeholders to submit comments and ideas via [Regulations.gov](#). More information is available [here](#).

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Support for States to Build Sustainable Partnerships for Housing

September 29, 2011

On Thursday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced \$1,980,000 in grants awarded to six states to develop sustainable partnerships with State Housing Agencies. These Real Choice System Change Grants will result in long-term strategies to provide permanent and affordable rental housing for people with disabilities who receive Medicaid services.

The grants, awarded to Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Oregon, Texas, and Wisconsin, support and align with legislative changes to the existing Project Rental Assistance (PRA) option. The PRA option, which covers the difference between the HUD-approved operating cost of the project and the amount the residents pay, helps create permanent supportive housing units for persons with disabilities.

These grants support President Obama's Year of Community Living initiative, a partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing for people with disabilities who receive long-term services and supports in the community funded by Medicaid.

Affordable Care Act Section 6103: Guidance for State Consumer-Oriented Websites

September 28, 2011

The CMS Center for Medicaid, CHIP, and Survey & Certification released an informational bulletin on Wednesday that offers guidance for state consumer-oriented websites, Section 6103(d)(2). This provision requires states to maintain a consumer-oriented website containing

information to consumers on all skilled nursing facilities and all nursing facilities in the state. The provision requires states to post Form 2567 state inspection reports (or a successor form), complaint investigation reports, the facility's plan of correction, and other information that the state or Secretary considers useful in assisting the public to assess the quality of long term care options and the quality of care provided by individual facilities.

The key elements of this website are that it must be inclusive, accessible, consumer friendly, searchable, and comprehensive. The website must also include plans of correction, links to Federal websites, links to state websites, information about alternative services, and privacy safeguards. States must provide the website's URL name to CMS so that the Nursing Home Compare website can include the appropriate links.

The cost for development and operation of the state website are allowable expenses for reimbursement through a combination of Medicaid, Medicare survey and certification, and State-only funds under standard cost-allocation procedures.

Any questions regarding these requirements, contact the appropriate survey & certification contact for your state in the CMS regional office.

The CMCS Informational Bulletin is available [here](#).

CMS Announces Release of Fiscal Year 2011 SHIP Performance Awards Funding

September 30, 2011

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today \$1.5 million in performance awards released to support State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) that have provided outstanding counseling services to Medicare beneficiaries through innovative outreach efforts.

The SHIP Performance Awards were awarded to eligible SHIPs from the 54 states and U.S. territories, following the Basic Grant Award funding that was released to SHIPs in April 2011. Performance Awards provide funding opportunities for SHIPs that reflect demonstrated achievement in providing services to Medicare beneficiaries. Eligibility for Performance Awards is determined by the Overall Performance Scores for the period July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011; the Overall Performance Scores is calculated based on weighted performance measures using data submitted by SHIPs to CMS' SHIP National Performance Reporting (NPR) system.

This additional funding will help to ensure that the community networks remain fully capable of accessing and using CMS' 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and regional office resources, as well as online tools at www.medicare.gov.

Administration on Aging

Administration on Aging Announces Grants to Enhance State's Alzheimer's Services

September 28, 2011

Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee announced on Wednesday that four states will use a total of \$12.8 million in grants to accelerate development of comprehensive, integrated systems that can serve as models for other states. These states, Ohio, New York, Georgia, and Minnesota, will demonstrate how to enhance state systems to provide consumers, including individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia, or their caregivers with simplified, streamlined access to needed services.

This funding will also allow states to support those eligible who need help at home, with energy assistance, and caregiver training. The grants will also strengthen access to all information on support services for consumers, regardless of the source of funding.

More information about Alzheimer supportive services is available [here](#).

Department of Labor

US Labor Department Awards more than \$21 Million in Disability Employment Initiative Funding to 7 States

September 27, 2011

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Labor (DoL) announced \$21,166,560 for seven states under the Disability Employment Initiative to improve education, training, and employment opportunities and outcomes for youth and adults who are unemployed, underemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. The initiative is jointly funded and administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration and its Office of Disability Employment Policy.

This round of funding is the second under the Disability Employment Initiative, which now supports 16 state projects. The new grants are part of cooperative agreements with California, Hawaii, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin to implement exemplary employment services for individuals with disabilities in the public workforce system. The states with continuing grants under the initiative are Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, New Jersey, New York and Virginia.

All projects under this initiative build upon the department's Disability Program Navigator Initiative by hiring staff with expertise in disability and workforce issues. The grants also support extensive collaboration across multiple workforce and disability service systems in each state, including vocational rehabilitation services, mental health and developmental

disability agencies, Medicaid Infrastructure Grant-supported activities, independent living centers, business leadership networks, and other community and nonprofit organizations.

More information on the Disability Employment Initiative, including the award recipients, is available [here](#).

FROM CONGRESS

Joint Economic Committee

Assessing the Impact of the Great Recession on Income and Poverty across States

September 26, 2011

On Monday, the U.S. Congress [Joint Economic Committee](#) (JEC), Chaired by Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), released a state-by-state report on the impact of the economic downturn on income and poverty. The report shows that while the recession hit Americans in all states, there are striking regional differences in the severity of the downturn.

Highlights include:

- The drop in income exceeded 10.0 percent in 6 states (Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, and Nevada).
- Real median household income dropped in 43 states since 2007
- The increases in people in poverty were concentrated in the West (increase of 2.4 million), the South (increase of 3.3 million) and the Midwest (increase of 1.6 million).
- The percent of children living in poverty increased in 42 states and the District of Columbia, with 5 states and the District of Columbia reporting an increase of more than 5 percentage points.
- The number of people living below the poverty threshold rose in every state and the District of Columbia. The only exception was Montana, which had no change.

The full report is available [here](#).

Congress Clears a Temporary Funding Measure for FY12

September 29, 2011

On Thursday, the House cleared a stopgap measure to keep the government running through October 4 (HR 2017), and the President is expected to sign the measure into law shortly, avoiding a lapse in federal funding when the new fiscal year begins on October 1. Next week, when Congress returns from the Rosh Hashanah recess, the House is expected to take up a Senate-passed bill (HR 2608) that would fund the government through November 18, in accordance with the levels set in the most recent debt limit legislation, the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA). The measure would provide \$2.65 billion in FY12 for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other disaster aid programs, and does not include any new disaster

spending for FY11. Currently, it is unclear if the CR will face opposition from House Republicans, as some GOP lawmakers continue to advocate for FY12 spending levels that are consistent with those set by the House-passed budget resolution (H Con Res 34), instead of the \$1.043 trillion level agreed to in the BCA (PL 112-25).

House Appropriations Committee Releases Draft FY12 Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Spending Bill

September 29, 2011

Yesterday, the House Appropriations Committee released the text of its draft FY12 spending bill for programs within the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, and other related agencies, including the Corporation for National and Community Service. The decision by the full Committee to release the draft text indicates that subcommittee and full committee markups are not likely to occur before FY12 begins on Saturday.

The measure provides \$1.5 billion to AoA in discretionary funds for FY12, which includes level funding for many OAA programs, including the nutrition programs. Though this total is \$4 billion below what AoA received in FY11, the proposal reflects the overall change in FY12 discretionary spending to \$1.043 trillion, which is the amount agreed to by the House, Senate, and White House in the most recent debt ceiling legislation, the Budget Control Act of 2011 (PL 112-25).

With Congress unable to clear all 12 spending bills to fund the federal government through FY12, these funding levels are expected to be set through omnibus spending packages later this fall. Thus, this draft legislation, as well as the Senate's FY12 Labor/HHS spending bill, is largely symbolic, offering lawmakers the opportunity to set their priorities for FY12 spending and potentially highlighting savings targets for consideration by the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction.

[Here](#), please find a draft chart comparing the discretionary spending proposed by the House's draft Labor/HHS FY12 bill to the Senate's comparable measure, as well as to the President's FY12 budget request, and the funding levels for FY11 that were finally set through a Continuing Resolution (CR).

The draft FY12 spending bill released by the House Appropriations Committee is available [here](#), and more detailed, program-level information is available [here](#).

FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Justice Department Asks Supreme Court to Review ACA

September 28, 2011

In August, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals issued its ruling in *Florida, et al v. United States Department of Health and Human Services*, finding the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) individual

mandate to be unconstitutional. This week, the Obama administration declined to ask the 11th Circuit for an en banc hearing, during which the full court would have reviewed the ruling that was issued by a three-judge panel. Instead, the Justice Department took its review request directly to the Supreme Court, whose next term begins on October 3.

The Supreme Court rarely turns down a request from the government to hear a case; and the high-profile nature of the challenges to the ACA, as well as the conflicting rulings on the issue that have emerged from the 11th, Sixth, and Fourth Circuits, add to the likelihood that the Court will rule on the constitutionality of the ACA during its 2011-2012 term, potentially handing down a ruling in the middle of the 2012 election year.

The certiorari petition filed by the United States asking the Supreme Court to reverse the 11th Circuit's decision and find the law constitutional is available [here](#).

FROM THE STATES

Governor Bentley Announces Retirement of Senior Services Commissioner

September 30, 2011

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley announced today that Department of Senior Services Commissioner Irene Collins will retire on October 30. Collins served as Commissioner for nine years. Prior to working for the State of Alabama, she served as the Executive Director at the Jefferson County Council on Aging for seven years. Collins served as the President of the NASUAD Board of Directors for two years.

Neal Morrison has been appointed to fill the vacancy created with Collins' retirement. Morrison currently serves as Executive Director of North Central Alabama Regional Council of Government in Decatur and has overseen all of the aging programs in Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan Counties.

FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

Conference Call: 10 No-Cost Ideas to Advance Your Culture Change Journey

In these tough economic times, we all need creative, no-cost ideas to advance or start our culture change journey. Quality of care and life for residents are just as important as ever, and this webinar will provide you with 10 specific tips and several real-life examples of ways to make life better in the nursing home.

The Consumer Voice is hosting a conference call next Tuesday, October 4, 2011, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. ET. The call will feature Sarah Wells, Executive Director, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care; Peter Reed, CEO, Pioneer Network; Robyn Grant, Director of

Advocacy and Outreach, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care; Mark Latham, Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, Pleasant View Center - Genesis Health Care, New Hampshire; Matthew Lysobey, MPH, Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, Arroyo Grande Care Center - Compass Health, California; and Julie Ballard, Director of Culture Change, Health Systems, Inc. and Former Long-Term Care Ombudsman

The call is open to advocates, ombudsmen, providers, SUAs, consumers, and others. Registration is found at <https://www.theconsumervoice.org/catalog/products-and-publications>.

American Association on Health and Disability

AAHD Scholarship Program

The American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) announced that applications are being accepted for the 2011-12 Scholarship Program. The AAHD Scholarship program supports students with disabilities who are pursuing higher education. Preference will be given to students who plan to pursue undergraduate/graduate studies in the field of public health, health promotion, or disability studies, to include disability policy and policy research. Royalties from the *Disability and Health Journal* partially fund the AAHD Scholarship Program.

More information and the application are available at www.aahd.us. Applications are due by November 15, 2011.

GRANTS

Grant Title: National Neighbors Silver program

Agency Issuing Grant: National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC)

Eligible Applicants: Community-based organizations dedicated to safeguarding the financial security of older adults

Close Date: 11/4/2011

Description: *National Neighbors Silver* brings community, public, and private sector partners together utilizing structured, neighborhood-focused outreach, education, and advocacy led by older adults. National Neighbors Silver funds organizing and education networks, facilitated by local organizers. NCRC will select five organizations for this funding cycle, which will last three years. Successful *National Neighbors Silver* (NNS) grantees will bring the goals of inclusion, opportunity, economic stability, and empowerment to their region's older adult population. NCRC will provide \$37,500 in year one, \$30,000 in year two, and in-kind support in year three. Applicants must contribute funds (a minimum of \$10,000 in year one and \$17,500 in year two). Preference will be given to applicants who include a letter of interest

for the respective matching funds. NCRC's in-kind support will include: technical assistance such as trainings in advocacy and organizing, qualitative research assistance, legislative assistance, policy briefings, and avenues for networking with grantees and national organizations that support older adult advocacy and programming.

[Click here for more information on this funding opportunity](#)

Questions about the proposal submission process and applications should be sent via email to: nns@ncrc.org



UPCOMING EVENTS FROM OUR PARTNERS

[National Association of State Head Injury Administrators State of the States in Head Injury Meeting, October 3-6, 2011, Kansas City, MO.](#)

[The Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care 36th Annual Conference and Meeting, October 25-28, 2011, Grand Rapids, Michigan.](#)

[National Association of Medicaid Directors Fall Conference, November 7-9, 2011, Washington, DC](#)

[Archived Friday Updates are available on NASUAD's website here.](#)