



NASUA News

The Newsletter of the National Association of State Units on Aging

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NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

\$250 Rebate This Year to Help with your Medicare Drug Costs

On June 10th, 2010, pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PL 111-148), Medicare began to mail checks to beneficiaries who have already reached the coverage gap in 2010. Following this initial distribution, checks will be mailed monthly throughout the year as beneficiaries qualify, and these beneficiaries should expect to receive their check within 45 days of entering the gap. The checks will be automatically mailed by a contractor of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the contractor's Wisconsin address, the HHS logo, and Medicare's 1-800 toll free number will be displayed on the envelope.

An individual's rebate check may be delayed if Medicare does not receive the necessary information from a beneficiary's Medicare drug plan showing that he or she has reached the coverage gap in time to include the check in the next mailing. Also, to avoid delay, beneficiaries should check to make sure that the Social Security Administration (SSA) has their correct home address. To verify your address with SSA, please call either 1-800-772-1213 or your local Social Security office; TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

Beneficiaries should be reminded that the rebate checks will be automatically processed and issued by Medicare, ONLY. There is no need for individuals to provide any personal information, such as Medicare, Social Security, or bank account numbers, to receive the rebate checks. NASUA encourages beneficiaries and advocates alike to help prevent fraud by ensuring that personal information is not revealed over the phone, in person, or electronically. If you witness or suspect fraudulent activity, please call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to report this information; TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Additionally, to assist NASUA and the aging network in tracking and reporting instances of fraud, please continue to alert NASUA of these activities. These scams are also being documented by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the reported attempts to defraud Medicare beneficiaries of which HHS is aware can be found by accessing the following link: <http://www.healthreform.gov/fraud.html>. •

Federal Agencies Launch Healthcare Fraud Prevention Campaign

On Tuesday, June 8, 2010, with the mailing of the first set of \$250 donut hole rebate checks days away, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Administration on Aging (AoA), and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched a national campaign to help provide older Americans with the information they need to protect themselves from potential Medicare fraud. The campaign will seek to educate the public through a variety of mediums, including radio, television and print advertising. These outreach efforts will also be available on [Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov). •

New Interagency Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team

To further combat Medicare fraud, HHS will partner with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Center for Program Integrity (CPI) at CMS to create a new interagency effort, the Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team (HEAT). These agencies will work together to build upon the targeted, local level fraud prevention efforts currently undertaken by the DOJ-HHS Medicare Fraud Strike Force teams, and will also work to prevent fraud, waste and abuse by investing in new resources and technology. •

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

\$60 Million in Affordable Care Act Grants from HHS

On June 3, 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the availability of \$60 million in “**Implementing the Affordable Care Act: Making it Easier for Individuals to Navigate their Health and Long-Term Care through Person-Centered Systems of Information, Counseling and Access,**” grants. According to the HHS announcement, this new program will seek to “create streamlined, coordinated statewide systems of information, counseling, and access that will help people find consumer-friendly answers they seek to meet their health and long-term care needs.” Funds will be available to states, area agencies on aging, State Health Insurance Assistance Programs, and Aging and Disability Resource Centers. **The deadline for applications is July 30, 2010.**

An open information teleconference for applicants of the funding opportunities under this announcement will be held:

- June 22, 2010 at 3:30 PM EST
- Call-in #: 1-888-469-1668
- Pass code: 4536588

The full announcement can be found at:
<http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/index.aspx> •

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Multipayer Advanced Primary Care Practice Demonstrations Awards from HHS

On June 3, 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) invited states to apply to participate in the Multi-payer Advanced Primary Care Practice Demonstration, an initiative in which Medicare will join Medicaid and private insurers in state-based efforts to improve the delivery of primary care and lower health care costs.

The demonstration is an opportunity to assess the effect of advanced primary care practice, when supported jointly by Medicare, Medicaid, and private health plans, on:

- safety, effectiveness, timeliness, and efficiency of health care;
- assuring access and appropriate utilization of services covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and private health plans, while lowering expenditures;
- ability of beneficiaries to participate effectively in decisions concerning their care; and,
- delivery of care consistent with evidence-based guidelines.

CMS anticipates making awards to up to six states and will perform an independent evaluation of the projects conducted under this demonstration. To be eligible, states will need to demonstrate that they can meet certain requirements, including having a state agency responsible for implementing the program, being ready to make payments to participating practices six months after being selected for participation, and having mechanisms in place to connect patients to community-based resources.

Additional information, including the solicitation for the demonstration can be found at:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/itedetail.asp?itemID=CMS1230016> •

ANNOUNCEMENTS**NASUA Welcomes Summer Intern**

Casey Cooper has joined NASUA as the summer administrative intern for the months of June, July and August. Currently, Casey is a senior at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, majoring in



Health Administration and Public Policy with a concentration in Public Health. Some of her responsibilities at NASUA include conference and meeting preparation, providing staff support, and contributing articles to NASUA's monthly newsletter. Casey says, "She is ever so grateful for the privilege and the opportunity to be a part of this organization," and she plans "to continue learning more and more about state units on aging!" •

NASUA Applauds Choice of Kurtz as new Director of the Administration on Aging Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs

Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee announced on May 19, 2010, that Becky Kurtz would be joining the Administration on Aging (AoA) staff as the new Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs. Kurtz has served as the Georgia State Long-Term Care Ombudsman since 1994. She is a member of the National Association of State Ombudsman Programs and served as their president from 2004 to 2006.

Commenting on Ms. Kurtz's qualifications, Assistant Secretary Greenlee said, "For many years I have considered her one of the most effective and committed state long-term care ombudsmen. I look forward to working with her on behalf of the 1.6 million older people who live in nursing homes and other residential care settings. She is an exceptional advocate."

Martha Roherty, Executive Director of NASUA, lauded the choice of Ms. Kurtz for the position, saying, "Becky has a strong advocacy background. She has been a leader in the long-term care ombudsman work for many years and has partnered with NASUA on many projects to improve consumer access to aging services. She has been a tremendous resource in the State of Georgia, and we look forward to continuing our work with her in Washington."

Prior to her work as the State Ombudsman in Georgia, Becky was the Advocacy Coordinator for the Senior Citizens Advocacy Project in the Atlanta Legal Aid Society as well as serving as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of New York Law Department. She has a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law and a B.S. from Emory & Henry College in Emory, Virginia. •

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

This year, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEADD) falls on June 15. It is a day recognized in communities throughout the world as a time to increase awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Each year, hundreds of thousands of older persons are abused, neglected, and exploited. In addition to the physical and emotional abuse, older Americans lose an estimated \$2.6 billion annually due to financial abuse and exploitation. Alarming, it is estimated that only one in five cases of elder abuse are ever discovered.

Fortunately, there are resources available to increase advocacy and awareness. Please visit the [International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse \(INPEA\)](#) to learn more about World Elder Abuse Day, and what role you can play in raising awareness about elder abuse. Specifically, available on the website is the [Community Guide to Raise World Awareness on Adult Abuse Tool Kit](#), which contains press releases, logos, posters, and other advocacy tools to assist your advocacy efforts.

The Administration on Aging's National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) has created the "Join Us in the Fight Against Elder Abuse" campaign as part of the landmark, nationwide effort to raise awareness on elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. To learn more about this campaign, and what you can do to help, please use the following link: http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/NCEARoot/Main_Site/About/Initiatives/Join_Us_Campaign.aspx.

NASUA encourages you to join the international community this year in recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. •

The Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Awards

The Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA), with the ongoing support of the *Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation*, oversees the annual *Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Awards* program. Now in its third year, the program will make three awards, each in the amount of \$20,000, to eligible nonprofits, government agencies, or universities that enhance the community through a focus on the needs of informal caregivers for adults with Alzheimer's and related dementias.

One award will be granted in the Creative Expression category, another in the Diverse/Multicultural Communities category, and another for Policy and Advocacy. The applications are available online only, and the closing deadline is 5 PM, PST, on August 12, 2010. Award announcements will be made in November, and recipients will be honored at a reception hosted by the FCA at the 2011 Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging (ASA) and the National Council on Aging (NCOA). For more information, and to download an application, please visit: http://caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=2188 •

NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Medicare and the New Health Law—A Brochure from CMS

Recently, Medicare beneficiaries across the country received a mailing titled, “Medicare and the New Health Law—What it Means for You.” The brochure, created and distributed by the Centers for Medicare and

Medicaid Services (CMS), explains key provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PL 111-148) that affect Medicare beneficiaries and their families.

Among the initiatives included in the brochure are the one-time \$250 payment that beneficiaries entering the donut hole in 2010 will receive, and the free preventive care services that they will receive in 2011, including the annual wellness exam, colorectal cancer screening and mammograms. The brochure can be found at: <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11467.pdf> •

Medicare Provides Assistance to Help Low-Income Beneficiaries Get Big Savings on Prescription Drug Costs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have launched a campaign to promote Medicare’s Low-Income Subsidy Program (also known as LIS or “Extra Help”). The Extra Help/LIS Program is a federal assistance program administered by the Social

26th National Home and Community Based Services Conference

Conference Conveners

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NATIONAL HOME & COMMUNITY
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Georgia Gerontology Society
GGS
Since 1962

NASUA
National Association of State Units on Aging

SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2010 • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.nasua.org • Contact: Kimberly Fletcher • kfletcher@nasua.org • 202-898-2578, x131



Security Administration (SSA) to help Medicare beneficiaries pay for Medicare Part D prescription drug costs.

Because of changes in law, it is easier than ever for Medicare beneficiaries with limited incomes to save on their drug costs. CMS estimates that “Extra Help” can save eligible Medicare beneficiaries as much as \$3,900 per year. It is thought that more than 1.8 million people with Medicare may be eligible for “Extra Help,” but are not currently enrolled to take advantage of these savings.

There is no cost to apply for “Extra Help.” Medicare beneficiaries or their designees can apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp, or by calling SSA at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778) and asking for the *Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs*. Medicare beneficiaries can receive further information about this program in their local communities from their State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which is accessible online at www.medicare.gov/contacts/staticpages/ships.aspx.

To learn more about Medicare prescription drug coverage, visit www.medicare.gov, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. •

Concerns over Medicare Fraud— New Guidance from CMS

Recently, several members have raised concerns regarding the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act’s (PL 111-148) initiative to provide a one-time, tax free \$250 rebate check to Medicare beneficiaries who reach the coverage gap, or “donut hole,” at any point during 2010. In response, NASUA met with Secretary Kathleen Sebelius of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Assistant Secretary on Aging Kathy Greenlee, in part to request that HHS offer guidance on this issue to both empower older Americans and to prevent fraud. Accordingly, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued further information for Medicare beneficiaries on the \$250 rebate check. This information is accessible by following this link: [Closing the Prescription Drug Coverage Gap](#). •

Report on States’ Fiscal Challenges

A new report from the National Governors Association (NGA) and the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO), which was released on June 3, 2010, illustrates that while the economy has

shown signs of improvement in recent months, states are facing their most difficult fiscal year (FY) since the Great Depression. According to the report, **The Fiscal Survey of States**, states expect similar budget challenges through FY 2012. Though by most estimates the national recession ended in the second half of calendar year 2009, state revenue collections historically lag behind national economic recovery.

The report explains that states have faced significant declines in sales, personal income, and corporate income tax collections, which fund about 80 percent of their general fund revenue; therefore, they have had to cut back their general fund spending by 6.8 percent this year alone. In FY 2009, states’ general fund expenditures were \$659.9 billion compared to only \$612.9 billion in FY 2010. As the funding of state services has decreased, states have seen an increased demand for state services such as Medicaid and public assistance, which often happens during a recession, leading to \$296.6 billion in budget gaps between FY 2009 and FY 2012. While funding from the federal government’s *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* of 2009 (ARRA) has helped states avoid more substantial cuts to state services, most of these funds are due to expire at the end of FY 2011, if not before. The report concludes that the loss of these ARRA funds, combined with lagging revenue recovery in the states, is expected to result in the continuation of economic challenges in the states for the next few fiscal year cycles. •

I & R CORNER

The National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA), in partnership with the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), hosted the 2010 Aging Symposium Retreat on Sunday, May 23, 2010 in Rochester, New York. The highlight of the retreat included public policy updates from NASUA, AoA, and n4a, as well as a very engaging dialogue between state units on aging, area agencies on aging, aging and disability resource centers, and 211 professionals on how they serve private pay consumers. Beyond the retreat, this year’s Aging Symposium offered 13 workshops on topics such as national initiatives, senior transportation, options counseling, CIRS-A certification, and Medicaid. Please go to the following link: http://www.nasua.org/issues/tech_assist_resources/national_aging_ir_support_ctr/ira_symposiums/2010symposium.html to view the PowerPoint presentations from the Symposium. •

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MIPPA CORNER

The National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) and the National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment of the National Council on Aging (NCOA) are proud to release a new publication, *What Works: Massachusetts Senior Benefits Expos*. This brief examines how the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services solicited commitments from community leaders and related agencies to host successful Senior Benefits Expos across the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Senior Benefits Expos broke away from the traditional model, and increased the events efficacy by pooling local, state, and federal agency resources. The result were one-stop shopping Senior Benefits Expos where seniors could be screened and apply for an array of government services, including public benefits. The events were a well-received, with more than 4,000 people attending the eight Expos.

This publication may be found at NASUA's website in the [MIPPA Section](#), under Issue Briefs. This report is the first in a series of case studies exploring promising strategies to improve outreach and enrollment in public benefits programs at the federal, state and local levels. •

TASC CORNER

To assist states and the long-term care community at large in preparing for the implementation of health reform, NASUA is continuing to examine the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or PPACA (PL 111-148). Specifically, NASUA's recently-released analysis of Titles I and II of the PPACA breaks the law down by title, and focuses more narrowly on provisions in the bill that directly affect the nation's long-term services and supports system. This more detailed approach complements NASUA's broad overview of the law, which is contained in the Side-by-Side and Implementation Dates documents; all of these products are accessible via NASUA's website, www.nasua.org.

Additionally, NASUA is pleased to introduce an ongoing document series, titled "Long-Term Care in Brief." This analysis, designed to supplement NASUA's title-by-title examination of health reform, will similarly focus on the potential impacts of the PPACA on long-term care, with each brief detailing one program or initiative contained in the new law. Currently available on



NASUA's website are briefs featuring the Medicaid Community First Choice Option, Money Follows the Person, the Protections for Recipients of Home and Community Based Services against Spousal Impoverishment, the Expansion of the Aging and Disability Resource Centers, the Medicaid Health Home program, the Medicare Community Based Transitions program, the Medicaid State Balancing Incentives Payments program, and the Changes to the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services State Plan Option. Further additions to this ongoing series will coincide with the release of NASUA's analysis of the bill's individual titles.

To access all of NASUA's health reform documents, as well as implementation guidance released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), please follow this link: http://www.nasua.org/about_nasua/health_reform.html. •

IN THE STATES

Congratulations to Delaware on Their New ADRC!

On May 14, 2010, Delaware Governor Jack Markell signed House Bill No. 351, *AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 31 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE ELDER CARE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR DELAWARE FAMILIES* into law. This law creates the Delaware Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) within the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities of the Department of Health and Social Services, replacing their current Elder Care Information and Support System for Delaware Families. The new ADRC will provide services to older adults, as well as to adults with physical disabilities, and it is scheduled to begin operation in September, 2010. For more information concerning House Bill No. 351, please visit: <http://legis.delaware.gov/lis/lis145.nsf/vwlegislation/HB+351>. For more information concerning Delaware's ADRC, visit: <http://dhs.delaware.gov/dsaapd/adrc.html>. •

Upcoming Events

NASUA Older Americans Act Reauthorization Policy Forum

National Association of State Units on Aging

June 27th – June 29th, 2010

The Westin Hotel • Washington, DC

[Click here](#) for more information

Consumer Direction Webinar

Consumer-Directed Programs: Challenges, Insights, and Successes of Training

Administration on Aging & National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services at Boston College

Wednesday June 30, 2010

3:00–4:30 PM (EST)

To register for the webinar, click here:

<http://nrcpds.acrobat.com/e36994762/event/registration.html?campaign-id=nasua>

32nd Annual New Mexico Conference on Aging A Diverse Community: Exploring Options, Expanding Horizons

New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department

August 24th – August 25th, 2010

Isleta Hard Rock Hotel Conference Center
Albuquerque, NM

[Click here](#) for more information



Save the date

November 16, 2010

[Click here](#) to sign up as a screening site for November 16, 2010

[Click here](#) for more information about National Memory Screening Day

* Send information about your upcoming conferences to be included in our newsletter to kwalter@nasua.org

The National Association of State Units on Aging

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