



Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

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**Aging Network to Embark on New Level of Volunteerism**  
*Collaboration of Aging Organizations to Create*  
*"Engaging Volunteers in the Aging Network: A National Resource Center"*

Washington, DC – Volunteers in the Aging Network\* have been *delivering* for over 40 years. *Delivering* meals to homebound seniors, *delivering* rides to doctor's appointments, *delivering* counseling to seniors on benefits, in addition to countless other vital roles. With the rapidly aging population, the demand for volunteers to *deliver* these services and others continues to grow. Based on this impending need, the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) recently awarded a grant of nearly \$1 million to create a National Resource Center to further develop and support the work of volunteers providing services to older Americans and their family caregivers. The National Resource Center will *deliver* the assistance and expertise volunteers need to bring their efforts to a new level in the Aging Network.

"Volunteers have always been the backbone of the Aging Network. But we want to ensure that volunteers, especially older Americans, have the opportunities to use their lifetime of learning and skills to help address America's challenges and to enrich their own lives," said Assistant Secretary for Aging, Greenlee. "This Center will help us better understand the changing needs of volunteers."

The AoA grant was awarded to a collaboration of aging organizations that are dedicated to serving older adults and the Aging Network. The collaboration, led by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), includes the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), the AARP Foundation, Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI), the Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration (CCVA) and the University of Michigan (for evaluation). AoA will work with these organizations to expand the capacity of the Aging Network to engage volunteers nationwide.

"This strong collaboration is uniquely positioned within the Aging Network and with older adults across the country to create the necessary leadership and infrastructure to develop effective and replicable civic engagement efforts for older adults, especially boomers," said n4a CEO Sandy Markwood.

The three-year project will: conduct research on civic engagement; convene thought-leaders to help develop a plan of action on volunteerism for the Aging Network; develop communication and outreach tools to reach aging services leaders and volunteers across the country; create training programs and technical assistance resources for volunteers and volunteer coordinators; and identify and promote best practices.

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**National Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

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“Volunteer engagement is a natural fit for the Aging Network, and the time is now to bring the leadership, skills and connections of the Aging Network fully into the civic engagement arena,” said Markwood. “Our collaboration must create a new vision of community service along with a persuasive call-to-action to attract the attention of Americans, letting them know their help is needed and there are many opportunities for them to get involved.”

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\* **The Aging Network** is the national and local infrastructure for organizing, coordinating and providing community-based services and opportunities for older Americans and their families. This network consists of 56 State Units on Aging (SUAs), 629 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), 244 Tribal and two Native Hawaiian organizations plus nearly 20,000 community-based service provider organizations, thousands of volunteers and a diversity of national nonprofit organizations.

The **U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA)** of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, works with a nationwide network of organizations and service providers to develop a comprehensive and cost-effective system of health and long-term care that helps elderly individuals maintain their independence and dignity in their homes and communities. [www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov)

The **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)** is the leading voice on aging issues for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) across the country and a champion for Title VI Native American aging programs. n4a's primary mission is to build the capacity of its members to help older persons and persons with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible. [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org)

The **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities** (formerly the National Association of State Units on Aging) founded in 1964, represents the nation's 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging. The Association's principal mission is to support visionary state leadership, advance state systems innovation and articulate a national policy on home and community based services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. [www.nasuad.org](http://www.nasuad.org)

**AARP Foundation** is AARP's affiliated charity. The Foundation is dedicated to serving vulnerable people 50+ by creating solutions that help them secure the essentials and achieve their best life. AARP Foundation focuses on: hunger, housing, income and isolation as our key mission areas. The Foundation envisions: 'a country free of poverty where no older person feels vulnerable.' Foundation programs are funded by grants, tax-deductible contributions and AARP. For more information about AARP Foundation, please log on to [www.aarp.org/foundation](http://www.aarp.org/foundation).

**Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI)** is a non-profit organization that provides civic engagement and employment opportunities for adults over the age of 55 who wish to reenter the workforce. SSAI is one of 18 national sponsors and 56 units of state and territorial governments of the Senior Community Service Senior Employment Program nationwide. [www.seniorserviceamerica.org](http://www.seniorserviceamerica.org)

The **Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration (CCVA)** advances the profession and practice of volunteer resource management by certifying individuals who demonstrate knowledge and competence in the leadership of volunteers. Certified in Volunteer Administration (CVA) is an international credential awarded to practitioners with at least 3 years of experience who successfully complete an exam and written portfolio process. Originally developed by the Association for Volunteer Administration (AVA) several decades ago, the credentialing program is now sponsored by the Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration. For more information visit [www.cvacert.org](http://www.cvacert.org).

The **University of Michigan** has been a national and international model of a diverse and comprehensive public institution of higher learning since 1817. The university supports excellence in research, provides undergraduate, graduate and professional education, and serves people and organizations in the community, region, state, nation and around the world through its many partnerships and collaborations. [www.umich.edu](http://www.umich.edu).