

AoA e-news

The U.S. Administration on Aging

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The U.S. Administration on Aging is pleased to send you the **AoA e-news**, an e-newsletter filled with key information and news for the National Aging Services Network.

Please pass this e-newsletter on to staff in your organization and let them know that they can now subscribe online at <http://www.aoa.gov>. Information about how to unsubscribe is located at the end of this newsletter.

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Message from the Assistant Secretary

Aging and Disability Resource Center Grant Program

On Thursday, May 29, Secretary Thompson announced a new HHS grant program to help states develop "one-stop" entry to long-term care during Older Americans Month.

This grant program is jointly funded and administered by AoA and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Aging and Disability Resource Center programs will serve as highly visible and trusted sources of information where people can turn to find the full range of long term support options and assistance in accessing those options. The result for consumers will be minimized confusion, enhanced opportunity for individual choice, and strong support for informed decision-making.

The Program Announcement specifically requires applicant states to “meaningfully involve” key stakeholders at the state and community level in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of their Resource Center program. Stakeholders include the entire spectrum of aging network advocacy organizations and service providers. This initiative also provides an opportunity to partner with the entire range of organizations representing people with disabilities. Such broad-based involvement will help to ensure that the resulting Resource Center programs will effectively serve all in need of long-term care. Together we will create a streamlined barrier-free entry system to long-term support services. The most exciting aspect of the Resource Center grant program is that consumers and their family caregivers are the real winners. For more information visit <http://www.aoa.gov/>

Josefina G. Carbonell
Assistant Secretary for Aging

[What's Happening at AoA](#)

Upcoming Town Hall Listening Session in Baltimore

Join us for the next Town Hall Listening Session on July 16 at the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference in Baltimore. The Assistant Secretary for Aging wants to hear from older people, their families and caregivers, and members of the National Aging Services Network on critical issues. We want to hear from you about what we can do to empower older people and their families to make informed decisions about their care options and ways to build on the success of the National Family Caregiver Support program and the new AoA/CMS Aging and Disability Resource Center grants program. We also want to hear about state and local innovations that address access and service delivery that may serve as models for others states and communities. Other Town Hall Listening Sessions are being added. Continue to check the AoA Website for updates. Persons must pre-register in order to provide oral comments at Listening Sessions. For updates and to find out more about how to register to give oral comments go to <http://www.aoa.gov/>

Save the Date-National Summit on Creating Caring Communities

Position your organization to meet the coming wave of aging Baby Boomers and a sea of change in racial and ethnic diversity. Get ready for the next generation of older Americans. Join us this September for the National Summit on Creating Caring Communities September 21-23, 2003 in Orlando, Florida. Plenary and workshop sessions will cover:

- Rebalancing the long term care system from institutional to home/community-based care;
- Lifestyle choices through health promotion and disease prevention; and
- Family caregiving and home/community-based supports.

Registration information will soon be available.

An Older Americans Month Caregiver Story

You may have read the feature story, *Families Provide Caregiving Support for Older Adults*, included in the 2003 Older Americans Month Kit. The feature introduced Raymond Tillery, 65, and his wife Lucille who, since 1985, were caring for his 90-year-old mother with Alzheimer's disease and her aunt. The article highlighted the issues facing caregivers. Since the publication of that article, both Raymond's mother and Lucille's aunt passed away. We are saddened by their loss and we wanted thank them for sharing their lives with us and for helping us put a "real" face on the needs and concerns of family caregivers. This feature story may be viewed as part of the 2003 Older Americans Month materials on the AoA Web site at <http://www.aoa.gov/>

[Policy and Program Updates](#)

Real Choice Systems Change Grants Funding Opportunities

On Friday, May 30, 2003, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced its full package of Real Choice Systems Change Grants for Community Living. This set of Real Choice funding will provide states with the resources to build infrastructure that will result in effective and enduring improvements in community long-term support systems. Several grant opportunities comprise this round of Real Choice grants. One opportunity is the AoA/CMS Aging and Disability Resource Center program. Additional opportunities are geared towards helping states improve their systems of quality assurance and improvement, self-directed service options, and transitioning individuals from institutions into community settings. The development of coordinated and consumer-centered systems of access to long term support services - such as those being funded under the Aging and Disability Resource Center Program - are an integral part of a state's efforts to enable people with disabilities of all ages to live in the community, exercise meaningful choices, and obtain quality services. States are encouraged to coordinate their efforts in applying for a Resource Center grant with an application for one or more of the Real Choice funding opportunities. For more information go to: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/newfreedom/default.asp>

Guidelines for Bioterrorism Funding Announced

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson recently announced guidelines for the Department's \$1.4 billion bioterrorism cooperative agreement program for states, territories, and municipalities. The program will help state and local governments

upgrade public health infrastructure and health care systems to better prepare for and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. The Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness oversees and coordinates these cooperative agreements, which are awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration. CDC administers the public health preparedness awards totaling \$870 million while HRSA funds the hospital preparedness cooperative agreements totaling \$498 million. State and Area Agencies on Aging are encouraged to work with their state health departments to assure that disaster preparedness for older persons are included in the plans submitted for these cooperative agreements. Announcement details are posted at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2003pres/20030320.html>

Grantee Spotlight

Redesigned National Center on Elder Abuse Web Site Now Online

The National Center on Elder Abuse, funded through a grant from AoA, unveiled its redesigned Web site on June 2. It features an easy-to-navigate layout, updated and reorganized content, user-friendly pathways to statistics and resources, and many new links. Visitors now have a range of ways to explore the Web site resources. NCEA has also made it easier to get expert answers. New features include:

- Promising Practices-the database contains examples of successful and emerging prevention and intervention models. They will continue to add new programs to the searchable database.
- Expert sources and interview contacts for the media.
- New links to sources of elder abuse statistics, state and national organizations, and more.
- Bilingual Web translation (Spanish, French, Italian, and German).

For more information visit the NCEA Website at www.elderabusecenter.org

Making A Difference

Financial Abuse Prevention Pays Off

The San Diego District Attorney teamed up with the California Community Partnership for the Prevention of Financial Abuse to launch a bank/credit union training initiative in San Diego County on April 30. The next week, Paul Greenwood, Deputy District Attorney, read in the local newspaper that a 78-year old lady lost \$6,000 by falling for a bank examiner scam. He faxed a letter to the bank urging them to look out for such scams and imploring them to attend a training session. He received a call from the assistant manager of the branch. She had read the letter from Mr. Greenwood and was sitting across from an elderly widow who had come in to withdraw \$5,000 in cash. The customer explained that she was supposed to meet the "FBI agent" at another location 5 minutes away from the bank. Armed with this information, the assistant manager tried to

talk the customer out of withdrawing the cash. After initially withdrawing the money, the customer stopped, thought better of it, and returned to the assistant manager's office where a call was made to Mr. Greenwood and the police. Although the thieves weren't caught, this elderly widow still had her \$5,000 intact. This is an example of how training and education can pay off. For information on elder abuse prevention training programs visit the NCEA Promising Practices Database at <http://www.elderabusecenter.org/default.cfm?p=toolsresources.cfm>

We encourage members of the National Aging Services Network to submit stories about how they make a difference in the lives of older Americans. The deadline for story submissions is the 15th of each month. Send submissions to <mailto:e-news@aoa.gov>

News from the Field

Improving Public Transit Options for Older Persons

Information from the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) illustrates the need to improve public transit options for older persons. Between the year 2000 and the year 2030, the number of older persons in the United States is expected to double. Tomorrow's older persons will likely represent a more diverse set of backgrounds and cultures and a wide spectrum of needs and desires with no one "average older traveler." TCRP Report 82 outlines short- and long-term strategies to attract the older riders of tomorrow. These strategies include improving schedule reliability, increasing information provided for trip planning and during travel, and implementing shared-ride demand-responsive services to better coordinate transportation services. To learn more about these and other strategies to improve public transit options for older persons, go to www.nas.edu/trb or www.apta.com

Elder Safe Program in Oregon Honored

The Archstone Foundation recently named the Washington County, Oregon Elder Safe Program as a "runner up" for the 2002 Award for Excellence in Program Innovation out of approximately 50 entries nationwide. The Elder Safe program provides services to elderly crime victims and helps them navigate the criminal justice system. The Archstone Foundation was formed with the mission of improving health and health care delivery systems. This award was established to recognize the best practice models in Gerontology and Geriatrics. Emphasis is given to programs that effectively link academic theory with applied practice in the fields of public health and aging. The Oregon Elder Safe program is a partnership between the Washington County Sheriff's Office; Disabilities, Aging and Veterans' Services (an Area Agency on Aging); and the District Attorney's office in Oregon. For more information visit http://www.co.washington.or.us/sheriff/service/eld_safe.htm

[Of Interest](#)

Shortage of Long Term Care Workers Anticipated

On May 20, HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson and Department of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao released a report showing that by 2050 our nation will need three times as many long term care workers as are employed now. A range of 5.7 to 6.5 million nurses, nurses aides, and home health and personal care workers will be required to meet the needs of aging Baby Boomers. The report emphasizes the need to retain existing long term care workers and attract new workers to support state and local services. It urges the testing of new models of recruitment and retention of long-term care workers and outlines ways to reduce the potential workforce shortage. To access the report go to: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports/lcwork.htm>

[About AoA](#)

AoA works with a nationwide network of organizations and service providers to make support services and resources available to older persons and their caregivers. For more information about AoA, please contact us by mail at **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging**, Washington, DC 20201; by phone at (202) 619-0724; by e-mail at aoainfo@aoa.gov or visit us on the Web at www.aoa.gov

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