



February 2004

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Message from the Assistant Secretary: News about the AoA Budget

On January 23, 2004, President Bush signed Public Law 108-199, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, into law. This new law contains the FY 2004 appropriation for Older Americans Act programs. Under the FY 2004 appropriation, AoA programs receive a total of \$1.374 billion. The President forwarded his request for FY 2005 funding to Congress on February 2, 2004. We are pleased with this budget as it continues to emphasize the AoA programs that work together with the aging network to support older Americans through community-based services. We are asking for a total of \$1.377 billion in this year's request. Under the current Administration, AoA has been transformed from an agency focused primarily on making grants to States to an agency that is a leader in aging policy and a catalyst for innovations in aging services and home and community-based long-term care systems. This funding will support key AoA strategic priorities and partnerships to enhance the lives of older Americans. These priorities include making it easier for older people to access an integrated array of health and social supports; helping older people to stay active and healthy; and supporting families in their efforts to care for the loved ones at home and in the community. For more information go to:

www.aoa.gov/press/enewsletter/archive/2004/Feb04/Feb04.asp
www.aoa.gov/about/legbudg/current_budg/legbudg_current_budg.asp

Josefina G. Carbonell

Celebrating the Anniversary of the President's New Freedom Initiative

This week conference participants are celebrating the 3rd Anniversary of the President's New Freedom Initiative at the "We Are...We Can... We Will..." Emerging Workforce Conference on February 8-10 in Weston, Florida. This national Conference provides a unique opportunity for business, people with disabilities, families, service providers, and federal policy makers to impact employment outcomes for people with disabilities. In an effort to draw attention to this untapped labor pool that is 54 million people strong, a personal invitation has been extended to President George W. Bush and Governor Jeb Bush. Additionally, the conference brings together the National Council on Disability, the Social Security Administration Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Advisory Panel, and representatives from the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, the Access Board and the President's Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, and many additional federal, state, and international partners. For more information visit: <http://www.fgse.nova.edu/workforce>.

February National Health Conference

U.S. Senator Larry Craig, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging is hosting the "Road to Better Health Care – Medicare and Beyond" national health care conference in Boise, Idaho on February 17. Speakers will include Dr. Robert N. Butler, MD, a Pulitzer Prize winner and President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Longevity Center USA, who will give the luncheon address. Other speakers include the Assistant Secretary for Aging; Governor Dirk Kempthorne (ID), National Governor's Association Chair; Doug Badger, the President's top health care advisor; Leslie Norwalk, Acting Deputy Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Bill Novelli, Executive Director of AARP; and Dr. Robert Butler, author and Chief Executive Officer of the International Longevity Center, USA. Assistant Secretary Carbonell will discuss the Bush administration's efforts to help older Americans and the disabled through programs such as the "New Freedom Initiative." The purpose of the conference is to help educate Medicare recipients, health care provider groups, and insurance and businesses about the coming Medicare improvements. For more information and to register go to: <http://craig.senate.gov/health2004>.

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AoA News

Older Americans Month News - Photography Contest Deadline February 15

It's not too late to meet the deadline for the 2004 Older Americans Month Photography Contest! AoA, working in partnership with the National Institute of Senior Centers, a program of the National Council on Aging, is sponsoring the 2004 Older Americans Month National Photography Contest. The purpose of the contest is to enhance the image of older persons to all generations through pictures. The photographs are to reflect the photographer's interpretation of the 2004 Older American's Month Theme: *Ageing Well, Living Well*. To learn more about the contest, including rules and registration information, please go to http://www.aoa.gov/press/oam/photo_contest/photo_contest.asp

Policy and Program Updates

NHLBI Heart Truth Campaign

Heart disease, which includes coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, angina, and other conditions, is the leading cause of death in American women, accounting for 366,000 deaths in 2000. To make women more aware of the danger of heart disease, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute has launched a nationwide campaign to raise awareness of heart disease's devastating effect on women. This important campaign encourages women to learn more about heart health, to lead healthier lives and to talk with their doctors about their risk for developing heart disease. The Red Dress is the national symbol for women and heart disease awareness and was created by NHLBI, an institute of the National Institutes of Health. Last week, the campaign's "Red Dress Collection 2004" debut at Fashion Week in New York City. The one-of-a-kind star-studded fashion show brought together 26 dresses by the most influential American designers and worn by leading models. From March through April 2004, The Heart Truth Road Show, a traveling exhibit, will bring important information to women across the United States. The

Road Show is designed to screen more than 1,000 women in five cities for heart disease risk factors and provide heart health information to thousands more. For more information visit: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/hearttruth/>.

Safe Mobility for a Maturing Society Report

The U.S. Department of Transportation has released a report entitled "Safe Mobility for a Maturing Society: Challenges and Opportunities." This report addresses the unique challenge for transportation posed by a growing older population. The report includes seven areas for action and strategies for each action area. For a copy of the report go to: <http://www.eyes.uab.edu/safemobility/SafeMobility.pdf>.

New Resources from the National Institute on Aging

The National Institute on Aging is now offering two new publications. They are an updated Menopause: 2003 booklet that reviews the recent findings from the Women's Health Initiative and a new publication, Understanding Risk: What Do Those Headlines Mean? To view or order these publications go to: <http://www.niapublications.org/pubs/menopause/index.asp> and <http://www.niapublications.org/engagepages/risk.asp>. These publications also can be ordered by calling 1-800-222-2225.

The Peace Corps Welcomes Older Volunteers

Do you or someone you know feel too young to retire? The United States Peace Corps is looking for older volunteers who are aged 50 and older. The Peace Corps finds that because of their extensive experience, volunteers aged 50 and older are valuable assets to its mission. Hundreds of current Volunteers have found retirement and other life transitions the perfect time to realize their dream of joining the Peace Corps, an organization alive and well for more than 40 years. For more information, go to <http://www.peacecorps.gov/oldervols/index.cfm>. For stories about older Peace Corps Volunteers, go to: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.media.stories.olderam>.

Making A Difference

Lapham Park Venture Brings Integrated Care to Low-Income Frail Elderly

The Lapham Park Venture in Milwaukee has made a difference by bringing together practitioners in gerontology, housing, medical arts, planning, architecture, and social services to provide on-site integrated, consumer centered care at a public housing development for low-income frail elderly. The Lapham Park Venture was created 1996 in order to respond to escalating nursing home costs, a fragmented financing and service delivery system for long-term care, and the premature and unnecessary placement of low-income elderly into nursing homes because of a lack of affordable options to support aging-in-place. The Lapham Park Venture also was created to address the infrastructure, architectural and design changes that would be necessary to support the aging-in-place of frail elderly. Residents receive onsite medical care; access to an onsite social worker; and access to other services, recreational activities, and an exercise club. The Lapham Park Venture will be honored in April as the recipient of the 2004 American Planning Association's National Social Advocacy

Award. Winners of APA awards are role models for promoting the philosophy and practice of good planning. For more information go to: www.hacm.org.

San Francisco Uses Bequest to Create Housing for Homeless Seniors

As reported in the San Francisco Chronicle on January 20, Zygmunt Arendt, a retired World War II refugee and retired railroad worker left San Francisco with a \$6 million dollar estate to help the city's poorest residents. The San Francisco Board of Board of Supervisors has agreed to spend this gift to create housing for homeless seniors who reside in homeless shelters. This will be the second San Francisco residence dedicated to homeless seniors. For more information go to:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2004/01/20/BAG4T4A09J30.DTL>.

Of Interest

ASA-NCOA Conference Special Program for Eliminating Health Disparities

On Thursday, April 15, 2004, the American Society on Aging will host a special program on health disparities and older adults as part of the ASA-NCOA Joint Conference in San Francisco. The joint conference will be held April 13-17. The session is entitled *Healthy Aging: A Multicultural Vision for Eliminating Health Disparities*. Bringing together the aging network and public health systems, this one-day special program will address the crucial goals of Healthy People 2010 to increase quality and years of healthy life and eliminate health disparities. Leaders in the field of aging and health will outline health disparities experienced by older Americans and showcase selected promising practices in closing the gap. This practical program will review common difficulties in meeting the health needs of elders of color. Speakers reflecting culturally diverse backgrounds will discuss strategies for addressing barriers to healthcare, health promotion and disease prevention within communities of color, focusing on older adults. The special program is sponsored by sponsored by ASA's Healthcare and Aging Network (HAN) and the Network of Multicultural Aging (NOMA) In addition to this program, the ASA-NCOA Joint Conference has numerous additional sessions with nationally recognized speakers presenting on topics related to diversity and aging. To register for the conference, visit www.agingconference.org.

The Consumer Consortium on Assisted Living

The Consumer Consortium on Assisted Living, a national independent advocacy and education organization dedicated solely to consumers of assisted living, recently released a video for consumers and professionals titled "Choosing Assisted Living...What You Need to Know." The 25-minute video demonstrates, through real life situations, the difficult choices families have to make when considering a facility. The video is an excellent educational tool as it provides information and tips family members will need to consider before choosing the right assisted living facility. For information about the CCAL and how to obtain a copy of the video, please go to the CCAL website at: <http://www.ccal.org/bookstore.htm>

Call for Abstracts: Conference for Research on Women's Transportation Issues

Abstracts are due March 1 for the Conference for Research on Women's Transportation Issues to be held November 18-20 in Chicago. The purpose of the conference is to review the state of research based on papers presented at the conference and small group discussions. Subsequently, the conference committee appointed by the Transportation Research Board will make recommendations about additional research and data needed to inform transportation policy decisions that address women's mobility, safety, and security needs. For more information visit: <http://www.TRB.org/Conferences/Women>.

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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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