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HHS AWARDS ADDITIONAL \$9 MILLION TO HELP STATES DEVELOP AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today announced 12 grants totaling nearly \$9 million to support state efforts to create “one stop” centers to help consumers learn about and access long-term supports ranging from in-home services to nursing facility care.

These new grants represent the second round of funding of Aging and Disability Resource Center Programs. A total of 24 states have now received HHS grants to develop streamlined access to long-term support services under this program.

“These resource centers serve as visible and trusted places people can turn for information on a full range of long-term support options, as well as assistance in accessing those options,” Secretary Thompson said. “These grants offer 12 more states and territories this opportunity to assist consumers in making appropriate choices based on medical need for themselves and their families.”

The grants announced today are being awarded to state or territorial agencies in Alaska, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, New Mexico, North Carolina, Northern Mariana Islands and Wisconsin. In September 2003, HHS awards similar grants to Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and West Virginia.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center Grant Program is part of the President's New Freedom Initiative, which works to overcome barriers to community living for people with disabilities of all ages. The program is a joint effort involving HHS' Administration on Aging (AoA) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and provides states with an opportunity to effectively integrate their long-term support resources for consumers into a single coordinated system.

“AoA is very excited to partner with CMS on this important effort, designed to promote greater balance in long-term care between home and community-based services and institutional care,” Assistant Secretary for Aging Josefina Carbonell said. “A single, coordinated system of access for persons with disabilities, including seniors, seeking long-term support will minimize confusion, enhance individual choice and support informed decision making.”

“These centers will offer assistance to families often desperate to find appropriate and affordable support for a loved one,” CMS Administrator Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., said. “The grants will assist states in their efforts to streamline access to multiple public and private programs and ensure that families can find the assistance they need through a single point of entry into the long-term support system.”

More information on the Aging and Disability Resource Centers Grant program, including descriptions of grantee projects, is available at <http://www.aoa.gov> and at www.cms.hhs.gov/newfreedom/.

A list of the FY 2004 grantees follows:

Aging and Disability Resource Center Grant Program Fiscal Year 2004 Awards		
State	Agency	Total Award
Alaska	Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	\$799,581
Arkansas	Arkansas Division of Aging and Adult Services	\$793,262
California	California Department of Aging	\$799,998
Florida	Florida Department of Elder Affairs	\$799,945
Georgia	Georgia Division of Aging Services	\$799,998
Illinois	Illinois Department on Aging	\$800,000
Indiana	Indiana Division of Disability, Aging & Rehabilitative Services	\$778,810
Iowa	Iowa Department of Elder Affairs	\$800,000
New Mexico	New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Care Department	\$798,900
North Carolina	North Carolina Office of Long Term Care	\$800,000
Northern Mariana Islands	Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community & Cultural Affairs	\$200,000
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services	\$799,999
	TOTAL	\$8,970,493

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