



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

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**April 14, 2009**

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**Note: The web addresses (links) in this document may change over time. The Department for the Aging does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.**

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Ellen Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

**DATE:** April 14, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Caregiving

**National Legislation**

**The Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act, [S. 697](#) and [H.R. 1721](#).** The CLASS Act would create a nationwide voluntary insurance program to help people get coverage for long-term services and supports. Financed through voluntary payroll deductions of about \$30 per month, with an option to opt out for those who choose not to participate, this legislation will help remove barriers to independence by providing a \$50-\$100 a day cash benefit to individuals who are unable to perform activities of daily living.

**National Reports and Publications**

**The Commonwealth Fund -Hospital Readmissions Are Frequent and Costly**

A [Commonwealth-Fund supported study](#) in the *New England Journal of Medicine* shows that one of five Medicare beneficiaries discharged from the hospital are readmitted within 30 days, and half of patients admitted for reasons other than surgery are readmitted without having seen a doctor in follow-up. All together, unplanned rehospitalizations cost Medicare \$17.4 billion in 2004. The researchers recommend strategies for reducing readmissions such as planned transitions, timely follow-up, and aggressive chronic disease management.

### **The National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI)**

The organization has issued a report recommending ways to improve Social Security protections for low-wage workers, elderly widows, the oldest old, disabled individuals, farm workers, and low-paid workers with careers interrupted by caring for children or aging family members. Since the current financial crisis has exposed average Americans to the risks of a market economy, policy experts suggest the adequacy of Social Security to help vulnerable retirees and families offset their losses should be examined and addressed. Click [here](#) to read the report.

### **HANDBOOK ON SELF-DIRECTION NOW AVAILABLE**

#### ***Developing and Implementing Self-Direction Programs and Policies: A Handbook***

is now available for download. The Handbook provides state staff, policymakers, service providers, program participants, and other stakeholders with a single comprehensive source of information about self-direction programs and policies.

Consult: <http://www.cashandcounseling.org/resources/handbook>

### **Telephone Conference**

The next quarterly **CMS/NAC Coalition Network** conference call will take place on Wednesday, April 15 from 1-2PM EST. The call will feature Donna Heppermann from Beatitudes Center Developing Older Adults Resources (DOAR) and the Arizona Kinship Caregivers Coalition, who will talk about innovative caregiving programs and program/coalition sustainability.

#### **Call-in Information:**

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 Time: 1 to 2 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Toll-free phone number: 1-888-322-3914 Passcode: Caregiver

Call Leader: Cora Tracy, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

### **Stamp Honoring Caregivers**

A United States postage stamp honoring family caregivers is being considered by the U.S. Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee for introduction in 2011. This is a great way to recognize the family caregiver and all their hard work. To submit a letter of support please write to: Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee c/o Stamp Development

U.S. Postal Service  
1735 North Lynn St. Ste. 5013  
Arlington, VA 22209-06432

For more information, contact Mary Theresa Vasquez at: [caregiverstamp@aol.com](mailto:caregiverstamp@aol.com)



*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*Department for the Aging*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Finance Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Marica B. Monroe

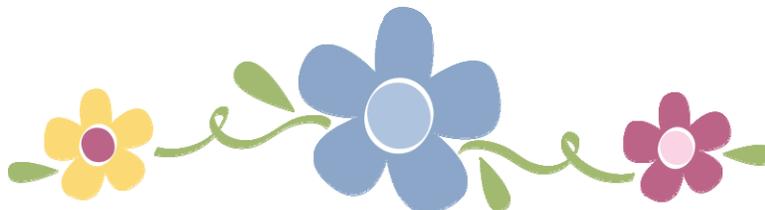
**DATE:** April 14, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Financial Training

Have questions about completing the AMR? Confused when completing schedules ABC? Want to know more about requesting stimulus funds?

**Attend Financial Training!**

See enclosed flyer. **Separate trainings will be held for those who complete the AMR-OC versus the AMR.** Agencies that complete both reports are welcome and encouraged to attend both trainings. Training will be offered via videoconference. More information will be forthcoming.





Please plan to attend



# FINANCIAL TRAINING

## May 29, 2009

**Who should attend:** Financial staff.  
Anyone who completes the AMR,  
Schedules ABC and/or the final Audited  
report.

\*A separate training for other contractors  
and AMR-OC completion will be held on  
May 28, 2009. If you also complete the  
AMR-OC please feel free to attend both.

**This training will be offered via Videoconference. Videoconference  
sites and additional information will be forth coming. Questions,  
contact me at [marica.monroe@vda.virginia.gov](mailto:marica.monroe@vda.virginia.gov) or at 804-662-9320.**





*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Ellen Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

**DATE:** April 14, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Kinship Care

**Brighton Solid Rock, Inc.**

Congratulations to Brighton Solid Rock, Inc. for receiving a Brookdale Foundation Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) local grant! Last year this Portsmouth based kinship care program, under the leadership of the Rev. Clifford Barnett, planned and executed a statewide conference on kinship care. The group was also one of the leaders of Virginia's delegation to the annual Grand Rally in Washington, D.C. For further information about Brighton Solid Rock's outstanding kinship care program, contact Rev. Barnett or Suzette Leathers at 757-393-9333 or [pgap@brightonrock.hrcoxmail.com](mailto:pgap@brightonrock.hrcoxmail.com).

**Teens Living with Relatives**

The University of Maine Center on Aging RAPP will be offering an online conversation for teens ages 12-18 living with relatives. It will take place on April 23, 2009. Bonny Dodson, LCSW, and Ginny Holmes, PhD. will facilitate the conversation. For more information, please contact Melisa Adle at the University of Maine Center on Aging: [Melissa.adle@umit.maine.edu](mailto:Melissa.adle@umit.maine.edu).

### **Multi-Generational and Civic Engagement Initiative**

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) has announced Tier 2 of the Multi-Generational and Civic Engagement (MGCE) Initiative. This is a national search for local programs that demonstrate impact and effectiveness in serving one of three target populations and engaging older adult volunteers in meaningful direct services and other activities. For more information and to view the RFP package, click [here](#). Please note the application deadline is April 17, 2009.

### **Save the Date! Statewide Kinship Care Conference October 8-10, 2009**

Point Plaza Suites (Newport News)

Theme: *Fostering Connections: Exploring Models for Kinship Families*

More information will be forthcoming as plans evolve for the conference.

### **2009 National Art Contest**

The American Academy of Pediatrics invites children to enter its 2009 National Art Contest with a chance to win a trip to Washington, D.C.

Official entry forms and consent forms must accompany all entries. Entries must be postmarked by July 31, 2009. Winning entries will be selected by a panel of judges including pediatricians, and announced in the summer. For further information contact:

<http://www.aap.org/artcontest/>

### **Generations United Conference**

The 15th International Conference, *Because We're Stronger Together*, will occur July 29 - 31, 2009 in Washington, D.C. Additional conference related activities will take place July 27 - 28.

The Conference will feature keynote speeches by [Marc Freedman](#), Founder and CEO of Civic Ventures, who will talk about the multigenerational workplace and [Eric Saperston](#), Film Producer, who will share how his belief in closing the gap between generations has led him on a lifelong journey. We will also have a variety of phenomenal workshops, networking opportunities and special events - where you will not only enjoy yourself but also enhance your understanding of intergenerational issues.

For all the details and to take advantage of early registration, visit <http://conference.gu.org>. [Hotel reservations](#) can also be made through the conference website. Questions call GU at 202-289-3979 or email [lbradley@gu.org](mailto:lbradley@gu.org).

### **Intergenerational Day October 4, 2009**

The mission of Intergeneration Day, celebrated worldwide the first Sunday in October, is to connect generations through communication, celebration, and education. Creating an age-integrated community leads to a healthy community, where the strengths of one generation meet the needs of another. The focus for 2009 is "Intergeneration Day Means Libraries." Libraries were a cornerstone of our democracy and are even more important in the information age. The vibrant, multidimensional libraries of today have gone way beyond the concept of our founding fathers. For more information, go to <http://www.intergenerationday.org>

### **Orphans of War**

Grandparents caring for the children of deployed soldiers will begin to get needed financial security from the government. The US military will allow soldiers to earmark a \$100,000 payment to their children's caregivers, such as grandparents, in the event they are killed while serving their country. This is a change from the previous policy of allowing a one-time benefit only for the soldier's spouse. Contact: <http://www.globalaging.org/elderrights/us/2008/raising.htm>

### **Voices for America's Children**

The organization has launched and expanded an improved Kids Count Data System. The system is part of a nationwide effort to monitor key statistical indicators of the well-being of children. The Annie E. Casey foundation is supporting this effort to give policy makers, researchers, elected officials, funders and others access to more than 100 up-to-date statistical indicators of health status, educational achievement, poverty and socio-economic status, family and community demographics reflecting overall child well-being and risk factors that threaten well-being. Contact: [www.voices.org](http://www.voices.org)

### **Verizon Foundation**

The Verizon Foundation has introduced Thinkfinity, a new resource for educators, students, parents, and after-school programs. The core of the Foundation's literacy, education, and technology initiatives, Thinkfinity is a digital learning platform that provides lesson plans, interactive activities, and other online resources, as well as professional development programs to help educators integrate these resources into classroom instruction. To sign up for Thinkfinity's Featured Resources newsletters and access free online educational resources, go to [www.thinkfinity.org](http://www.thinkfinity.org).