



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES



DIVISION FOR THE AGING

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner

VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

July 21, 2015

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ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<http://www.acl.gov/NewsRoom/NewsInfo/Index.aspx>

NASUAD Weekly Update

Here is a link to the weekly update from NASUAD:

<http://www.nasud.org/newsroom/friday-update>

Note: The web links in this document may change over time. DARS-VDA 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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UPDATES

July 14, 2015

[Join us in Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Older Americans Act](#)

On July 14, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Older Americans Act into law. Over the past 50 years, the aging network established and funded by the Act has helped millions of older adults live and thrive in the communities of their choice. These services include home-delivered and congregate meals, caregiver support, preventive health services, transportation, job training, elder abuse prevention, and so much more.

ACL has created a series of infographics that highlight some of the many ways the OAA has impacted the lives of older adults and their families across the nation. We hope you will join us in celebrating this historic anniversary by sharing these infographics with your family and friends on [Facebook](#)



OLDER AMERICANS ACT IMPACT

THE AGING NETWORK SERVES AN AVERAGE
OF 11 MILLION PEOPLE PER YEAR

Over a 5-year period it provided:

 Over **130 MILLION RIDES**
to doctors' offices,
grocery stores, and
other essential places



Nearly 90% of riders
say the service helps them
to continue to live in
their own homes

98%

98% of riders would
recommend the
service to a friend

 More than
1 BILLION MEALS
served



Over 95% of older adults
say they would
recommend the nutrition
program to friend



More than three-quarters
report the program
improves their health.

Over **60 MILLION HOURS**
of homemaker
services 



Nearly 100% of older
adults say the services
help them to continue to
live in their own homes

97%

97% of those receiving
homemaker services
report needing help with
heavy housework

 Nearly **20 MILLION HOURS**
of case
management



96% of older adults say
case management has
helped them continue to
live in their own homes



95% rate the services as
good to excellent

Over 





UPDATES

July 15, 2015

ONC is looking for a few good people

Are you eligible for the Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program? If so, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology might have an opportunity for you. And if you don't know if you qualify, read on.

ONC is looking for a variety of scientific and technical staff to join the ONC team through the IPA program with a duty station in Washington, D.C. The IPA program provides for the temporary assignment of personnel between the federal government and state and local governments, colleges and universities, Indian tribal governments, federally funded research and development centers, and other eligible organizations. The goal is to share expertise and experiences of employees and employers for short periods of time that serve a sound public purpose.

Sound interesting?? Please submit a current resume, a brief description on the type of position you are interested in, your supervisory approval via email, and an administrative point of contact at your home office to ONC.HC@hhs.gov by July 30, 2015. If you need more information, you can send an inquiry to ONC.HC@hhs.gov as well.

IPA Candidates Expertise

ONC is currently in need of leaders with strong skillsets, experience and background in the areas of health information science and technology,



innovation, interoperability, research and evaluation, legal theory or public policy. If you believe you might qualify, send your information to ONC.HC@hhs.gov.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate under an IPA assignment, employees must be permanent/career employees of their employing institution and have 90 days or more of continuous employment with their organization. For additional information visit <https://www.opm.gov/programs/ipa/Mobility.asp>

Nature of Assignment

The initial IPA assignment may be approved for up to two (2) years with extensions for an additional two (2) years, not to exceed four continuous years. The initial assignment is usually one year.

IPA assignees are usually detailed to and remain on their employing institution's payroll in an active pay status while on assignment. Salary and benefits continue to be administered by the employing institution. IPA assignees are subject to provisions of law governing the ethics and conduct of federal employees.

Salary

IPA assignee salary is usually annualized to twelve months. The salary portion paid by HHS cannot exceed the federal rate authorized for the grade level at which the position was established. In cases where the annual salary exceeds the maximum rate allowable under federal regulations (Executive Level I of the Federal Executive Pay Scale), the non-federal institution's portion of salary payment must compensate for the overage.

Approved Participating Organizations

The following organizations are automatically eligible to participate in the IPA Mobility Program and do not require certification by HHS

- accredited institutions of higher learning in the U.S. and/or its territories



- state and local governments including any political subdivision
- Indian tribal governments
- Federally [funded research and development centers](#) listed by the National Service Foundation.

[View a listing of organizations approved/certified by HHS](#) [PDF - 65KB].

We hope to see your expression of interest in the ONC.HC mailbox soon but definitely by July 30, 2015!



HHS News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 17, 2015

Statement from Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee on Senate passage of Older Americans Act Reauthorization

We applaud the Senate for passing the Older Americans Act and advancing it one major step toward reauthorization. This critical legislation, which was signed into law 50 years ago this week, provides high-quality, individualized services that improve the health, safety, and well-being of nearly 12 million older adults and one million family caregivers. It is key to enabling older adults to live their lives with dignity and respect in the homes and communities they choose.

Earlier this week at the White House



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Conference on Aging, we talked about the transformation of aging in America and the engagement of all sectors of society in the benefits and promise of longevity. Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act is an important step in achieving the goals we set.

This email was sent to Cecily_slasor@dars.virginia.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Administration for Community Living - One Massachusetts Avenue - Washington, D.C. 20001



UPDATES

July 15, 2014

Live Webinar: Identifying and Supporting People With Dementia Who Live Alone

Thursday, July 30, 2015, 3:00-4:00 p.m. EDT

Join the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center for a webinar about the prevalence and characteristics of people with dementia who live alone.

Topics will include the signs of self-neglect, intervention strategies, and the experiences of people with dementia who live alone.

Register and learn more

at <https://webtraining.rti.org/registration/?eventid=b9839303-c6aa-4806-b4c6-bbcb262a90a9>.



July 20, 2015

Don't miss the opportunity to contribute to defining how quality in HCBS should be defined/measured.

Comments due August 17, 2015

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are essential to supporting successful community living for millions of people with disabilities. Expansion of HCBS allows more people with disabilities to receive the services they need in a setting of their choosing. As public and private investment in HCBS grows, it is critical to define quality in HCBS and explore how best to measure it.

The [National Quality Forum](#) (NQF) is convening a stakeholder committee to develop recommendations to improve quality measurement in home and community based services.

NQF recently released an interim report entitled "Addressing Performance Measure Gaps in Home and Community-Based Services to Support Community Living - Initial Components of the Conceptual Framework." The proposed framework will guide the development of



quality measures in HCBS for years to come. Stakeholder input is essential to making the framework as accurate and relevant as possible.

This interim report is the first product of committee's work which will be followed by:

- a synthesis of current HCBS quality measurement;
- an identification of measurement gaps; and,
- recommendations for defining a set of priority quality measures.

You can follow the committee's work, view the interim report, and make comments at the NQF [website](#).

This email was sent to Cecily.slasor@dars.virginia.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Administration for Community Living · One Massachusetts Avenue · Washington, D.C. 20001



July 20, 2015

Share Your Feedback on Draft APS Guidelines

ACL is soliciting comments, and will be hosting 12 listening sessions, on newly-released draft voluntary guidelines for



Adult Protective Services (APS) systems.

ACL envisions a comprehensive, multidisciplinary system that effectively supports older adults and adults with disabilities so they can exercise their right to live where they choose, with the people they choose and fully participate in their communities without threat of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation.

APS agencies are a critically important component of this comprehensive system to address abuse, neglect, self-neglect or financial exploitation of older adults and adults with disabilities. In all states, APS is charged with receiving and responding to reports of maltreatment and working closely with clients and a wide variety of allied professionals to maximize clients' safety and independence.

Historically, there has been no federal "home" for APS nor a designated federal appropriation for this critically important service. Instead, states and local agencies have developed a wide variety of APS practices, resulting in significant variations.

Strong federal leadership in addressing adult maltreatment must include a commitment to bolstering and assisting the APS system in responding to victims in the most effective way possible. ACL is uniquely qualified to spearhead these efforts because of its mission to maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people with disabilities, and their families and caregivers.

As one part of these efforts, ACL is facilitating the development of field-driven, consensus-informed, national guidelines in order to provide a core set of



principles and common expectations to encourage consistency in the policies and practices of APS across the country.

Through these guidelines, ACL seeks to help ensure that adults are afforded similar protections and service delivery, regardless of which state or jurisdiction they are in. These draft guidelines build upon existing work and have been developed based on the best science available on what works in APS agencies and in other analogous systems throughout the United States.

ACL is now launching a stakeholder engagement and outreach strategy to refine and finalize this [draft set of guidelines](#). Through October 13th, members of the public are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the draft guidelines by commenting via an [electronic form on the ACL website](#). ACL will also convene [at least 12 listening sessions](#) with general and targeted audiences. Listening sessions will be held via conference call and in person at national conferences.

[Learn more and read the the full draft guidelines, submit comments, and participate in a listening session.](#)

White House Conference on Aging: Combating Alzheimer's and Other Dementia's

Charlotte Arbogast, Dementia Services Coordinator

-- EMAIL FOR NAPA LISTSERV MEMBERS --

White House Conference on Aging: Combating Alzheimer's and Other Dementias

Announcing the release of the 2015 Update to the National Plan, HRSA Primary Care Curriculum, Brain Health Awareness Campaign, and a HIPAA Resource for Providers



The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** announced today the release of the *2015 Update to the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*, reflecting our nation's progress toward accomplishing goals set in 2012 and current action steps to achieving them. The [2011 National Alzheimer's Project Act](#) calls for the Plan to be updated annually. The *2015 Update* follows updates released in May 2012, June 2013, and the 2014 Update released in April 2014.

The *2015 Update* was developed with input from experts in aging and Alzheimer's disease from federal, state, private and non-profit organizations, as well as caregivers and people with the disease. The *2015 Update* includes the following five goals: finding ways to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025; enhancing care for Alzheimer's patients; expanding support for people with dementia and their families; improving public awareness; and carefully tracking data to support these efforts. The *2015 Update* includes an overview of federal agency accomplishments in 2014, including specific information on completed and ongoing action steps.

To speed discovery of a cure for Alzheimer's disease, **HHS's National Institutes of Health (NIH)** has developed [research agenda recommendations](#). Resulting from the NIH-convened [Alzheimer's Disease Research Summit 2015: Path to Treatment and Prevention](#) held this past February, these recommendations, based on input from dementia experts from academia, industry and advocacy groups, provide a framework for a bold and transformative Alzheimer's disease research agenda over the next few years that will help the research community meet the goals of the National Plan.

The **HHS Health Resources and Services Administration** announced that it will create an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias training curriculum to build a health care workforce with the necessary skills to provide high quality dementia care and ensure timely and accurate detection and diagnosis of dementia. The **HHS Office of Women's Health** will develop related training to help family caregivers maximize their own health and address specific care needs of persons with dementia. The curriculum will be released next year.

The **HHS Administration on Community Living** is launching a \$4 million Brain Health Awareness Campaign featuring Academy Award winning actress Marcia Gay Harden to help older adults better understand changes that occur in the brain as people age and reduce the fear of discussing concerns with family members and clinicians. In addition, the **Dementia Friendly America Initiative** announced plans to support dementia friendly communities across the country and to expand to 15 additional pilot sites across the country. This work is based on a model implemented in Minnesota through which 34 communities across the state are actively



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working to increase dementia awareness and implement strategies to help support individuals in the community with dementia.

HHS also, in conjunction with OCR and the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services, released the **Alzheimer's and Related Dementias: HIPAA Resource List**. This resource list gives guidance to providers regarding consent, capacity, and decision making when treating individuals with dementia. Although the resource list does not specifically address dementia it does provide links to material that would be relevant to providers when helping individuals and their families.

For more information, visit the National Alzheimer's Project Act website at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/> or the 2015 Update to the National Plan at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/NatlPlan2015.shtml>.

Aging.gov is a new resource site launched today in conjunction with the White House Conference on Aging. For more information on resources and topics to help older adults live independent and fulfilling lives such as healthy aging, elder justice, long-term care, and vital programs like Social Security and Medicare visit <http://aging.gov>.

Brenda Veazey
Webmaster
National Alzheimer's Project Act
Email: napa@hhs.gov
URL: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>

USDA: Secretary Vilsack Proclaims August 2-8 National Farmers Market Week

Nicole Keeney, Nutrition Program Coordinator

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



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Press Release



Release No. 0203.15

Contact:

Peter Wood (202) 720-6179

Peter.wood@ams.usda.gov

Secretary Vilsack Proclaims August 2-8 National Farmers Market Week

WASHINGTON, July 14, 2015 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has declared Aug. 2 through 8, 2015, as "National Farmers Market Week." The declaration was made official by [proclamation signed by Secretary Vilsack](#). This year marks the 16th annual National Farmers Market Week in honor of the important role that farmers markets play in local economies. Throughout the week, USDA will celebrate thousands of our nation's farmers markets, the farmers and ranchers who make them possible and the communities that host them.

"National Farmers Market Week is a great opportunity for farmers markets across the country to host special events to showcase all the tremendous services they provide," said Secretary Vilsack. "Farmers markets play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support farmers and help grow rural economies. They bring communities together, connecting cities with the farms and providing Americans with fresh, healthy food."

Throughout the week, USDA officials will celebrate at farmers market locations across the country. On Saturday, Aug. 1, Anne Alonzo, the Administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) - which conducts research, provides technical assistance, and awards grants to support farmers markets - will kick off the week at the Santa Fe Farmers Market in New Mexico. The Santa Fe Farmers Market is the oldest in New Mexico and is ranked as one of the top ten farmers markets nationwide.

Farmers markets provide consumers with fresh, affordable, convenient, and healthy products from local producers. With support from USDA, more farmers markets offer customers the opportunity to make purchases with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; the Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program; and the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs.

Supporting farmers markets is a part of the USDA's Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative, which coordinates the Department's policy, resources, and outreach efforts related to local and regional food systems. Secretary Vilsack has identified strengthening local food systems as one of the [Four Pillars of Agriculture and Rural Economic Development](#).



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National Housing Conference Invitation

Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations



INVITATION



What: A webinar on the role housing counseling plays in the home buying process, with emphasis on buyers returning to the market post-foreclosure.

When: Tuesday, July 28, 2015
2 p.m.- 3 p.m. EST

Where: [Register Here](#)

Host: The Center for Housing Policy, research division of the National Housing Conference

Sponsored by



Navigating the housing market and preparing financially for homeownership can be a daunting process, not only for those new to the housing market, but especially for previous homeowners who have experienced a foreclosure or were negatively affected in the housing market downturn. **Housing counseling is an effective tool to help people financially prepare to buy a home or re-enter the housing market after a foreclosure**, providing advice to potential homebuyers on repairing or protecting their credit and assisting them in preparing for mortgage application, budget planning, and foreclosure prevention.

This presentation will **focus on the role of housing counseling in the home buying process**, particularly for buyers returning to the housing market after a foreclosure. The webinar is part of a series sponsored by the National Association of Realtors®.

[Register now for this free webinar](#)

When: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. EST

Who: Panelists are:

Heather Blankenship, *Neighborhood Housing Service, Chicago*
Leah Coldham, director of housing counseling programs, *Housing Partnership Network*
Rebekah King, policy associate, *National Housing Conference*

[Register for the webinar now](#)

Learn more about the [National Housing Conference](#) and its research division, the [Center for Housing Policy](#).

For the latest information on housing policy, please visit:
[HousingPolicy.org](#) | [Foreclosure-Response.org](#) | [Housing Communications HUB](#) | [Open House Blog](#)



Age in Action Summer 2015 Issue

Cecily Slasor on behalf of Dr. Edward Ansello

Dear Friends,

Greetings for the summer. I am pleased to attach a link to the new summer 2015 issue of our quarterly *Age in Action*.

This issue features a case study on Bringing Comfort to People with Advanced Dementia, written by Ann Wyatt of the Alzheimer's Association of New York City. It describes application of the Beatitudes model of adapting institutional policies to an individual's needs and is complementary to the habilitation model of dementia care. This issue also has articles on how to avoid problems in selecting a Medical Agent for your later care needs; announcement of our new Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) federal grant; an overview of the newest awardees in the Alzheimer's and Related Diseases Research Award Fund; photographs of our recent graduates in the interprofessional geriatrics Faculty Development Program; a blurb about *Age in Action* being awarded by the Southern Gerontological Society; editorials on remembering our friends and on the 50th anniversaries of the Older Americans Act and Medicare; Calendar notices; and other items. As you'll see, much of the content is generalizable.

Please consider sending in essays and Calendar events. We'd be happy to add newcomers to our e-mail distribution list. Tell people that they can write me directly at eansello@vcu.edu and I'll add them. With best wishes,

Ed



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www.sahp.vcu.edu/vcoa/ageinaction

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NASUAD Friday Updates

Cecily Slasor, Administrative Assistant

| | |
|--|-------------|
|  | |
| July 17, 2015 | |
| In This Issue | From NASUAD |
| <u>*NASUAD: White House Conference on Aging</u> | |
| <u>*NASUAD: Call on Senate to Pass OAA Reauthorization</u> | |
| <u>*NASUAD: Registration Open for HCBS</u> | |

Conference

*NASUAD: Alumni Group Forming

*HCBS Clearinghouse: Medicaid Expenditures for Long Term Services & Supports in 2013

*HCBS Clearinghouse: Care Coordination in Managed Long Term Services and Supports Report

*HCBS Clearinghouse: Valuing the Invaluable: A Report on Family Caregiving

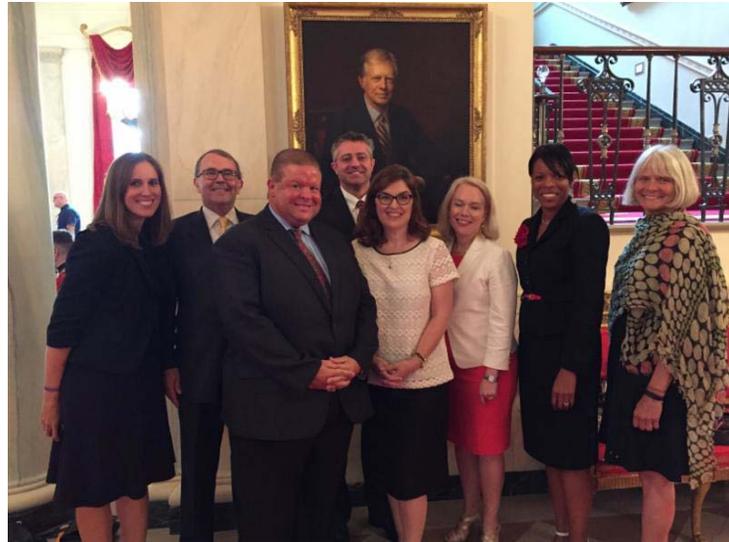
*ACL: ADA Infographics

*ACL: American Samoa & Guam CIL Competition Grant

*ACL: Statewide Independent Living Council Training & TAC Grant

*CMS: Proposed Revisions to Requirement for Long Term Care Facilities to Participate in Medicare and Medicaid

*CMS: Medicare and



NASUAD at the White House Conference on Aging

This past **Monday, July 13, 2015**, Executive Director, Martha Roherty, and six NASUAD members attended the White House Conference on Aging. The conference featured remarks by President Barak Obama, panels with distinguished speakers, and the introduction of new initiatives for older adults and people with disabilities.

[Click here](#) to view the news article.

[Click here](#) to view a twitter recap of the conference.

Celebrate OAA's 50th Anniversary; Senate Passes Reauthorization

The 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act (OAA) occurred this past **Tuesday, July 14, 2015**. The OAA authorization expired in 2011, and its services have been maintained by way of the annual appropriations process. NASUAD wrote to Senators Mitch McConnell and Harry Reid and urged the Senate leaders to pass the Older Americans Act



**Medicaid 50th Anniversary
Celebration**

***DOL: The Next 25 years of
the ADA Event**

***IRS: Regulations
Published for
Implementation of ABL
Act**

***USDA: SNAP and
Delivery Services Proposal**

***White House Conference
on Aging: Highlights from
the Conference**

***Senate: Senate Passage of
the Older Americans Act
Reauthorization**

***Senate: Request for
Government
Accountability Office
Assessment**

***AARP: Webinar Recap:
Care Coordination**

***National Alzheimer's &
Dementia Resource Center:
Technical Assistance
Webinar**

***National Disability
Institute: Community
Tyze: Secure Online**

Reauthorization (S. 192). The reauthorization passed the senate yesterday, **July 16, 2015**, and will now move onto the House of Representatives. NASUAD strongly encourages House members to pass the legislation and fund the key investments necessary to support older Americans.

[Click here](#) to view the NASUAD Statement.

[Click here](#) to view the full letter.

[Click here](#) to view the full act.

The HCBS Conference- Tools for Life Technology Track- Register Today!

Join us for the [National Home and Community Based Services \(HCBS\) Conference](#) held in Washington, DC, **August 31-September 3**.

This year we have a track focused on technology and innovation to help older adults and persons with disabilities become more independent and involved in their communities. The **Tools for Life Technology Track** will have a workshop at every time slot throughout the conference that highlights the work organizations have done to expand and improve services and to increase quality of life.

These sessions include a variety of lessons including discussions on tablets and apps that help with accessibility, using technology to gather data and assist with delivering services, and how technology can help with self-directed services.

The Tools for Life Technology Track will also offer open lab demonstrations, allowing HCBS Conference attendees to test out tablet apps and even see robots that can help seniors and people with disabilities in their homes!



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[Click here](#) to learn more about the conference and register!

NASUAD Alumni Group Forming

In response to requests from past members of NASUAD, the board has agreed to form a NASUAD alumni group. The group will provide alumni with an opportunity to network and attend educational conferences such as the annual HCBS conference sponsored by NASUAD.

Your help is requested. Brian Duke, former Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging has agreed to serve as the volunteer NASUAD alumni coordinator. Please contact him if you have contact information for alumni.

[Click here](#) to contact Brian Duke.

HCBS Clearinghouse E-Clips

This section of Friday Update highlights reports that have been added to the HCBS Clearinghouse within the past week. Visit www.nasud.org/hcbs for more information.

Medicaid Expenditures for Long Term Service & Supports in 2013

CMS and Mathematica Policy Research released a report conducted by Truven Health Analytics on Medicaid expenditures for long term services and supports (LTSS). Fiscal Year 2013 was the first time that home and community based services (HCBS) have composed a majority, or 51.3%, of Medicaid LTSS expenditures. This change reflects the concerted effort to move away from institutional services and instead increase spending on HCBS. One finding attributed the growth in LTSS to the



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increase of managed care organizations. This report provides a break down of spending trends specific to each state as well as federal spending.

[Click here](#) to view the full report.

Case for Inclusion 2015 Report

United Cerebral Palsy released the 2015 version of their annual Case for Inclusion report. This report examines data and outcomes to track community living standards for Americans living with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) in each state and the District of Columbia. The findings from this report can inform policymakers and advocates on improvements and changes to ensure the best quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The findings from this report can inform policymakers and advocates on improvements and changes to ensure the best quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

[Click here](#) to access the reports and findings.

[Click here](#) to view the state scorecards.

Valuing the Invaluable: A Report on Family Caregiving

The AARP Public Policy Institute's new publication, Valuing the Invaluable: 2015 Update, Undeniable Progress but Big Gaps Remain, reports that family caregivers in the U.S. provided 37 billion hours-worth an estimated \$470 billion -to their parents, spouses, partners, and other adult loved ones in 2013. The report updates the national and state estimates of the economic value of family caregiving using the most current data available. It also explains



the challenges that family caregivers face today, highlights key policy developments for family caregivers, and provides recommendations to better support caregiving families.

[Click here](#) to access the reports and findings.

From the Administration

[Administration for Community Living](#)

Older Americans Act Infographics

This past **Tuesday, July 14, 2015**, marked the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Older Americans Act (OAA). The Administration for Community Living has created a series of infographics to recognize the impact of the OAA on the aging network it serves. ACL encourages everyone to share the infographics on Facebook and Twitter.

[Click here](#) to view the infographics.

American Samoa & Guam CIL Competition Grant

The Administration for Community Living is providing a funding opportunity to create Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in American Samoa and Guam. CILs provide services to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential within their families and communities. Applicants must be able to demonstrate compliance with standards and assurance as outlined in section 725 of part C of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The grant award is between \$95,096 and \$154,056. Required letters of intent are due by **July 21, 2015**, and applications are due by **August 17, 2015**.



[Click here](#) to view the grant application information.

Statewide Independent Living Council Training and TAC Grant

The Administration for Community Living is seeking applicants for a two-year cooperative agreement to operate a Statewide Independent Living Council Training & Technical Assistance Center. The grant award is up to \$400,000 in fiscal year 2015 and \$250,000 in fiscal year 2016. Applications are due by **August 17, 2015**.

[Click here](#) to view the grant application information.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Proposed Revisions to Requirement for Long Term Care Facilities to Participate in Medicare & Medicaid

On Monday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a proposed rule to revise the quality and safety requirements for long term care facilities participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The proposal would be the first rule update since 1991. The rule aims to improve care planning, ensure staff have the right skills and competencies to provide patient-centered care, and allow dietitians and therapy providers to write orders in their areas of expertise when a physician delegates the responsibility and state licensing laws allow. Additionally, the rule would add several new sections to the regulations, including person-centered care planning, behavioral health services, quality assurance and performance improvement, training, and more. Provisions covering infection prevention and control standards, visitation requirements, and an expansion of food choice for



residents are also part of the rule. The proposed rule has been published in the Federal Register with a 60-day comment period. All comments must be received by **5 p.m. ET on September 14, 2015**.

[Click here](#) to view the proposed rule.

Medicare and Medicaid 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is hosting an event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid on **Wednesday, July 29, 2015, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ET**. The event will be held at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. The keynote speaker will be Sylvia Mathews Burwell, the Secretary of Health and Human Services. There will also be a panel of distinguished speakers that will speak about how Medicare and Medicaid have impacted society and the changes we can make to strengthen and improve health care in the future.

[Click here](#) to confirm your attendance.

Department of Labor

The Next 25 Years of the ADA Event

The United States Secretary of Labor, Honorable Thomas E. Perez, is hosting an event to commemorate 25 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The event is **Tuesday, July 21, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. ET** and will be held at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, DC. This event features a discussion about how to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities with former Senator Tom Harkin and Governor Jack Markell of Delaware.



[Click here](#) to register for the event.

Internal Revenue Service

Regulations Published for Implementation of ABLÉ Act

The Internal Revenue Service published proposed regulations concerning the implementation of the Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE Act) of 2014. The proposed regulations are titled Guidance Under Section 529A: Qualified ABLE Programs and were published on **June 22, 2015**. The regulations address an explanation of provisions, the qualifications of an ABLE program, the standard for disability determination, limits on contributions to the account, and various other issues. Public comments are due by **September 21, 2015**. A public hearing to address these regulations is scheduled for **October 14, 2015**.

[Click here](#) for the full version of the regulations.

United States Department of Agriculture

SNAP and Delivery Services Proposal

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a proposed rule at the White House Conference on Aging. This rule would modify regulations regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to allow certain entities to provide home delivered groceries for seniors and people with disabilities. The proposal would apply to households where the head of household is age 60 or older or has a disability. This rule is intended to expand service accessibility and increase the availability of SNAP benefits to individuals who experience difficulties leaving their homes. The



proposed rule has been published in the Federal Register with a 60-day comment period. All comments must be received by **5 p.m. ET on September 14, 2015.**

[Click here](#) to view the full proposal.

From the White House

[White House Conference on Aging](#)

Highlights from the Conference

The White House Conference on Aging took place this past **Monday, July 13, 2015.** The conference included remarks by President Barak Obama, the introduction of several new initiatives from his administration, and distinguished panelists speaking on critical issues. For example, a panel on intergenerational connections and healthy aging and a discussion on elder justice offered interesting perspectives for the nation to consider. Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services released two new websites on [aging](#) and [long term care](#) to make accessing services easier for consumers.

There were over 600 watch parties throughout the United States, with thousands of viewers sharing highlights, thoughts, questions and opinions via social media outlets.

[Click here](#) to view the WHCOA fact sheet.

[Click here](#) to view highlights from the conference.

From Congress



United States Senate

Senate Passage of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization

On Thursday, July 16, 2015, the United States Senate passed S.192, the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, by unanimous consent. The bill funds critical services and supports for our nation's seniors. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) committee reported the bill without amendment this past February. S.192 will now move to the House of Representatives for consideration.

[Click here](#) to view more information about the act.

Request for Government Accountability Office Assessment

On **Wednesday, July 8, 2015**, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senate Aging Committee Chair Susan Collins, Senate Aging Committee Ranking Member Claire McCaskill, and Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch wrote a joint letter to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding state oversight of Assisted Living facilities. The Senators were seeking additional information concerning the number of Medicaid enrollees in these facilities, the amount of state spending, eligibility requirements, and what oversight mechanisms are currently in place at the federal and state levels for Medicaid enrollees at these facilities.

[Click here](#) to view the letter.

From Other Organizations

AARP



Webinar Recap: Care Coordination

The AARP Public Policy Long Term Care Update Webinar, including the PowerPoint presentation, audio recording, report, and brief are posted on the AARP website. This webinar featured Susan Reinhard from AARP Public Policy Institute, Brian Burwell, and Paul Saucier, both from Truven Health Analytics.

[Click here](#) to view the full report.

[Click here](#) to access the webinar resources.

National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center

Technical Assistance Webinar

The National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center is holding a Technical Assistance (TA) webinar on **Thursday, July 30, 2015**, from **3:00 to 4:00 p.m ET**. The webinar will provide information about prevalence and characteristics of people with dementia who live alone, signs of self-neglect and intervention strategies, and the experiences of people with dementia who live alone. The presenters will be Dr. Phyllis "Penny" Braudy Harris, Ph.D, ACSW, LISW, Professor and Chair of the Sociology and Criminology Department, and Director of Aging Studies at the John Carroll University and Dr. Michael Lepore, Ph.D, Senior Health Policy & Health Services Researcher at RTI International and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Health Services, Policy, and Practice at Brown University.

[Click here](#) to view details and register.

National Disability Institute



Community Tyze: Secure Online Platform

The National Disability Institute, in collaboration with Saint Elizabeth, have created Community Tyze, a secure online platform for individuals with disabilities and older Americans to create their own personal support network. Community Tyze provides people with the tools to build support, increase communication, decrease isolation, and enhance coordination of services and supports. A study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that the Tyze networks "reduce social isolation, increase family support, improve communication between paid and unpaid caregivers and reduce healthcare expenditure."

[Click here](#) to learn more about the platform.

Smithsonian Institution

25 Years of Disability Rights Festival

The Smithsonian Institution is hosting a festival to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The festival will occur **July 24-26 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET daily** on the Mall-side terrace of the National Museum of American History. These three days will be full of panel discussion, exhibitors, and demonstrations to teach about the ADA and its impact on Americans with disabilities. The events will feature music, dance, storytelling, technology demonstrations, and workshops.

[Click here](#) to view more details about the festival events.



Events

2015 Annual Conference on Independent Living

The National Council on Independent Living's Annual conference will be held in Washington, DC, **July 27-30, 2015**. This year will specifically focus on the Americans with Disabilities Act Generation, or the generation of youth advocates with disabilities, and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ADA. There will be several different workshop tracks with focuses like Statewide Independent Living Councils, youth, Independent Living Administration, and orientation for new attendees.

[Click here](#) to view conference details.

Job & Internship Postings

Vice President of Livable Communities and Long Term Services & Supports

AARP is seeking applicants for the position of Vice President of Livable Communities and Long Term Services and Supports. The Vice President will be responsible for overseeing policy analysis, directing the activities of staff, and leading and advancing innovation Enterprise-priority partnerships.

Qualified applicants will have a minimum of a Master's degree in a related discipline, five years of strong management experience, and an advanced degree. The application period will close on **Friday, July 31, 2015**.

[Click here](#) to view the full posting.

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