

February 23, 2023

AFPHS News



News:

A New Guide Highlights Plain Language for Public Health

The Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC) has created a new [Plain Language for Public Health guide](#) to support public health communicators in creating messaging to advance health literacy, build trust in public health organizations as a source of information, and promote overall community health. Using plain language can help an audience find what they need and understand what they find to help people stay informed and make decisions about their health. The guide walks through three steps and shares plain language techniques to help build communications skills so more people can have access to public health information that is easy to find, understand, and use.

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

TFAH's 2023 AFPHS training series will provide guidance on implementing each of the AFPHS 6Cs ([based on the 6Cs Framework](#)). Each session will highlight specific examples of public health programs, policies, or other activities that align with the 6Cs and advance healthy aging as a core function.

The March training will focus on connecting and convening by bringing together vested partners to develop and implement multi-sector approaches to support the health of older adults. This session will be held on **March 16 at 3 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a recording of our [February training](#) – Creating and Leading Change.

Individuals who attend 6 or more AFPHS monthly trainings will be designated as AFPHS Champions. More than 50 people across the country have been recognized as Champions to date. Visit the [AFPHS Recognition Program page](#) for more information.

HIV and Aging Webinar Series

People aging with HIV may also experience additional unique health challenges such as multiple chronic conditions, multiple medications, and increased vulnerability to stressors. The MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center is hosting a webinar series that will address the complexities of care, treatment and management, the psychosocial needs and impact of social determinants of health, and how to improve the quality of life for a growing population of older adults living with HIV.

- *Friday, March 3, 2023* - HIV and Aging: Exploring Brain Health and Cognition – Register [here](#).

- *Friday, April 28, 2023 - HIV and Aging: Mental Health-understanding the complex co-morbidities we face – Register [here](#).*

Strategies to Support Social Engagement of Tribal Elders – *Friday, February 24, 2023, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET.* engAGED: The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults is partnering with the Diverse Elders Coalition to host a three-part webinar series focused on meeting the social needs of older adults in historically marginalized and underserved communities. The first webinar in this series will feature the Administration for Community Living as they describe how Title VI Native American Aging Programs are addressing social isolation. They will also share how the aging network can partner with Title VI program participants to mitigate the effects social isolation. Register [here](#).

The Role of Transportation in Cross-Sector Collaborations Designed to Improve Housing Stability – *Monday, February 27, 2023, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm ET.* This Housing and Services Resource Center webinar will focus on the role of partnerships between the housing, transportation, aging and disability, and health sectors in supporting housing stability and community living for older adults and people with disabilities. Examples of effective collaborations between housing and public transportation, as well as technical assistance resources that can be used to strengthen community transportation partnerships will be highlighted. Register [here](#).

Spring 2023 Columbia Aging Center Seminar Series

The 2022-23 Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center seminars and speakers are inspired by the [National Academy of Medicine Global Roadmap for Healthy Longevity](#) and speak to future-back solutions, the assets of aging, social infrastructure, health systems and public health, health equity, and physical environments.

- **Patterns & Determinants of Racialized Inequities in Health & Aging**, Courtney Boen, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania – *Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 11:30 am-12:30 pm ET.* Register [here](#).
- **A seminar on loneliness and isolation in aging**, Ashwin Vasani MD PhD, Commissioner of Health, NYC Dept of Health & Mental Hygiene, City of New York – *Thursday, March 2, 2023, 11:30 am-12:30 pm ET.* Register [here](#).
- **The Value of Public Health Engagement in Healthy Aging**, Megan Wolfe, JD, Senior Policy Development Manager, Trust for America's Health – *Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 11:30 am-12:30 pm ET.* Register [here](#).
- **Translating Frailty Assessment & Management into Clinical Practice: Can technology help us in the future? Accelerometry & Voice-Activated Assistants**, Megan Huisinck-Scheetz, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Chicago – *Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 11:30 am-12:30 pm ET.* Register [here](#).
- **Upstream approaches to help seniors age at home: the view from Silicon Valley**, Nirav R. Shah, MD, MPH, Senior Scholar, Clinical Excellence Research Center, Stanford University – *Thursday, March 23, 2023, 11:30 am-12:30 pm ET.* Register [here](#).

Successful Public Health Approaches in Dementia Caregiving – *Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 10:30 am ET.* The Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving is hosting an ongoing virtual roundtable series. The goal of this series is to create a public health community of practice where agencies can share experiences and get ideas of strategies to implement to support dementia caregivers in their jurisdictions. Each session will highlight the story of one state that has successfully implemented innovative, state-wide public health approaches for supporting dementia caregivers. The next roundtable event will focus on activities in Rhode Island. Register [here](#).

Community-Based Early Dementia Screenings Lead to Support for Caregivers and People Living with Dementia – *Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET.* The National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center is hosting a webinar on the key role that community based organizations play in conducting dementia screenings, and keeping people in the community longer. Two Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative grantees will describe the programs in their community. Register [here](#).

2nd Annual Innovations in Healthy Aging Summit – Building Resiliency with Healthy Aging Research – *Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET (In-person and Online).* This interactive hybrid event will feature research projects focused on solving the grand challenges of healthy aging, improving aging for all, and positively impacting older adults. The highlighted research is funded by Innovations in Healthy Aging, a strategic initiative of the University of Arizona Health Sciences. Registration coming soon.

First Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Health Equity Conference
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is hosting their first Health Equity Conference Wednesday, June 7 to Thursday, June 8, 2023 in Washington D.C. This free

two-day conference will also be streamed for virtual attendance. Innovations in the field of health equity will be shared by community-based organizations, academia, health provider organizations, and CMS leadership. [Click here](#) for more information about the conference.

Funding Opportunity – Healthy Longevity Catalyst Award Competition

Applications are now open for the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) Healthy Longevity Catalyst Award Competition. Up to 20 Healthy Longevity Catalyst Awards (each worth \$50K) will be awarded for ideas or early-stage projects to improve health and well-being as people age. Ideas may focus on any stage of life, as long as they ultimately promote health as people age. Awardees and finalists will automatically be considered for additional funding as part of subsequent phase of the Global Competition, the Accelerator Phase, with awards from \$150,000 to more than \$1 million USD. Awardees from both phases will be well-positioned to compete in 2025 for the NAM's Grand Prize, worth up to \$5M, for a breakthrough innovation in healthy longevity. Click [here](#) to learn more. The application portal closes **March 6, 2023**. Email Program Director Michele Toplitz (mtoplitz@nas.edu) with any questions.

Funding Opportunity – COVID-19 and Vaccine Uptake

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) has received funding to provide grants and technical assistance to hundreds of diverse community-based organizations to develop and host vaccine clinics. These clinics would offer services to help get older adults need vaccinated, such as transportation and assistance in scheduling appointments. Approximately 250 grants for 6-, 12-, or 15-month projects will be awarded. The goal of this funding opportunity is to increase the number of older adults and people with disabilities receiving COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations. Eligible applicants include senior centers, community centers, local community organizations that serve, support, and include older adults and people with disabilities; faith-based organizations that serve, support, and include older adults and people with disabilities; governmental agencies; and other federally recognized nonprofit organizations. Applications to NCOA will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until **March 1, 2023**. [Click here](#) for more information.

Funding Opportunity – Seniors Workforce Development Senior Demonstration Program

The [Seniors Workforce Development Senior Demonstration Program](#) will fund projects focused on supporting older adult engagement in the public health workforce. This program will help older adults as they seek to secure employment in professional, skilled labor, or para-professional careers including a public health career track. This program is led by the Public Health AmeriCorps and the AmeriCorps Seniors. [Learn more](#). Applications are due by **March 15, 2023, at 5:00 pm ET**.

Funding Opportunity – BOLD Public Health Programs to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced the availability of funding for the BOLD Public Health Programs to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (CDC-RFA-DP23-0010) to fulfill the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406). These 5-year grants are designed to build public health infrastructure and increase capacity in addressing and preventing Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) and support dementia caregiving, emphasizing social determinants of health. All BOLD activities are designed to improve the health of populations across the lifespan by employing data-driven strategies and aligning CDC's Healthy Brain Initiative [State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map](#) and [Road Map for Indian Country](#) frameworks. [Learn more](#). Applications are due by **March 23, 2023**.

Health and Aging Policy Fellows

Applications are now being accepted for the [2023-2024 class of the Health and Aging Policy Fellows](#). This one-year Fellowship runs from October 1 – September 30 and has full-time and part-time tracks. It is conducted as a hybrid program of mentoring, networking, learning and practicum experiences. Health and Aging Policy Fellows work across diverse fields of aging and develop lifelong partnerships and networks. Applications are due by **April 17, 2023**.

Upcoming Conference Abstract/Proposal Deadlines

- [American Public Health Association](#) – *March 31, 2023, 11:59 pm PT/2:59 am ET*. Theme: Creating the Healthiest Nation: Overcoming Social and Ethical Challenges
- [Gerontological Society of America](#) – *March 9, 2023*. Theme: Building Bridges > Catalyzing Research > Empowering All Ages

Resources:

COVID-19

Risk from COVID-19 among Older Adults

Despite a decline in COVID-19 case, hospitalizations and deaths, **90% of the deaths that occurred in January 2023 were among adults ages 65 and older.** Only 40.8% of older adults have received the latest bivalent booster. Since many testing centers have closed and mask mandates have been lifted, people are responsible for their own detection and prevention.

Impact of the SNAP Benefit Cut on Older Adults

The boost that Congress created at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to support food benefits is set to expire at the end of February 2023. **Many older adults will see a drastic reduction in their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.** The average reduction will be about \$82 per person, with older adults expected to experience the largest benefit decrease. One study found that the increased SNAP benefits reduced poverty among older adults by 8.6% in the second half of 2021.

Additional Resources

Helping Older Adults Cope with Climate Change

According to research from The Ohio State University College of Social Work, older adults have a **higher risk of being negatively impacted by extreme weather events.** Researchers recommend intervening and helping older adults plan for these events. Older adults tend to be more reactive than proactive when dealing with extreme heat. Given this information, researchers at the College of Social Work have been working in partnership with the College's Age-Friendly Innovation Center to publish papers and raise awareness about preparing older adults in the community.

Healthcare Providers Hesitate to Use Telehealth with Older Adults

According to results from a **national survey** conducted by West Health, 60% of doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers believe it's "dangerous" to provide telehealth to older adults due to patients' medical complexities. Results also indicate that 60% of these providers feel that telehealth is an unrealistic option for older adults with physical or cognitive challenges. These results shed light on perceived concerns from providers and point to some possible improvements for telehealth to better serve older adults.

25 Common Nursing Home Problems and Solutions

Justice in Aging's updated guide, **25 Common Nursing Home Problems – & How to Resolve Them,** includes new eligibility standards for Medicare coverage, focused information on how to fight evictions, and more. The 25 problems identified in the guide are common across the country and in all types of nursing homes. This guide gives residents, family members, friends, and other advocates the tools they need to identify and solve the problems residents most frequently face.

Report on Advancing Equity through MLTSS Programs

ADvancing States and Impact 120 co-authored **a new report, Advancing Equity through MLTSS Programs.** The report is the ninth publication from the MLTSS Institute, established in 2016 to drive improvements in key **managed long-term services and supports** (MLTSS) policy areas, facilitate sharing and learning among states, and provide direct and intensive technical assistance to states and health plans. Many who require long-term services and supports through Medicaid experience barriers in achieving their highest quality of life due to the intersectional impact of disability and age when combined with race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, and geography. This report explores five key themes and highlights the numerous ways that MLTSS programs can enhance state capacity to create more equitable programs for consumers.

Support for Navajo Caregivers

The So'Tsoh Foundation was created to **support caregivers in the Navajo Nation.** Launched by Navajo Nation member Valerie Tosie, training is provided to caregivers that speak the Diné language and the training includes a care method that recognizes connections among the mind, body, and spirit. Tosie noted that "training has to take into account people's culture." Some of the topics that the caregivers receive training on include safety, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias.

Connection between Heart Health and Dementia Risk

Using data from Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities study, researchers have found that **improvements in heart health in midlife and beyond was associated with lower risk factors for dementia and stroke 20 years later.** This research was presented at the American Stroke Association's International Stroke Conference in Dallas, TX in February 2023. Cardiovascular health scores were calculated using the American Heart Association's Life's Simple 7, a collection of behaviors and factors that include diet,

physical activity, weight, tobacco use, cholesterol, blood pressure, and glucose levels.

A Collaborative Approach to Delivering Evidence-Based Programs

The latest installment in the Success Stories series – [Creating Regional Networks to Promote Health and Well-Being: A Case Study on Evidence-Based Programs in New England](#) – highlights how the multistate network of Area Agencies on Aging led by AgeSpan takes a collaborative approach to deliver evidence-based programs to older adults. Developed by USAging’s Aging and Business Institute, this story also highlights how respect for the unique qualities of the communities were considered to maintain community connections.

Updated Chronic Disease Indicators Dataset

The Division of Population Health within the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) has recently released an updated version of the [Chronic Disease Indicators \(CDI\) dataset](#). The data available on the CDI website include uniformly defined state-level data on a wide range of chronic diseases, conditions, and risk factors that have a substantial impact on public health. Data estimates for 18 CDI topic areas containing a total of 124 indicators and over 200 measures are featured in this new release.

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