

May 15, 2024

AFPHS News



News:

May is Older Americans Month

Older Americans Month (OAM) is a time to “recognize older Americans' contributions, highlight aging trends, and reaffirm commitments to serving the older adults in our communities.” Each year, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) selects a theme and this year it's *Powered by Connection*, intended to emphasize the importance of meaningful relationships and social connections to our health and well-being. The [ACL OAM page](#) has several suggested activities and resources that can be shared.

Trust for America's Health has a [new blog post](#) that provides guidance for public health actions to improve social connectedness.

Additional resources and information about OAM can be found in our [Resources](#) section of this newsletter.

Did You Know...?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hosts a [page committed to social connectedness and the impact of engagement on health](#). The site offers information on the health risks of social isolation, ways to improve social connectedness, and what communities and organizations can do to improve engagement. CDC funds partners to improve community social connectedness as part of its work to achieve [health equity](#). CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) aims to address five areas of social determinants of health (SDOH) that are strongly tied to chronic disease conditions and communities that are most affected. [Social connectedness](#) is an SDOH that NCCDPHP has identified related to the [Healthy People 2030 SDOH goals](#).

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

Ensuring all older adults have an equitable opportunity to live healthy lives is foundational to age-friendly public health. The 2024 AFPHS trainings will focus on various topics related to equity.

The 2024 Older Americans Month theme is “Powered by Connection”, a focus that underscores the importance social connections have on the health and well-being of older adults. Given the serious negative health effects of social isolation and loneliness, the

public health sector can lead strategies to improve connection through innovative and collaborative cross-sector approaches. The May AFPHS training will focus on equitable strategies to promote connection among older people. The speaker for this training is Phil Bors, Senior Project Director with Healthy Places by Design.

You can register for one or all the trainings in this series [here](#).

Build your expertise and healthy aging knowledge! Individuals who attend 6 or more AFPHS monthly trainings will be designated as AFPHS Champions. More than 95 people in 24 states across the country have been recognized as Champions to date. Visit the [AFPHS Recognition Program page](#) for more information.

Exploring Social Connection with the Older Adults' Equity Collaborative – *Monday, May 20, 2024, 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm ET* To celebrate Older Americans Month, Age-Friendly NYC is hosting a webinar to highlight innovative programming that promotes social connections. This session will include how social media, in-person programming, hotlines, apps and more are being used to help older adults connect, especially in diverse communities. Register [here](#).

Call-to-Action for Building the Home and Community-Based Services Workforce Data Infrastructure – *Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 1:00 pm ET*. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) have released a new brief with recommendations for improving home and community-based services (HCBS) workforce data. These recommendations are based on input from HCBS providers, workers, consumers, and researchers. HHS and DOL are hosting a webinar to share these recommendations. This session will also include a non-federal panel of leaders in the field who will discuss the recommendations and share innovations. Register [here](#).

UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program Webinar Series: Better Caregiving for All – *Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET*. The University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Alzheimer's and Dementia Care (ADC) Program has launched a [monthly webinar series](#) focused on addressing the needs of populations that have not been the focus of traditional caregiver training/education in the past. This month's webinar – Black/African-American Caregivers of Persons Living with Dementia – will include content expert Petra Niles and caregivers who will share their knowledge and experience. Register [here](#).

Unique Approaches to Support Brain Health and Reduce Risk through Education, Exercise, Diet, and Art – *Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET*. The National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center is hosting a webinar to help people understand how modifiable risk factors – such as maintaining a healthy lifestyle and managing long term health conditions – play a role in promoting brain health and reducing dementia risk. The Administration for Community Living will provide an overview of the benefits of reducing risk and supporting brain health and will review the resources that can be used to educate the public about brain health. Recruitment and creative strategies for sustaining the program will also be shared. Register [here](#).

Ready or Not 2024: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism – *Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 2:00 pm ET*. Trust for America's Health is hosting a webinar to discuss the nation's readiness for public health emergencies. Key findings from TFAH's [Ready or Not 2024: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism](#) report will be discussed. A key panel of experts will also share recommendations for policymakers. Register [here](#).

Building Dementia Awareness in Tribal Communities through Interactive Programming: Implementing the Virtual Dementia Tour – *Tuesday, June 25, 2024, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET*. The National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center is hosting a webinar to share how education and engagement have become keys to supporting Tribal members living with dementia, their caregivers, and the community. Attendees will learn about the utility of the "Virtual Dementia Tour" as a powerful tool to build understanding and open the door to greater conversation and education about dementia within Tribal Communities. "The Virtual Dementia Tour", created by P.K. Beville, is a scientifically proven method of building a greater understanding of dementia through the use of patented sensory tools and instruction. Register [here](#).

2024 Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit – Save the Date

The 2024 Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit hosted by the George Washington Center for Aging, Health and Humanities will take place on October 8th, 9th, 15th, & 16th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET.

Healthy People 2030 Champion

Improving health, eliminating health disparities, and advancing health equity requires

coordination and collaboration with organizations nationwide. That's why the **Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion** (ODPHP) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is excited to **invite you to become a Healthy People 2030 Champion!**

Healthy People 2030 Champions are public and private organizations that support the **Healthy People 2030 vision**, work toward Healthy People's overarching goals and **objectives**, and improve health and well-being at the local, state, territorial, and tribal level. Champions receive information, resources, and recognition from ODPHP to help them promote the Healthy People 2030 initiative among their networks. If your organization is interested in becoming a Healthy People 2030 Champion, apply today using the **online application form!** ODPHP reviews applications on a rolling basis. To become a Champion, an organization must have a demonstrated interest in or understanding of disease prevention, health promotion, **social determinants of health**, **health disparities**, health equity, or well-being.

Call for Experts - Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence

The National Academies is looking for experts to be considered for membership in the **Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence**. The forum brings together the federal sector, academia, industry, professional associations, and advocacy groups and provides a structured environment to define and discuss issues within the long-term services and supports system that affect an individual's ability to live independently. Approximately 3 to 5 volunteer experts are needed to serve on the forum of approximately 20 members. The desired areas of expertise are geriatrics, nursing, aging policy, disability policy, and workforce/caregiving. Nominations are due May 31, 2024. For any additional information regarding the roundtable, please view the **forum page**.

New Special Notice for Research on Older Adults

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently released a special emphasis notice (SEN) to advance the goal of improving care delivery, access, quality, equity, and health outcomes for older adults. The **Special Emphasis Notice: AHRQ Announces Interest in Health Services Research to Improve Care Delivery, Access, Quality, Equity, and Health Outcomes for Older Adults** conveys AHRQ's interest in supporting health services research "that will address questions related to the development, implementation, evaluation, and scale of person-centered models of care to optimize physical and mental health, functional status, and the well-being among older adults." AHRQ's prior work related to this SEN include **Optimizing Health and Function as We Age Roundtable Report**, **Research Agenda for Transforming Care for People with Multiple Chronic Conditions**, and the **Multiple Chronic Conditions e-careplan**.

2024 Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in Program Innovation – Deadline Extended to May 31st

APPLY FOR THE ARCHSTONE FOUNDATION
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROGRAM INNOVATION



ARCHSTONE
FOUNDATION



APHA
AGING AND
PUBLIC HEALTH SECTION

Do You Know of a Non-profit Organization with an Innovative Program in Health and Aging?

- \$1,000 Cash Award Recognition (Award will assist with travel expenses)
- Submission due **Wednesday, May 15, 2024**
- Winner is expected to attend the Aging & Public Health Section Awards Ceremony at the 152nd APHA Annual Meeting on October 28, 2024, in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- U.S.-based organizations only

PROGRAM CRITERIA

Programs should show:

- ▶ Creativity in project design;
- ▶ Documented outcomes & benefits;
- ▶ Impact for adults 65 and older;
- ▶ Potential for program replication with a focus on diverse groups of older adults;
- ▶ Evidence of collaboration & partnerships.

TO APPLY

- 1 Download application at: www.archstone.org
- 2 Email nomination packet with the subject line: "Award Application" - Organization Name to: Karon L. Phillips, Ph.D., MPH, CHES, Award Chair Karonlphillips@gmail.com

PASSED WINNERS

Community Care Connections, Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc.	Advanced Illness Care Program AC Care Alliance, a program of the Public Health Institute	Support at Home Institute on Aging, San Francisco Human Services Agency, and Senior & Disability Action
--	--	---

Visit www.archstone.org to view all past winners

Resources:

Older Americans Month

Older Americans Month and National Senior Health and Fitness Day

In addition to Older Americans Month, May 29th is National Senior Health and Fitness Day. Physical activity is key to healthy aging and can help older adults maintain independence and carry out everyday tasks. As part of the Move Your Way campaign, a [new fact sheet](#) has been developed with suggested activities for older adults to remain active.

The Role of Ageism and Inequities in Fostering Connections

To highlight the Older Americans Month theme, Powered by Connection, Justice in Aging provided a recap of resources to help advocate for equitable systems as we age in [a new blog](#). Author Denny Chen notes that “When ageism is combined with racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, and other forms of bias and systemic discrimination, the barriers to connection, and to accessing health care, housing, and income benefits are compounded.” Some of the resources developed by Justice in Aging to address this are a [Special Report, Fulfilling the Promise of Equity for Older Adults: Opportunities in Law and Policy](#) and the [Strategic Initiative to Advance Equity](#).

Equity

Importance of Data Equity

Ninez A. Ponce and colleagues from the University of California, Los Angeles Center for Health Policy Research discuss data equity in [a recent Milbank article](#). One important step in achieving data equity is the update to the federal guidelines on the minimum race and ethnicity categories for federal and federally funded datasets. Included in these revisions are new categories and more requirements for disaggregated data collection. Ponce and colleagues note that although a positive step forward, there are uncertainties around the revisions, including how to implement the new standards and how to develop long-term relationships with communities to inform data collection and policymaking. The authors shared that “Without data equity, we will not achieve health equity.” They also note that “This is where commitment from leaders, engagement with community, and efforts to build tools and resources to operationalize data equity principles can help propel the work forward.”

Achieving Equity through Telehealth

Disparities in health care can be addressed with telehealth. According to Drs. Aditi U. Joshi and Brandon M. Welch telehealth [provides equitable access to care by removing barriers](#) such as transportation issues and it provides more flexibility with making appointments. It can also provide access to people in rural communities, specifically by addressing challenges including workforce shortages. Some of the concerns that need to be addressed related to telehealth include digital literacy, broadband access, health care provider training, and privacy concerns with delivery platforms.

Spotlighting Equity Video Series

The [National Center on Law and Elder Rights](#) has a *Spotlighting Equity* series that includes interviews with legal services professionals about their efforts to advance equity for older adults. The latest episode features Adama Gidado, an Elder Justice Attorney at [Northeast New Jersey Legal Services](#). Gidado talks about their partnerships and outreach efforts to better serve Middle East and North African (MENA) and Muslim older adults. The strategies that the program has implemented to build trust with some of New Jersey’s MENA and Muslim communities are also shared in this video.

Additional Resources

Webcasts Promoting Mental Health Equity

The American Society on Aging has [a new webcast series](#) that will preview content from the Spring 2024 Generations Journal on [Mental Health, Aging, and Resilience](#). The topics for this series include effective trauma-informed care, resilience strategies for older adults, and how these can help achieve mental health equity and support well-being across all communities.

Top Health-Related Concerns for Older Adults

Results from a [U-M National Poll on Healthy Aging](#) indicate that the top three issues which adults age 50 and older are concerned about include medical care expenses (56%), the cost of home, assisted living, or nursing home care (56%), and prescription medication costs (54%). Respondents were asked about their level of concern about 26 different health-related issues for older adults in their communities. The next three concerns were financial scams and fraud (53%), health insurance and Medicare costs (52%), and dental

care expenses (45%).

New Report on Substance Use among Older Adults

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recently released a new report – **[Behavioral Health among Older Adults: Results from the 2021 and 2022 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health](#)** – that highlights substance use and mental health indicators among older adults aged 60 or older in the United States. The report consists of key definitions and infographics. Some of the key findings are among adults age 60 and older are: 1) 1 in 8 adults used illicit drugs; 2) 1 in 11 had a substance use disorder (SUD); 3) 1 in 8 had a mental illness in the past year. Additional findings included in the report indicate that substantial percentages of older adults who needed substance use treatment or had mental illness did not receive treatment.

New Documentary on Caregiving Produced by Actor Bradley Cooper

In partnership with PBS, actor and director Bradley Cooper is producing a **[documentary about family caregivers](#)**. It will focus on systemic issues within the care system and include personal stories from caregivers. Cooper shared that "Everyone will end up caring for a loved one at some point in their life. ... Raising this conversation on a national level will help, and together, I believe we can make a difference." The film is set to premiere in 2025.

Created with support from The
John A. Hartford Foundation



The
John A. Hartford
Foundation



[SUBSCRIBE](#)

CONTACT

TRUST FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH
1730 M ST NW
SUITE 900
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

P (202) 223-9870

F (202) 223-9871

E AFPHS@TFAH.ORG



Trust for America's Health | 1730 M Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036

[Unsubscribe thughes@tfah.org](mailto:Unsubscribe_thughes@tfah.org)

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by bytfah@healthyamericans.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!