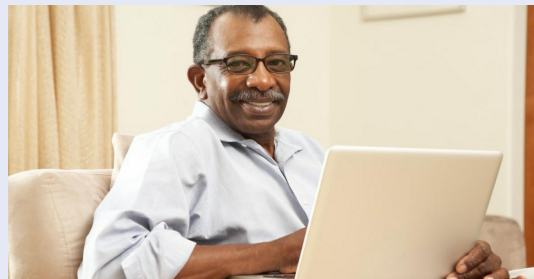


November 10, 2021

## Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



### News:

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November is [National Family Caregiver Month](#). The John A. Hartford Foundation, along with the Caregiver Action Network, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and other organizations are working together to increase awareness of the importance of family caregivers and their need for support. ACL and the Caregiver Action Network have released [information](#) and [new resources](#) in support of these valuable individuals.

### Events and Opportunities:

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#### Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

The complex health and social needs of older adults have been made particularly clear due to COVID-19 and public health departments are being called on to expand their policies and programs to meet these needs. TFAH is committed to supporting all state and local public health departments as they navigate this expansion. The AFPHS Recognition Program offers a step-by-step approach to build collaboration and capacity and leverage existing resources to meet the needs of people living longer lives.

November's training will provide guidance on the transformative process for becoming an Age-Friendly Public Health System by committing to key age-friendly actions. This session will include best practices and crucial strategies for achieving recognition.

This session will occur on **Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 3:00 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a recording of our October training – How the CDC is [Partnering to Address Falls](#) and our latest [blog post](#) What's Public Health Got to do With....Falls Prevention.

#### Strategies for Supporting COVID-19 Vaccinations in Schools

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is hosting a series of webinars to share best practices from education experts in a pandemic. **Today's webinar** will provide updates from CDC and ED given the recent approval of the Pfizer pediatric vaccine. Presenters will provide examples of how schools and communities can support vaccine awareness and explore vaccination efforts. Click [here](#) for more information from the National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments and to register for the event.

**Vaccinating Rural Community Residents** – Monday, November 15, 2021, 1:00-2:00 pm ET. In recognition of National Rural Health Day, the Centers for Medicare and

Medicaid Services (CMS) is hosting a webinar for community partners working in rural areas. The webinar is designed to educate attendees about federal COVID-19 resources, toolkits, and other information specific to rural areas with speakers from CMS, the Food and Drug Administration and CDC. Register [here](#).

**Support for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren** – *Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 1:00-3:00 pm ET*. The Administration for Community Living will host a virtual meeting of the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, which is charged with providing public support to help these older relatives meet the needs of the children in their care, while maintaining their own physical, mental, and emotional well-being. There is no registration required; [click here](#) to access the meeting link.

**Marketing the National Diabetes Prevention Program to Disproportionately Affected Audiences** – *Thursday, November 18, 2021, 12:00 pm ET*. The American College of Preventive Medicine, the American Medical Association, and the Black Women's Health Imperative are hosting a webinar on enhancing current efforts to raise awareness about type 2 diabetes prevention and encouraging audiences to enroll in lifestyle change programs. The importance of planning the right mix and frequency of marketing activities, effective messaging approaches, and making the most of existing resources will also be discussed. Register [here](#).

**Support for Organizations Serving Older Adults and their Caregivers during COVID-19** – *Thursday, November 18, 2021, 12:00 pm ET*. Presenters from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers and International Association for Indigenous Aging will introduce a new online resource library [Search. Find. Help](#). Based on research conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, this session will highlight this new library of 300 resources for community-based organizations to help them support older adults and their caregivers. Register [here](#).

**Addressing Social Isolation in Rural America** – *Friday, November 19, 2021, 1:00 pm ET*. This webinar, hosted by the engAGED: The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults, will focus on addressing social isolation in rural communities. Presenters include the University of Maine Center on Aging, the Jefferson Area Board for Aging and the Wyandotte Nation Title VI Aging Program. Presenters will share local social engagement activities that have developed to help older adults and caregivers living in rural and tribal communities. Register [here](#).

**Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum** – *Friday, November 19, 2021, 2:00 pm ET*. The National Center for Equitable Care for Elders presents this webinar series that will address how COVID-19 has impacted health centers across the country and the special populations they serve. The first session was held on September 24, and future dates for this four-part series are January 28, 2022, and March 25, 2022. Register [here](#).

**Advancing Equity for Older Adults, Part 2: Putting Strategies into Practice** – *Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm ET*. This National Center on Law & Elder Rights webinar will explore ways to apply principles and strategies to effectively advance equity in legal and aging services. Presenters from legal assistance and elder rights programs will describe the steps they have taken to center equity, with a focus on race equity, in their work, as well as lessons learned and promising practices for staffing, process, and evaluation. Attendees will receive actionable steps they can take and will learn about tools that advocates can incorporate in their own work to advance equity for older adults and serve those with the greatest social and economic need. Register [here](#).

**Conference on Caregiving Research** – *March 3-4, 2022*. The Center for Research, Training, and Dissemination of Family Support for People with Disabilities Across the Life Course is hosting the Second Biennial Conference on Caregiving Research in Pittsburgh, PA. The theme for the conference is Building Bridges: Advancing Family Caregiving Research Across the Lifespan. National leaders in caregiving research, policy, and practice across the lifespan will come together to discuss the community, clinical and policy needs of family caregivers. More information is available [here](#).

**Funding Opportunity – Request for Applications: Building Local Operational Capacity for COVID-19, Healthcare-Associated Infections, and Antimicrobial**

**Resistance.** The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is providing funding to local health departments (LHDs) to prevent and respond to COVID-19 and other healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and antimicrobial resistant (AR) threats. NACCHO anticipates LHDs that take part in this project will strengthen relationships with facilities and partners, enhance their capacity and confidence in assessing and supporting IPC practices in high-risk facilities, improve implementation of IPC in high-risk facilities, and decrease rates of and negative outcomes associated with COVID-19, HAIs, and AR pathogens in those facilities. LHDs that elect to complete the required activities may receive up to \$70,000; LHDs that elect to conduct the required and supplemental activities may receive an additional \$30,000 for a total of up to \$100,000. The deadline for submitting requests for application is Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. More information on this opportunity can be found [here](#).

### **Funding Opportunity – Partnerships for Population Health Learning**

**Opportunity.** With support from and in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials will assist two state/territorial health agencies in developing or expanding a cross-sector collaboration related to housing or transportation. The participating health agencies will receive technical assistance and financial support of up to \$10,000 to support health agency staff time, training needs, facilitator fees, or other needs related to cross-sector partnership building. The deadline for submitting applications is Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. More information on this opportunity can be found [here](#).

## **Resources:**

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### **COVID-19**

#### **COVID-19 Messaging Resources**

The [Public Health Communications Collaborative website](#) has numerous resources and tools for public health professionals to convey accurate messages about COVID-19. It includes daily images that can be downloaded, answers to tough questions, webinars and recommended responses to misinformation. Just in time for next week, there is a downloadable [“Recipe for Thanksgiving 2021”](#) that highlights recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to have a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

#### **Resources to Help Connect Public Health and LTC Communities around the American Rescue Plan Act**

Funding has been provided through the American Rescue Plan Act to state health departments to support long-term care facilities and staff in their COVID response efforts. Guidance for health departments has been developed, including considerations for creating state strike teams and ways to support the care workforce. Resources, including a webinar recording on the topic, are available [here](#).

#### **Improving Health Beyond COVID-19**

Clinicians across the country are starting to triage patients and ration health care as the demand for care is greater than the supply. [In a recent issue of the Milbank Quarterly opinion](#), editor Alan B. Cohen and Amanda Katchmar of Boston University discuss the pros and cons of health care providers using crisis standards of care (CSC) as frameworks for the allocation of resources to patients most in need. The authors also offer recommendations for incremental improvement, including encouraging all states to adopt CSCs and emphasizing equitable access to treatment.

#### **Reporting on the Impact of the Pandemic on Social Isolation**

AARP recently released a report on the [impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on social isolation](#). Among adults who experienced social isolation during the pandemic, 50% reported that social isolation has caused them to lack motivation, 41% shared that it made them feel more anxious than usual and 37% reported it made them feel depressed. Only 11% of adults turned to a medical professional when feeling down or sad, and almost a third of adults 50+ reported that they did not look to anyone for support during the pandemic. For adults age 50 and older, 29% reported going one to three months not interacting with others outside their home or workplace. Four out of ten low-income adults

age 50 and older reported facing challenges accessing various resources during COVID-19, including challenges accessing food and healthcare services.

### **Protection for Public Health Department Officials and Staff**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials recently sent a [letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland](#) noting the violence, threats, and harassment faced by public health department leaders and staff while fulfilling their duties in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter requested that the Department of Justice include the protection of public health department officials and staff in its directive to address the increased risk in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence against school-related personnel. At least 300 public health department leaders have left their posts since the pandemic began. Many of them have been verbally abused and physically threatened. Some have had their personal information shared publicly and their offices attacked.

### **Partnerships & Collaboration**

#### **Partnering to Promote Equity**

An article from TFAH'S AFPHS team was recently published in the Gerontological Society of America's Public Policy & Aging Report. [The article](#) highlights how partnerships between departments of health and organizations in the aging sector can lead to innovative programming that provides access and support to older adults from all backgrounds.

#### **Cross-Agency Partnerships to Promote Health Equity**

A new brief authored by the Center for Healthcare Strategies and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials provides key recommendations for building partnerships between Medicaid and public health agencies with a focus on equity. The three broad strategies are advancing internal-facing health equity work, leveraging data to drive health equity efforts, and engaging community members. Click [here](#) to read the brief.

#### **Value of Cross-Sector Partnerships**

[A recent Milbank Memorial Fund blog post](#) describes how cross-sector partnerships can be used to help older adults age-in-place. In the post, author Marcella Maguire of the Corporation for Supportive Housing offers guidance for government officials by explaining how systems of health coverage, long-term services and supports, and housing supports are misaligned. In addition, she highlights innovative approaches that blend funding from different sectors and provides lessons on achieving success with cross-sector initiatives.

### **Additional Resources**

#### **Inventory of Federal Programs that Assist Family Caregivers**

In coordination with the RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council, the Administration for Community Living has compiled a comprehensive inventory of federal programs that assist family caregivers. The [Inventory of Federal Caregiver Support Programs and Initiatives](#) includes over 50 program descriptions. The council will use the inventory to increase awareness and understanding about programs to support caregivers, and to avoid duplication of effort when developing the National Family Caregiving Strategy.

#### **Help Making a “HomeFit”**

To supplement the [AARP HomeFit Guide](#), AARP has released [eight printable checklists and templates](#) to help people prepare their homes. The HomeFit program features smart ways to make a home comfortable, safe and a great fit for older adults, and people of all ages.

#### **Preparing to Age-in-Place**

Preparing a home so that one can age-in-place requires an assessment of whether modifications need to be made. The Senior List has developed [a guide to help older adults assess what they need to continue living in their homes as they age](#). The guide also includes steps on how to assess a home for COVID-19 and in-home modification safety. Opportunities for financial assistance and common modifications are also included.

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Created with support from The  
John A. Hartford Foundation



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