

April 14, 2022

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



### News:

---

Trust for America's Health (TFAH) is holding a virtual Congressional briefing and national webinar on the new report, [\*\*Ready or Not 2022: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters and Bioterrorism\*\*](#). The event will take place on April 26 at 3:30 PM ET and will include a panel of subject matter experts who will discuss the nation's readiness for public health emergencies, examine the findings of the report, and discuss key recommendations for policymakers. TFAH's President and CEO, Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, will moderate the event and speakers include Leandris Liburd, PhD, MPH, MA, Associate Director for Minority Health and Health Equity for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, State Health Officer for Mississippi State Department of Health; and Céline Gounder, MD, ScM, FIDSA, Senior Fellow & Editor-at-Large for Public Health for Kaiser Health News/Kaiser Family Foundation. Register [here](#).

### Events and Opportunities:

---

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

The April AFPHS training will focus on the public health role in supporting older adults living with HIV in the context of the social determinants of health. The speaker for this training, Dorcas Baker with the MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, will highlight the challenges experienced by older adults living with HIV and the roles of public health in meeting these challenges.

This session will be held on **Thursday, April 21 at 3 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a recording of our March training on Healthy Aging and Social Determinants of Health and read March's [blog post](#) *What's Public Health Got to do With....Healthy Aging and Social Determinants of Health*.

**The 411 on Dementia in Black Communities: An Interactive Expert Panel** – Monday, April 18, 2022, 10:00 – 11:30 am ET Hosted by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, this interactive webinar provides an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about dementia and dementia care in Black communities. The panel of experts for this session includes a geriatric nurse, a cultural expert, a creative arts therapist, a geriatric pharmacist, a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, and a gerontological scientist. Register [here](#).

**Promising Practices Spotlight: Focused Care Coordination and Elder Advocates** – *Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 3:00 -- 4:00 pm ET.* Speakers from Idaho and Maine will share successes, lessons learned, and outcomes from their 2018 Administration for Community Living state Adult Protective Services enhancement grant projects which focused on person-centered, collaborative, focused interventions, as well as enhanced data collection. Attendees will learn how goal attainment scaling, supported decision making, motivational interviewing, and other interventions may be utilized in APS practice in upcoming session hosted by the APS Technical Assistance Resource Center. Register [here](#).

**Public Health and Dementia: The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act** – *Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm ET.* The Alzheimer's Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Alzheimer's Disease Program will share the importance of the new Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act and the ways it is changing the landscape of public health. Register [here](#).

**Feedback and Input - Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map (HBI Road Map)** – *Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm ET OR May 2, 2022, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET.* This guided discussion hosted by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials will allow participants to share their feedback and input on the HBI Road Map. Participants should be familiar with the HBI Road Map and represent a health department that has engaged in work on dementia, cognitive health, or caregiving as public health issues. Space is limited and participants will only be invited to one session. Notifications will be sent by April 25. Register [here](#).

**Bridging the Digital Divide to Increase Social Engagement** – *Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET.* Learn how to connect older adults with affordable broadband to help them take part in virtual social engagement opportunities in this upcoming webinar from engAGED: The National Resources Center for Engaging Older Adults. Older Adults Technology Services from AARP will highlight how its Aging Connected campaign helps the aging network connect more consumers to affordable broadband and access social engagement opportunities. The Federal Communications Commission will then provide details on the Affordable Connectivity Program and resources for the consumers you serve. Attendees will also hear from the Eastern Oklahoma Development District Area Agency on Aging on how it helped consumers connect to broadband and how organizations can create similar strategies. Register [here](#).

**Revolutionize 2022 Conference** – *Thursday & Friday, April 28-29, 2022.* This conference will bring together innovators from government, public policy, for profit and non-profit organizations, healthcare, research, and education to reimagine and redirect the future of aging. Register [here](#).

**Healthy People 2030 and Healthy Aging Workshop** – *Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 1:00 pm – 2:30pm ET.* This session is a great opportunity for local and state health departments to have a targeted discussion on how to use Healthy People 2030 to advance healthy aging at their respective levels. Through engaging group discussions and activities, this workshop will:

- Highlight connections between Healthy People 2030 and healthy aging.
- Facilitate a discussion of strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results (SOAR) related to healthy aging at the local and state levels.
- Support development of strategies for enhancing current work at the local and state level to further advance healthy aging and highlight areas within these strategies to incorporate the Healthy People 2030 framework.
- Highlight resources from NACCHO, ASTHO, and TFAH that LHDs and SHDs can use in their healthy aging work
- Provide an opportunity for networking between LHDs and SHDs to further their work in healthy aging while utilizing the Healthy People 2030 framework.

Register [here](#) by Friday, April 22, 2022.

**Serving Adult Participants in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)** – *Thursday, May 5, 2022, 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET* The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition initiative will present a CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays webinar focused on how the CACFP meal pattern provides flexibilities to allow

program operators to plan meals that best meet the needs of their adult participants. Meal service options, dietary needs of this population, and meal modifications will also be discussed. The session will be conducted in Spanish from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm ET. Register [here](#).

### **Take Action to Create Socially Connected Communities**

The Local Leaders for Socially Connected Communities network is working to create more socially connected and equitable communities. During learning network calls, local government and community leaders explore concepts, ideas, and community-level strategies that reduce social isolation and strengthen social ties, especially for those who are most marginalized. [Healthy Places by Design](#) hosts monthly Zoom meetings which alternate between topic-based conversations and open space for peer networking. These calls take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 3:30 pm EST. All participants are encouraged to review the report, [Socially Connected Communities: Solutions for Social Isolation](#), prior to joining these calls. If you are interested in learning more about joining these sessions, please contact Gabriella Peterson at [gabriellap@healthylacesbydesign.org](mailto:gabriellap@healthylacesbydesign.org) for more information.

### **NACCHO's Subject Matter Expert Advisory Workgroups**

National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO) Subject Matter Expert Advisory Workgroups help to identify opportunities and challenges facing local health departments and the field at large. NACCHO invites local health department leaders and their staff to [apply to help inform and guide NACCHO's projects](#). The application period for participation in the 2021-2022 Subject Matter Expert Advisory Workgroups will close on April 30, 2022. Participation in NACCHO's Workgroups is a benefit of active NACCHO Membership. For more information, email [advisorygroups@naccho.org](mailto:advisorygroups@naccho.org).

### **Funding Announcement – Request For Applications: Harm Reduction Practices and Services: Academic Detailing Pilot Project**

NACCHO is pleased to offer a [funding opportunity](#) to develop key messages that can be delivered through one-on-one educational outreach, also known as academic detailing, for health departments to use with primary care providers and law enforcement officers to increase their knowledge of harm reduction; increase their ability to incorporate harm reduction into services they provide; and increase referrals of individuals who use substances to harm reduction services in their community. Up to five awards of up to \$35,000 are available. Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59pm ET on April 18, 2022. Questions can be emailed to Audrey Eisemann at [aeisemann@naacho.org](mailto:aeisemann@naacho.org).

### **New Funding Opportunities for Working with Pharmacies and Retail Health Clinics for Sexual Health Services**

NACCHO, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention has two new funding opportunities for health diseases (STD) to partner with other healthcare entities to expand sexually transmitted illnesses (STI) and HIV services, treatment, and care in their communities. Informational webinars about both of these opportunities will be held in April, both dates are noted in the respective request for funding applications (RFA).

1. Leveraging Pharmacies for STI Services and Care: This funding is to explore the provision of expanded STI patient care via pharmacy settings. Two-to-five health department-pharmacy partnerships will be funded up to \$75,000 (per partnership) to develop, design, and implement a collaborative partnership between pharmacies and health departments to expand STI services and care. Findings will be shared broadly with STD programs and pharmacies across the country. **Applications are due on May 27, 2022**. For additional information or to access the RFA, visit [here](#).
2. Leveraging Retail Health Clinics for STI/HIV Services and Care for Underserved: Minorities (available only to Ending the HIV Epidemic priority jurisdictions) This funding is to support integration of sexual health services for underserved and under-diagnosed racial/ethnic and sexual minorities, including young people, across RHCs, health department, primary care, and other healthcare settings. Up to three health department-retail health clinic teams will be funded up to \$300,000 (per partnership) to develop, design, and implement a collaborative partnership to expand STI/HIV services and care. **Applications are due on May 31, 2022**. For

additional information or to access the RFA, visit [here](#).

If you are interested in applying and need support with developing a partnership with a pharmacy or retail health clinic or have other questions, please contact Rebekah Horowitz at [rhorowitz@naccho.org](mailto:rhorowitz@naccho.org).

## Resources:

---

### **Recommendations to Improve Nursing Home Quality**

Co-sponsored by The John A. Hartford Foundation, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has developed a new report with nursing home recommendations that underscore the need for critical changes to the way America finances, delivers, regulates, and measures the quality of care in nursing homes. [\*\*\*The National Imperative to Improve Nursing Home Quality: Honoring Our Commitment to Residents, Families, and Staff\*\*\*](#) includes detailed recommendations on bolstering nursing home staff, ensuring equitable, person-centered care, and redesigning quality measures, and more. In addition, the FrameWorks Institute and The John A. Hartford Foundation recently released [\*\*\*Communicating About Nursing Home Care: Findings and Emerging Recommendations\*\*\*](#). This brief outlines six key findings on how the public and those in the field think about nursing homes. It includes communications recommendations to move public thinking on potential structural changes in how nursing homes exist and operate.

### **COVID-19**

#### **Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure**

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed some of the weaknesses in the public health system. [\*\*\*Results from a recent study published in the Milbank Quarterly\*\*\*](#) indicate that communities with the most comprehensive public health system structure in both urban and rural areas have implemented the largest set of population health capabilities. These capabilities consist of activities such as allocating resources based on a community health plan, surveying the community for behavioral risk factors, analyzing the data on preventive services use, and engaging community stakeholders in health improvement planning.

### **Housing**

#### **Increase in Homelessness among Older Adults**

There is an expected [\*\*\*uptick in first-time homelessness among people over age 50\*\*\*](#). This is due to financial difficulty with issues such as a lack of savings and higher housing costs. Academics project that these numbers will nearly triple over the next decade. Researchers note that the programs approved by Congress to prevent this destitution are not working and the federal government should do more to ensure older adults are housed.

#### **Downsizing to a “Tiny House”**

The “Tiny House Movement”, living in much smaller homes with less items, may have slowed but many older adults are finding themselves enjoying their decisions to downsize to this lifestyle. Due to scenarios such as job loss, deciding to turn a vacation home into a permanent home after raising a family, and people deciding that they can live with less during the pandemic, [\*\*\*more older adults moving into smaller homes\*\*\*](#). The one downside people are experiencing are finding jurisdictions that allow people to set up their tiny homes.

### **Social Isolation & Engagement**

#### **Loneliness is Associated with Cognitive Decline and Dementia**

Results from a [\*\*\*study published in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease\*\*\*](#) indicate that feeling a sense of loneliness predicted cognitive decline and dementia, independent of symptoms of depression. The study included data from over 6,000 individuals across two population-based cohorts.

## **Connections between Social Capital, Loneliness and Well-Being and the Value of Digital Media**

Bonding social capital, or connections between similar groups of people, was found to be an important factor in positive aging in [a study of 349 older adults](#). Results also indicate that using digital media to facilitate access to groups of people with shared interests had a greater impact on healthy aging, compared to expanding the number of social contacts.

## **Social Isolation, Loneliness and Cardiovascular Disease Among Older Women**

Findings from a recent study indicate that [older women with greater social isolation and greater loneliness had a 13 to 27 percent higher risk of cardiovascular disease](#) (CVD), compared with women who reported lower rates of social isolation and loneliness. Social support did not modify the association of social isolation or loneliness with CVD.

## **Value of Partnering with Parks and Recreation Agencies**

Highlighting the key takeaways from the February engAGED: The National Resources Center for Engaging Older Adults webinar that focused on [partnering with parks and recreation agencies to foster social engagement](#), this blog includes a feature on the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Aging and Independence Services and their [Gramping program](#), a campout event just for kinship families. Tips on partnering with parks and recreation are also provided by the National Recreation and Park Association.

## **Best Practices with Social Engagement**

A new publication from engAGED: The National Resources Center for Engaging Older Adults describes programs that employ a variety of social engagement interventions and tap into an array of partners to reach consumers in rural, suburban and urban communities. [What Works: Social Engagement Innovations and Best Practices](#) includes descriptions of activities and programs from across the U.S.

## **Additional Resources**

### **Connections between Mild Cognitive Impairment and Dementia**

A special report from the Alzheimer's Association [2022 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures, More Than Normal Aging: Understanding Mild Cognitive Impairment \(MCI\)](#), notes that 82 percent of Americans are unfamiliar with mild cognitive impairment or know little about it. One in seven people age 60 or older are living with mild cognitive impairment, an early stage of memory loss that may progress into Alzheimer's disease. Given this information, emphasis is being placed on the importance of early detection to begin potential treatments.

### **Person-Centered Care Models for Older Adults**

Created by the Center for Consumer Engagement in Health Innovation and the LeadingAge LTSS Center at UMass Boston, [a new report and infographic](#) provide a detailed look at person-centered care models for older adults. Using 2014, 2016, and 2018 Health and Retirement Study data, researchers found that whether older adults' preferences are taken into account by health care providers is heavily dependent upon race, insurance, and income level, specifically. For example, Black and Hispanic older adults are more likely to report never having their health preferences considered versus White adults.

### **Serious Influenza Outcomes for Older Adults with Diabetes**

In reviewing data from the past five influenza, older adults with diabetes had higher rates of influenza-associated hospitalization, ICU admission, mechanical ventilation, pneumonia and in-hospital death. [Published in the journal Open Forum Infectious Diseases](#), 58.4% of people with diabetes were vaccinated against influenza, compared with 56.1% of those without diabetes.

### **Prevalence of Food Insecurity among Older Adults**

Over 9 million Americans ages 50 and older (about 1 in 12) were food insecure in 2020. Food insecurity did not spike during the COVID-19 pandemic, likely due to congressional actions such as boosts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. [Certain demographics, however, experienced considerably higher levels of food](#)

**insecurity.** Food insecurity is most prevalent among older adults who: are younger (i.e., ages 50–59); are Black, Native American, or Hispanic; are lower income; and have lower levels of educational attainment. Living alone is associated with food insecurity and the top 10 states with the highest rates of older-adult food insecurity are southern states.

### **Shelter Model for Older Adults that Experienced Abuse**

About 1 in 10 older adults who live at home experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Despite the impact on physical and financial health and well-being of older adults health systems have done little to identify and address it. [A new issue brief](#) profiles an elder shelter model pioneered by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale. This model, in which an elder abuse shelter program is embedded within a larger health care system serving older adults, has been replicated in more than a dozen communities nationwide.

Created with support from The  
John A. Hartford Foundation



The  
**John A. Hartford**  
Foundation

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

P (202) 223-9870

F (202) 223-9871

E [AFPHSNEWS@TFAH.ORG](mailto:AFPHSNEWS@TFAH.ORG)



#### **CONTACT**

TRUST FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH

1730 M ST NW

SUITE 900

WASHINGTON, DC 20036

