

May 25, 2022

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:



Age my way! OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

MATERIALS AVAILABLE!

[ACL.gov/OAM](https://acl.gov/OAM)

Celebrating Older Americans Month

The 2022 Administration for Community Living (ACL) Older Americans Month theme is [Age My Way](#). The theme aligns with ACL's 2022 focus on aging in place. It also provides an opportunity to emphasize the many ways that older adults can remain in and engage with their communities. [Trust for](#)

[America's Health recognizes this month](#) as a time to continue exploring new opportunities with state and local health departments to elevate healthy aging as a core public health function.

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

Access to nutritious food is a key social determinant of health among older adults. Food insecurity has increased among older adults approximately 60% during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rates have been especially high among Black and Hispanic older adults. Given the challenges with accessing food during the pandemic, many organizations and agencies have explored innovative ways to combat this issue.

The June AFPHS training will focus on nutrition and food insecurity among older adults. National and local speakers will provide an overview of the issue, and highlight strategies and initiatives being used to address food access among older adults.

This session will be held on **June 15 at 3 pm ET**. Register [here](#). You can also view a recording of our May training on [Technology as a Social Determinants of Health](#) and read May's [blog post](#) *What's Public Health Got to Do With... Technology Access and Proficiency*.

Serving Hispanic and Latino Older Adults and Caregivers: Creative

Approaches for Social Engagement and Connection – Tuesday, *May 31, 2022*, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET. Presenters on this engAGED webinar will share strategies to support the social engagement needs of Hispanic and Latino older adults and caregivers. National and local speakers will share key insights from their work and offer tips and strategies for other Aging Network organizations interested in creating and growing social engagement opportunities for these populations. Register [here](#).

Public Health Opportunities and Challenges of Dementia Caregiving Conference – *June 14-15, 2022*. Hosted by the BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving, this in-person and virtual conference is intended for BOLD public health programs; public health departments (local, state, tribal); service providers and/or community-based organizations serving dementia caregivers; researchers and policy makers. Leaders and experts will share approaches and strategies on how to elevate dementia caregiving as a public health priority. More information [here](#).

2022 Award for Excellence in Program Innovation: Call for Nominations
The Aging and Public Health Section of the American Public Health Association has several awards that highlight aging issues and recognize those who have taken positive action in support of older adults. One of these awards – the Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in Program Innovation – focuses on identifying best practice models in the field of aging and health. A special emphasis is placed on programs that have effectively linked academic theory with applied practice in the field of aging and public health. Applications are now due **June 13, 2022**. [Learn more about this award opportunity](#).

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@healthyplacesbydesign.org for more information.

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.

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.

Funding Opportunity – The [GusNIP Nutrition Incentive Program](#) presents the opportunity to bring together food and health care sector stakeholders to build understanding of how to improve the health and nutrition status of participating households. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture requests applications for the GusNIP Program to support and evaluate projects that would increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among income eligible consumers participating in the United States Department of Agriculture Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as well as reduce food insecurity and related health care costs. **Proposals are due on June 30, 2022**. [Learn more about this funding opportunity](#).

Milbank Memorial Fund's Leadership Programs – These programs are designed for legislative and executive branch state and large-county government officials who are committed to improving population health and include the [Milbank Fellows Program](#) (MFP) for senior leaders and the [Emerging Leaders Program](#) (ELP) for rising leaders. These programs, all costs for which are covered by Milbank, provide a unique opportunity for participants to engage with colleagues from across the country, as well as with Milbank's broader state leadership network, to enhance their leadership skills, learn from experts about pressing health policy topics, and improve their capacity to advance population health reforms in their communities.

Request for Information on Older Americans Act Regulations

The Administration for Community Living (ACL)/Administration on Aging (AoA) published a formal request for information (RFI) to solicit recommendations for changes, deletions, or additions to the regulations governing the Older Americans Act (OAA), Title III (Grants to State and Community Programs on Aging); Title VI (Grants to Indian Tribes for Support and Nutrition Services and Grants for Supportive and Nutritional Services to Older Hawaiian Natives); and Title VII (Allotments for Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities, including Subpart A—State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program). The majority of the OAA regulations have not been updated since 1988. ACL is specifically seeking input on:

- Challenges faced by older adults, elders, and family caregivers in receiving services under the Act,
- Challenges faced by states, territories, tribes and tribal organizations, area agencies on aging and service providers in delivering services under the Act, and
- Feedback on how OAA programs can advance equity, in alignment with Executive Order 13985 Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

Access the RFI [here](#). Comments are due **Monday, June 6, 2022**.

Job Opportunity – Senior Analyst, Health Improvement and Healthy Aging at Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. This Senior Analyst position will assist the Director of Health Improvement with implementing federally and privately funded projects important to state and territorial health officials in the area of health improvement, with a focus on advancing equity in healthy aging and brain health. [Learn more about this position](#).

Resources:

COVID-19

Urging Older Adults to get Booster Shots amid Increased Hospitalizations

With COVID-19 hospitalizations on the rise, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is [urging people ages 50 and older to get a second booster](#). According to Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the CDC, approximately 60% of Americans ages 50 and older have not received a vaccine in the past six months. More than 100,000

new cases are being reported daily in the U.S.

Challenges Diagnosing Long COVID Symptoms in Older Adults

COVID-19 symptoms that linger after the infection is gone are **difficult to recognize and dismissed as being part of the normal aging process**. Long COVID occurs at least four weeks after infection and consists of ongoing COVID-19 symptoms or new health problems. There is no diagnostic test to confirm it. One-third of older adults with long COVID experience some form of cognitive impairment. A study recently published in the British Medical Journal estimates that 32% of older adults in the U.S. who survived COVID-19 had symptoms of long COVID up to four months after infection. This is more than double the rate noted in an earlier study among adults ages 18 to 64.

Additional Resources

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Critical as Food Prices Increase

In 2020, approximately 9.5 million people ages 50 did not have access to adequate and nutritious food. The cost of groceries is 10 percent more compared to the cost in 2021. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is especially critical now because it provides assistance to low-income households with buying food. However, adults age 50 and older have historically lower participation in the program. **Providing application assistance and simplifying the application process** have been identified as strategies to increase enrollment. The AARP Public Policy Institute and Mathematica are currently engaged in research to understand the characteristics of older adults that are eligible but not to enrolled in the program, and the state-level policies that can impact participation.

Examining Modifiable Risk Factors for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias

A new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study examined eight potential modifiable risk factors for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) among adults 45 years and older. These factors include high blood pressure, not meeting the aerobic physical activity guideline, obesity, diabetes, depression, current cigarette smoking, hearing loss, and binge drinking. Published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: **Modifiable Risk Factors for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias Among Adults Aged ≥ 45 Years — 31 States and the District of Columbia, 2019**, one of the key findings indicated that the most common modifiable risk factors for ADRD examined were high blood pressure and not meeting the aerobic physical activity guideline. The study also found that the prevalence of several modifiable risk factors was higher among African American, Hispanic, and American Indian or Alaska Native populations than among other races and ethnicities.

Risk Factors Associated with Dementia Evolve with Age

New research supports the **use of an age-specific risk prediction score for dementia instead a one-size fits all approach**. Published in the journal of Neurology, researchers found that diabetes and high blood pressure were risk factors for dementia for adults age 55. Heart disease was noted as a risk factor at age 65. Diabetes and stroke were risk factors for adults over the age of 70.

The Cost of Ageism

According to a report from AARP and the Economist Intelligence Unit, bias against older workers cost the U.S. economy around \$850 billion in gross domestic product in 2018. The following **strategies are recommended to prevent age discrimination** in hiring practices and ensure it does not become part of the workplace culture: 1) write inclusive job postings; 2) tailor benefits to suit everyone's needs; 3) try setting up regular "stay interviews" to investigate the opinions of employees of all ages; 4) create a culture of respect; and 5) offer opportunities for all.



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