

September 15, 2022

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

Improving SNAP Access among Older Adults

Based on research from the AARP Public Policy Institute conducted in partnership with Mathematica, many eligible older adults are not enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Data from 2018 indicates that among adults age 60 and older, **only 29 percent of those eligible participated in the program**. Some of the reasons for low participation among older adults include the perceived stigma about using federal support, a challenging application, and lack of awareness about the program. Two policies that are aimed at making it easier for people to enroll are the broad-based categorical eligibility and Supplemental Security Income-Combined Application Projects. Data indicates that these two approaches have led to higher SNAP participation among eligible older adults. These findings have been shared with the White House in advance of the **Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health**.

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

Older adults in rural communities face unique challenges accessing resources and services. The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the need for innovative strategies to meet the health and social needs older adults in rural areas. Addressing social determinants of health is crucial to rural healthy aging.

The September AFPHS training will focus on the unique challenges facing older adults in rural communities and the public health roles in the context of social determinants of health to support this population. The speakers for this session are:

- Dr. Aaron Guest, Assistant Professor, Arizona State University
- Ryan Kelly, Executive Director, Mississippi Rural Health Association

This session will be held **today, September 15 at 3 pm ET**. Register **[here](#)**. You can also view a recording of our **[August training](#)** - Aligning Age-Friendly Communities and Public Health to Promote Equitable Healthy Aging - and read August's **[blog post](#)** *What's Public Health Got to Do With... Livable Communities*. Reminder: Individuals who attend 6 or more AFPHS monthly trainings will be designated as AFPHS Champions. Over 30 people across the country have been recognized as Champions! Visit the **[AFPHS Recognition Program page](#)** for more information.

Funding Opportunity: Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) Road Map Strategists Initiative—Due date extended to September 16!

The Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) Road Map Strategists initiative provides an

opportunity for local health departments and community partners to establish their agencies as leaders in addressing dementia and to receive national recognition for their efforts to advance public health action on Alzheimer's disease. Up to eight local health departments or tribal health organizations will receive direct funding, training and technical assistance to establish a part-time HBI Road Map Strategist, a public health professional serving as a system change agent, and translating guidance from the [State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia, The 2018-2023 Road Map](#) into action. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association and the National Association of County and City Health Officials, this 13-month initiative runs from October 2022 through November 2023. Learn more about and apply to this opportunity [here](#).

National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness – *Friday, September 16, 2022, 12:00 pm – 1:00pm ET*. Presented by the National Minority Quality Forum, this webinar will provide an overview of the history of stigma and ongoing awareness campaigns, and describe ways to remove stigma across the lifespan. This session is being held in honor of National HIV/AIDS and Aging Day (September 18). Register [here](#).

Serving People Living with Dementia: Programs and Interventions to Promote Social Engagement – *Monday, September 19, 2022, 12:00 pm ET*. Presented by engAGED: The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults, this webinar will focus on social engagement for people living with dementia. The Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center will provide a primer on social isolation and loneliness among people living with dementia. Pima Council on Aging and Gateway Geriatric Education Center will then highlight programs and interventions that help people living with dementia, as well as their caregivers, stay socially engaged. Presenters will also share tips for organizations to develop, implement, and sustain these social engagement opportunities. Register [here](#).

Equity Considerations for Conducting Needs Assessments – *Thursday, September 22 & 29, 2022, 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm ET*. This two-part training focuses on developing and conducting needs assessments with an equitable approach. Part one of the training will focus on the development of regional and local needs assessments. Part two of the training will focus on the application of the equitable needs assessments in the community. Register [here for Part one](#) and [here for Part two](#).

Housing for People of All Ages – *Wednesday & Thursday, September 21 – 22, 2022*. AARP is hosting a virtual event to explore how communities across the nation can provide safe, affordable housing options for individuals and families of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities. Best practices, insights, and next steps will be shared around four core themes: housing choice, design, stability, and equity. Register [here](#).

Knocking at Your Door: The National Mental Health Crisis is Actually a Local Public Health Issue – *Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 3:00 pm ET*. The National Association of County and City Health Officials and CredibleMind is holding a webinar to discuss the different challenges within public health: identifying risk factors, increasing awareness about mental disorders and the effectiveness of interventions, decreasing stigma, eliminating health disparities, and improving access to mental health care through better triage. Research from the University of California Berkeley School of Public Health and a new system that can jump-start evidence-based prevention and early intervention will also be presented. Register [here](#).

Office Hours: Transportation and Social Engagement – *September 28, 2022, 1:00 pm ET*. In partnership with the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC), engAGED: The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults September Office Hours call will focus on transportation and social engagement. NV Rides will share how its network of volunteer driver programs helps older adults stay socially engaged and connected. The Office Hours will include resources to support social engagement and transportation. Attendance will be capped at 30 participants. RSVP [here](#).

Second Annual Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit – *Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm ET*. The George Washington University's Center for Aging, Health and Humanities is hosting the Second Annual Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit. Interested parties are [invited to submit](#) innovative, replicable, successful initiatives for the Regional Age-Friendly Resource Guide. The Summit will focus on transportation, housing, the long-term care workforce and health systems, and emergency preparedness and resilience. This virtual regional collaborative event will be held in partnership with Age-Friendly Alexandria, Arlington, DC, Howard County, Hyattsville, Montgomery County, and the Georgetown University Aging & Health Program. Register [here](#).

Accelerating Health Equity Conference – *May 16-18, 2023*. Proposals are now being accepted for the Accelerating Health Equity: Together on the Quest for Healthy Ecosystems conference, hosted by the American Hospital Association, in the following content areas: building authentic and sustained community engagement and partnership, understanding and meeting individual health and social needs, establishing systematic

and shared accountability and building diverse leadership and governance, creating equitable and include workplaces, and other emerging topics. The conference is focused on the development of equitable solutions to address barriers that prevent access to high-quality care and improved health outcomes. [Click here](#) for more information.

Public Input Opportunity: Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Information Collection

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is seeking public comment on the proposed extension of the data collection requirements for the ACL Evidence-Based Chronic Disease Self-Management Education (CDSME) Program Information Collection, as [published in the Federal Register](#). The CDSME Grant Program awards competitive grants to implement and promote the sustainability of evidence-based CDSME programs that have been proven to provide older adults and adults with disabilities with education and tools to help them better manage chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, chronic pain, and depression. Comments can be sent via e-mail to Lesha Spencer-Brown at Lesha.spencer-brown@acl.hhs.gov until **11:59 pm ET on September 19, 2022**. [Click here](#) for more information.

Funding Opportunity: Public Health AmeriCorps Program The next round of funding for the [Public Health AmeriCorps](#) program is now available. Organizations interested in hosting one or more Public Health AmeriCorps members may apply for the [2023 Public Health AmeriCorps Grant](#) until **January 4, 2023 by 5pm ET**. Eligible organizations include Indian Tribes, institutions of higher education, local governments, public health departments; nonprofit organizations, state service commissions, and states and U.S. Territories. Successful applicants will be notified in April 2023.

Funding Opportunity: Healthy Aging: Optimizing Physical and Mental Functioning across the Aging Continuum Targeted Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

PCORI is seeking research projects that focus on optimizing physical and mental functioning for community-dwelling older adults and their caregivers. The project should address one or more of the following domains: 1) maintaining function and independence, 2) facilitating chronic disease management, 3) supporting individuals with significant functional impairment, and 4) reducing caregiving burden and improving quality of life. [Click here](#) to review the full funding announcement. Interested applicants can [register to attend an Applicant Town Hall on September 20 at noon \(ET\)](#). For questions or to speak with a Program Officer email sciencequestions@pcori.org.

Resources:

Self-Paced Course on How to be Anti-Racist in Public Health

Racism and bias have a significant impact on all facets of public health and can negatively impact health outcomes. The Region V Public Health Training Center is offering [this self-paced course](#) to explore: 1) the myriad ways that racism and bias can exist in the everyday practice of public health; 2) why being explicit about microaggressions, bias, and racism is foundational to eliminating racial health disparities; and 3) practical strategies for addressing racism, bias, and microaggressions as essential aspects of everyday practice in public health.

Mobilizing Action and Driving Civil Engagement

The UN Decade of Healthy Ageing brings together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector to collaboratively improve the lives of older adults, their families and the communities where they reside. To maximize civil society organizations' (CSO) impact across the Decade, the International Federation on Ageing, working together the International Longevity Centre Global Alliance, HelpAge International and the NGO Committee on Ageing (Geneva) recently hosted the Mobilizing Action and Driving Engagement CSO Colloquium. The recently released [Summary Report for this colloquium](#) describes the possibilities to build capacity, capabilities, and partnerships in the Decade and beyond. This summary also provides an understanding of how a civil society alliance for the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing could help to fill an important gap towards fostering the meaningful civic engagement.

Address Health through Upstream Healthcare

Examining and addressing health by [focusing on the root causes of poor health, rather than the symptoms](#), can lead to an improvement in long-term outcomes. Dr. Thea James notes that upstream healthcare is rooted in one question: "What would it take for this problem to never happen again?" By focusing on the improvement of factors such as income, financial stability, education, food access, and housing stability, health outcomes can be changed.

E-Learning on Elder Mistreatment for Emergency Management Services

The [Recognizing and Responding to Elder Mistreatment](#) is an interactive online course for emergency management service providers to learn how to address the widespread problem of elder mistreatment. Hosted by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians and Jones & Bartlett Learning, this course can be accessed for free using the code EDCElder.

Healthy Home Lab Develops Aging in Place Solutions

The University of Pittsburgh has turned a [105-year-old house in Pittsburgh into a "Healthy Home Lab,"](#) with the goal of making home environments healthier for older adults and people living with disabilities. This lab provides students with an opportunity to test solutions to help older adults age in place by designing and developing assistive and smart home technology. In addition to smart-home technologies, air and moisture monitors and stair lifts and other methods to navigate stairs will be tested. Patients from the school's geriatric clinic may eventually be brought in to provide hands-on learning with the technology and to "include users in the development of research studies."

Lower Physical Function Associated with Cardiovascular Disease Risk

According to recent data published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, [older adults with poor physical function may be at higher risk for congenital heart failure, stroke and heart attacks.](#) Researchers noted that "physical function in older adults predicts future cardiovascular disease beyond traditional heart disease risk factors, regardless of whether an individual has a history of cardiovascular disease." This study supports previous research which notes the importance of maintaining physical function.

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