

February 8, 2023

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



### News:

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The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for public health departments to understand and address older adult health needs. For many health departments, healthy aging is not yet a priority or core function. TFAH envisions a nation in which ALL departments of health – state, territorial, Tribal, and local – ensure that data collection, emergency planning, educational programming, and essential partnerships consider the needs of older adults in their communities. *The public health emergency will soon end, but the need to meet the health and social needs of older adults will not.*

**TFAH's Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Recognition Program** was designed to not just recognize health departments deeply engaged in aging issues, but also to provide guidance on how to take the first steps toward becoming age-friendly. Learn more [here](#) or get in touch with the [AFPHS team](#) for one-on-one technical assistance.

### Events and Opportunities:

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

TFAH's 2023 AFPHS training series will provide guidance on implementing each of the AFPHS 6Cs ([based on the 6Cs Framework](#)). Each session will highlight specific examples of public health programs, policies, or other activities that align with the 6Cs and advance healthy aging as a core function.

February's training will include a presentation from Dr. Lisa McGuire, Alzheimer's Disease Team lead at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who will highlight how BOLD grantees use CDC grant funds to create and lead policy and systems changes. Dr. Kina White, Director, Office of Community Health Improvement will share the strategies that the Mississippi State Department of Health is using to advance an age-friendly eco-system in the state.

This session will be held on **February 16 at 3 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a recording of our [January training](#) – Reframing Aging: Harnessing the Power of Our Words.

Individuals who attend 6 or more AFPHS monthly trainings will be designated as AFPHS Champions. More than 50 people across the country have been recognized as Champions to date. Visit the [AFPHS Recognition Program page](#) for more information.

### **Webinar Series: Promising Practices from Successful Elder Fraud Prevention and Response Networks** – *Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET.*

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is hosting a webinar series focused on approaches to combat elder financial exploitation. Part 2 will feature network leaders in Hawaii and Florida. Participants will learn how state-level elder justice networks can effectively support locally based sub-networks, how networks can coordinate with the payments industry to spot and respond to exploitation, and more. Register [here](#).

### **HIV and Aging Webinar Series**

People aging with HIV may also experience additional unique health challenges such as multiple chronic conditions, multiple medications, and increased vulnerability to stressors. The MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center is hosting a webinar series that will address the complexities of care, treatment and management, the psychosocial needs and impact of social determinants of health, and how to improve the quality of life for a growing population of older adults living with HIV.

- *Tuesday, February 14, 2023* - HIV and Aging: Trauma Informed Care and Resilience – Register [here](#).
- *Friday, March 3, 2023* - HIV and Aging: Exploring Brain Health and Cognition – Register [here](#).
- *Friday, April 28, 2023* - HIV and Aging: Mental Health-understanding the complex co-morbidities we face – Register [here](#).

**Caring for Those Who Care: Meeting the Needs of African American and Black Caregivers** – *Thursday, February 16, 2023, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET.* This training hosted by the Diverse Elders Coalition in collaboration with the National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Inc will discuss the unique needs of unpaid African American and Black family caregivers. This session will also provide an understanding of how a lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services impact family caregiver experiences and health outcomes. Register [here](#).

**Public Health Emergency Management Planning Toolkit with WID** – *Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET.* The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the World Institute on Disability are hosting a training on their Public Health Emergency Planning Toolkit. This session will include a walk through on the toolkit and how it ensures that the planning process and plan for public health emergencies are universally inclusive and eliminate systemic barriers. Register [here](#).

**Strategies to Support Social Engagement of Tribal Elders** – *Friday, February 24, 2023, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET.* engAGED: The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults is partnering with the Diverse Elders Coalition to host a three-part webinar series focused on meeting the social needs of older adults in historically marginalized and underserved communities. The first webinar in this series will feature the Administration for Community Living as they describe how Title VI Native American Aging Programs are addressing social isolation. They will also share how the aging network can partner with Title VI program participants to mitigate the effects social isolation. Register [here](#).

### **Spring 2023 Columbia Aging Center Seminar Series**

The 2022-23 Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center seminars and speakers are inspired by the [National Academy of Medicine Global Roadmap for Healthy Longevity](#) and speak to future-back solutions, the assets of aging, social infrastructure, health systems and public health, health equity, and physical environments.

- **Patterns & Determinants of Racialized Inequities in Health & Aging**, Courtney Boen, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania – *Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 11:30 am-12:30 pm ET.* Register [here](#).
- **A seminar on loneliness and isolation in aging**, Ashwin Vasani MD PhD, Commissioner of Health, NYC Dept of Health & Mental Hygiene, City of New York – *Thursday, March 2, 2023, 11:30 am-12:30 pm ET.* Register [here](#).
- **The Value of Public Health Engagement in Healthy Aging**, Megan Wolfe, JD, Senior Policy Development Manager, Trust for America's Health – *Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 11:30 am-12:30 pm ET.* Register [here](#).
- **Translating Frailty Assessment & Management into Clinical Practice: Can technology help us in the future? Accelerometry & Voice-Activated Assistants**, Megan Huisinck-Scheetz, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Chicago – *Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 11:30 am-12:30 pm ET.* Register [here](#).
- **Upstream approaches to help seniors age at home: the view from Silicon Valley**, Nirav R. Shah, MD, MPH, Senior Scholar, Clinical Excellence Research Center, Stanford University – *Thursday, March 23, 2023, 11:30 am-12:30 pm ET.* Register [here](#).

**2nd Annual Innovations in Healthy Aging Summit – Building Resiliency with**

**Healthy Aging Research – Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET (In-person and Online).** This interactive hybrid event will feature research projects focused on solving the grand challenges of healthy aging, improving aging for all, and positively impacting older adults. The highlighted research is funded by Innovations in Healthy Aging, a strategic initiative of the University of Arizona Health Sciences. Registration coming soon.

### **Funding Opportunity – Healthy Longevity Catalyst Award Competition**

Applications are now open for the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) Healthy Longevity Catalyst Award Competition. Up to 20 Healthy Longevity Catalyst Awards (each worth \$50K) will be awarded for ideas or early-stage projects to improve health and well-being as people age. Ideas may focus on any stage of life, as long as they ultimately promote health as people age. Awardees and finalists will automatically be considered for additional funding as part of subsequent phase of the Global Competition, the Accelerator Phase, with awards from \$150,000 to more than \$1 million USD. Awardees from both phases will be well-positioned to compete in 2025 for the NAM's Grand Prize, worth up to \$5M, for a breakthrough innovation in healthy longevity. Click [here](#) to learn more. Email Program Director Michele Toplitz ([mtoplitz@nas.edu](mailto:mtoplitz@nas.edu)) with any questions.

### **Funding Opportunity – COVID-19 and Vaccine Uptake**

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) has received funding to provide grants and technical assistance to hundreds of diverse community-based organizations to develop and host vaccine clinics. These clinics would offer services to help get older adults need vaccinated, such as transportation and assistance in scheduling appointments. Approximately 250 grants for 6-, 12-, or 15-month projects will be awarded. The goal of this funding opportunity is to increase the number of older adults and people with disabilities receiving COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations. Eligible applicants include senior centers, community centers, local community organizations that serve, support, and include older adults and people with disabilities; faith-based organizations that serve, support, and include older adults and people with disabilities; governmental agencies; and other federally recognized nonprofit organizations. Applications to NCOA will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until **March 1, 2023**. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Funding Opportunity – Seniors Workforce Development Senior Demonstration Program**

The [Seniors Workforce Development Senior Demonstration Program](#) will fund projects focused on supporting older adult engagement in the public health workforce. This program will help older adults as they seek to secure employment in professional, skilled labor, or para-professional careers including a public health career track. This program is led by the Public Health AmeriCorps and the AmeriCorps Seniors. [Learn more](#). Applications are due by **March 15, 2023, at 5:00 pm ET**.

### **Funding Opportunity – BOLD Public Health Programs to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced the availability of funding for the BOLD Public Health Programs to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (CDC-RFA-DP23-0010) to fulfill the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406). These 5-year grants are designed to build public health infrastructure and increase capacity in addressing and preventing Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) and support dementia caregiving, emphasizing social determinants of health. All BOLD activities are designed to improve the health of populations across the lifespan by employing data-driven strategies and aligning CDC's Healthy Brain Initiative [State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map](#) and [Road Map for Indian Country](#) frameworks. [Learn more](#). Applications are due by **March 23, 2023**.

### **Health and Aging Policy Fellows**

Applications are now being accepted for the [2023-2024 class of the Health and Aging Policy Fellows](#). This one-year Fellowship runs from October 1 – September 30 and has full-time and part-time tracks. It is conducted as a hybrid program of mentoring, networking, learning and practicum experiences. Health and Aging Policy Fellows work across diverse fields of aging and develop lifelong partnerships and networks. Applications are due by **April 17, 2023**.

### **Upcoming Conference Abstract/Proposal Deadlines**

- [American Public Health Association](#) – *March 31, 2023, 11:59 pm PT/2:59 am ET*. Theme: Creating the Healthiest Nation: Overcoming Social and Ethical Challenges
- [Gerontological Society of America](#) – *March 9, 2023*. Theme: Building Bridges > Catalyzing Research > Empowering All Ages

## **Resources:**

## COVID-19

### **Most Deaths due to COVID-19 Occur among Older Adults**

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, **adults aged 60 and older make up more than 80% of the population who died worldwide in the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.** In addition, the global rate of vaccination among older adults is significantly short of the World Health Organization's goal of having all at-risk populations fully vaccinated. Researchers are calling for increased vaccination efforts, particularly in lower-income countries.

### **Staffing Challenges Impact Long-Term Care Industry**

According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, **nursing homes in the U.S. have lost 210,000 jobs since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.** As a result of these staffing shortages, many nursing homes have placed limits on their admissions and some have closed. Overall, workforce levels in nursing homes are at the lowest they have been in 30 years. While an average of 3,700 jobs per month have been added to facilities over the last nine months, projections indicate that nursing homes will not return to pre-pandemic levels until 2027.

## Plans on Aging

### **Improving Older Adult Health by Operationalizing State Plans on Aging and Health Improvement**

**The COVID-19 pandemic, a growing aging population, and inequity in aging have prompted more public health departments and agencies focused on older adult services to establish partnerships to improve older adult health.**

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), in partnership with Trust for America's Health, engaged the Georgia Division of Aging Services (DAS) and Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). ASTHO conducted an intensive qualitative analysis of Georgia's State Health Improvement Plan and State Plan on Aging to systematically assess shared priorities and differences. DAS and DPH developed an action plan with two priority areas to collaborate on and further their partnership, serving as a model for strengthening and better aligning public health-aging partnerships.

### **A Blueprint for Aging Well**

**Every state should have a detailed and comprehensive plan** that addresses what matters most to people as they age. No matter what it is called – Master Plan for Aging, Action Plan on Aging Well, or Strategic Action Plan on Aging – the plan should ensure that a state's residents can live and age well in their communities. This Multisector Plan should also communicate how policies and programs can come together under one platform. There are more than a dozen states currently developing these plans. The overall goal is to create systems-based solutions that address areas such as health, human services, housing, transportation, consumer affairs, employment, and income security.

## Nutrition

### **Expanding the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program**

The United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service announced **\$50 million in grants to 48 states, Puerto Rico, and 8 tribal areas to modernize and expand the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.** This will provide low-income older adults with access to farmers markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs while strengthening supply chain resilience. These grants will also enable states to support up to 250,000 more eligible older adults while expanding geographic areas served and making strides to modernize their systems to best support equitable nutrition security across the nation.

### **How the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Supports Older Adults**

Older adults who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) receive on average \$104 per month to help purchase food. But, more than half of eligible older adults are still not signed up for the program, which is an estimated 5 million people. **A recent webinar hosted by the National Center on Law & Elder Rights** provided an overview of the SNAP benefit with a focus on how it serves older adults, how to help clients access the program and receive the maximum benefit amount, and tips and strategies for overcoming access barriers.

## Additional Resources

### **New Article Highlights the Role of State and Territorial Health Agencies in Supporting Healthy Aging**

**A new article from Association of State and Territorial Health Officials** in the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* describes how health agencies can

support healthy aging and health equity by addressing social determinants of health. The article contains a summary of key public health interventions to address healthy aging and older adult health. These interventions are bundled into a “technical package,” or a set of recommendations to the field, and are organized in five categories: paid family and sick leave; healthy community design; fall prevention and mobility; telehealth access; and the health care, long-term care, and public health workforce.

### Identifying and Caring for “Invisible” Homebound Older Adults

The Winter 2023 Roger C. Lipitz Center for Integrated Health Care Issue Brief provides information [on the “invisible” homebound population in the U.S. and their limited access to care.](#) According to the brief, there are 2 million older Americans who rarely or never leave their homes and 5.5 million older adults who cannot leave home without difficulty or assistance from another person. Patients who are homebound have higher needs with higher costs, and are often “invisible” to providers and health care systems. Individuals who are homebound may experience higher hospitalization rates, more ER visits, and higher downstream health care expenditures. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated efforts to identify new models for delivering care to and improving outcomes for homebound older adults.

### Tools to Help Support Older Adults during Natural Disasters

Storms and natural disasters have caused many people to leave their homes because they lose access to heat, electricity and in many cases access to essential services and resources. When older adults and other at-risk populations leave their homes it can exacerbate existing health conditions. Pro Bono Net, Equal Justice Works, and Lone Star Legal Aid have developed a new Practicing Law Institute program to help pro bono managers, volunteers, and nonprofit legal aid professionals respond to the impact of climate disasters. This new program, "[New Developments in Climate Disaster Response & Resilience.](#)" supplements last year’s program, "[Current and Emerging Issues in Disaster Response: Legal Strategies and Practices for Helping Survivors](#)" that offers a comprehensive overview of the legal landscape after a disaster.

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**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](mailto:AFPHS@TFAH.ORG)



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

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