

July 17, 2023

AFPHS News



News:

New Article Describes the Intersection of Aging and Public Health

Trust for America's Health served as a co-author with The John A. Hartford Foundation on a [new publication](#) about how public health can support the aging sector and the importance of age-friendly public health systems. This paper also describes the importance of collective action and data collection.

Tennessee Achieves Recognition

Congratulations to the [Tennessee Department of Health](#) on becoming an Advanced Age-Friendly Public Health System through our [AFPHS Recognition Program](#).

AFPHS Newsletter Switches to Monthly

Thank you for your continued readership. In an effort to provide the highest-quality content, we are reducing our publishing frequency from twice a month to once a month.

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

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

Emergencies increase the risk of harm for older adults living with impaired mobility, cognitive deficits, chronic diseases, social isolation, and limited financial resources. The public health sector is uniquely situated to implement emergency preparedness strategies to protect older adults and their caregivers in the face of emergency situations. The July AFPHS training, scheduled for Thursday, July 20, 3:00 pm ET, will highlight the public health sector's role in protecting older adults and their caregivers during emergencies, with a focus on communication.

Speakers for this session include:

- Matt McKillop, Senior Health Policy Researcher and Analyst, Trust for America's Health
- Bethany Phenix-Osgood, Planning & Resource Director and Tribal Liaison, Aging &

This session will be held on **July 20 at 3 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a recording of our **June training** - Collecting, Analyzing, and Translating Data, and read our blog post [What's Public Health Got To Do With... Older Adult Health Data?](#)

Build your expertise and healthy aging knowledge! Individuals who attend 6 or more AFPHS monthly trainings will be designated as AFPHS Champions. More than 75 people across the country have been recognized as Champions to date. Visit the [AFPHS Recognition Program page](#) for more information.

American Indian & Alaska Native Resource Center for Brain Health Webinar Series

The International Association for Indigenous Aging is hosting the [American Indian & Alaska Native Resource Center for Brain Health Webinar Series](#). The webinars in this series will provide insights into various available brain health resources.

- **Tribal Resolutions on Brain Health** – *July 19, 2023, 2:00 pm ET*. Twila Martin Kekahbah, MED, MFA (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians) and Chandra Wilson, MSW, NPAIHB (Klamath, Modoc, Yahooskin Paiute), will be presenting on Tribal Resolutions addressing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Register [here](#).
- **Traditional Native Foods & Brain Health** – *July 21, 2023, 2:00 pm ET*. Heidi Robertson, MPH, Community Health Consulting, LLC, will give a presentation that discusses traditional foods, nutrition, and caregiving and will focus on how to use traditional foods to support brain health in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Register [here](#).

Building a Person-Centered Enrollment Ecosystem for Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees – *Wednesday, July 19, 2023 2:00 pm ET*. Community Catalyst is hosting a session to discuss how to make enrollment into integrated care programs successful, driven by person-centered and participatory research. Policy recommendations and new findings that provide insight into creating a person-centered experience will also be shared. Register [here](#).

Increasing Physical Activity Among Older Adults: Practical Strategies from Health Departments – *Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 3:00 pm ET*.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials are hosting a discussion with state and local health departments about what works to get older adults moving. This webinar will include an introduction to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Midcourse Report: Implementation Strategies for Older Adults and summarize key strategies to increase physical activity among older adults. Additionally, the Washington State Health Department and the Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County will share details on their efforts to promote physical activity and healthy aging. Register [here](#).

RCCN Workshop: Promoting Healthy Aging Through Nutrition – *July 20-21, 2023 (Boston, MA)*. This workshop will include sessions on Timing and Targeting Interventions, Social Context of Diet and Food Choice, Dietary Patterns in Health and Disease, and Advancing the Field. The [agenda](#) is available and the workshop will be livestreamed virtually on Zoom. Register [here](#).

Celebrating a Year of the National Center to Reframe Aging – *Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 12:00 pm ET*. The National Center to Reframe Aging is celebrating their one-year anniversary. This session will highlight the movement's growth, celebrate its successes, and discuss future endeavors. Register [here](#).

Successful Public Health Approaches in Dementia Caregiving: Virtual Roundtable Series – *Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 11:00 am ET*.

The goal of this series is to create a public health community of practice, where agencies can share experiences and lessons learned, and find ideas of strategies they can implement

to support dementia caregivers in their jurisdictions. Attendees will hear from a variety of panelists with perspectives of those involved with the Vermont BOLD Program, Vermont Center on Aging, University of Vermont Medical Center, Vermont Dementia Family Caregiver Center, Vermont BRIDGES Program, and family caregivers. Register [here](#).

Charting the Course to Better Brain Health – *Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 4:00 pm ET*. This webinar will highlight relevant strategies and new additions to the [2023-2027 Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map](#). This session will also provide insight on how to take action, prioritize health equity, and shift policies to promote brain health for every member of your community. Presenting the webinar are Road Map Leadership Committee co-chairs:

- Kristen Clifford, Chief Program Officer at the Alzheimer's Association
- Lisa McGuire, who leads the Alzheimer's Disease Team at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Additional insights from Road Map Leadership Committee Members:

- Marti Macchi, the Chief Program Strategy Officer at the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
- Barak Gaster, Director of Cognition in Primary Care Program Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington
- J. Nadine Gracia, President and CEO of Trust for America's Health

Register [here](#).

The GW Center for Aging, Health and Humanities presents: THE 2023 Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit

The George Washington University's Center for Aging, Health and Humanities is hosting the third annual Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit. It is being held in partnership with Age-Friendly Alexandria, Arlington, DC, Howard County (new partner), Hyattsville, Montgomery County, and the Georgetown University Aging & Health Program. The summit will occur in four two-hour blocks over four days: 1. *Ageism, September 26th from 1-3pm ET*; 2. *Inclusivity, September 27th from 1-3pm ET*; 3. *Communications, October 3rd from 1-3pm ET*; and *Creativity, October 4th from 1-3pm ET*. Register for the sessions [here](#).

Maintaining Patient Access to Care in Rural America – *Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET*. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, with support from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is hosting a webinar to discuss federal priorities for rural healthcare access and showcase the AZ REACH program. The event will feature insights from HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Rural Health, highlighting a patient transfer system that ensures access to hospital services in rural areas during public health events. Register [here](#).

Thriving Communities Technical Assistance

Local governments can apply for federal [Thriving Communities Technical Assistance](#) (TCTA) funding to help plan for and create transit-oriented housing. The TCTA program supports coordination and integration of transportation and housing in infrastructure planning and implementation. Eligible local government entities should apply if they:

- Will be receiving transportation funding, either directly or through a state pass-through, with priority given to those receiving competitive funds
- Want to address housing needs in disadvantaged communities in accordance with their housing and/or equity goals
- Want to work on at least one of the four TCTA topic areas
- Are committed to community engagement to ensure residents and businesses in disadvantaged communities benefit from the transportation investment

Priority for the 30-40 jurisdictions selected will be given to those with populations of less than 250,000 people. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

Brain Health Academy

UsAgainstAlzheimers is offering new classes through their Brain Health Academy. These virtual classes are designed to equip healthcare providers and wellness professionals with the knowledge and resources to help people reduce their risk of Alzheimer's and related dementias. The remaining schedule for 2023 is:

- Hearing and Dementia- July 19, 2023
- Depression and Dementia- September 20, 2023
- Smoking and Dementia- October 18, 2023,
- Alcohol Use and Dementia- November 15, 2023

All courses are from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET. Learn more [here](#).

How to be Anti-Racist in the Everyday Practice of Public Health

The [How to be Anti-Racist in the Everyday Practice of Public Health](#) training course is designed to equip public health professionals with the skills to recognize and manage biases, promote more equitable health services. This training explores: 1) The myriad ways that racism and bias can be operationalized 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. Learn more [here](#).

Input Opportunity: Proposed Update to Older Americans Act Program Regulations

The U.S. Administration for Community Living [is seeking input](#) on proposed updates to the regulations for its Older Americans Act (OAA) programs. The last substantial update to most OAA program regulations was in 1988.

Upcoming Conference Abstract/Proposal Deadlines

- [American Society on Aging](#) – August 1, 2023.

Resources:

Housing

The Role of Public Health and Health Care in Improving Housing

Roshanak Mehdipanah of the University of Michigan School of Public Health highlighted the impact of housing on health and the role of that public health and health care have in improving housing in a recent Milbank Memorial Fund article –

[Without Affordable, Accessible, and Adequate Housing, Health Has No Foundation](#). Mehdipanah shares that housing is a human right and determinant of health. She also describes housing through the lenses of affordability, access, and adequacy.

Simple Fixes to Make Homes Safe for Aging in Place

Results from a 2021 AARP survey indicate that [77% of Americans ages 50 and older want to age in place in their current homes](#), but many homes are not equipped to accommodate the needs of older adults. Falling in these homes is also a major concern. Some simple strategies for making a home safer for older adults include getting rid of scatter rugs, installing better lighting inside and outside the home, placing slip-resistant strips in the bathroom and bathtub, and switching out round doorknobs for lever-style handles.

Nutrition

Expanding the Reach of Emergency Food Systems

[Forty state agencies have been awarded more than \\$58.5 million in grants to improve the reach of The Emergency Food Assistance Program](#), known as TEFAP, in remote, rural, tribal, and/or low-income areas. This award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service will support states in addressing gaps in emergency food system coverage and strengthen food distribution infrastructure in underserved areas. Funding will be used for efforts such as expanding mobile distribution options, making critical freezing and cooling upgrades to keep foods fresh, and building new TEFAP partnerships so the program can serve all who need it. About one-third of the projects will focus on tribal areas or involve collaboration with a tribal organization. This is the second of two rounds of the TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grants, which have provided a combined nearly \$100 million in program investments.

New SNAP-Ed Cross-Regional Impact Report

The Food and Nutrition Service Mountain Plains, Southeast, and Southwest Regions recently released of their [2022 SNAP-Ed Cross-Regional Impact Report](#). This report highlights the success, impact, best practices, and partnerships of SNAP-Ed in these three regions. Partnerships with Tribal Organizations are also featured.

[Additional Resources](#)

Using Data Equity to Achieve Health Equity

Data equity is “about putting marginalized voices front and center” and acknowledging “that people are invisible in the data that we use.” [In a recent Milbank Memorial Fund article](#), Ninez Ponce of the University of California, Los Angeles Center for Health Policy Research and Paris “AJ” Adkins-Jackson of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health highlight policy recommendations from the Biden administration’s Equitable Data Working Group Report and the need for community-centered data.

The Value of Community-Based Organization and Health Plan Partnerships in Supporting the Needs of Older Adults

In a recent [Better Care Playbook webinar](#), program leaders and researchers highlighted the importance of partnerships between health care entities, community-based organizations, and community care hubs like Area Agencies on Aging. These partnerships can help address the health-related social needs of older adults, reduce health disparities, prevent unnecessary hospitalizations, and support older adults to remain in their homes as long as possible.

The Cost of Elder Financial Exploitation

A new report from AARP’s BankSafe Initiative notes that victims over age 60 lose \$28.3 billion each year to elder financial exploitation. According to this report, [\\$20.3 billion worth of losses stem from fraud by people known to the victim and \\$8 billion from stranger-perpetrated incidents](#). Research has begun to identify the impact of exploitation on the mental and physical health of older adults.

New Healthy Aging and Older Adult Health Policy Statement

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials’ (ASTHO) [Healthy Aging and Older Adult Health policy statement](#) was recently approved by the ASTHO Board of Directors. The newly revised statement includes recommendations to state and territorial health agencies on how to improve access to quality services across all ages, including older adults.

New Clearinghouse on Aging and Climate Change

Environmental challenges are occurring more frequently and impact the overall health of people across the lifespan. Little attention, however, has been paid to the impact of environmental issues on older adults. The [Aging & Climate Change Clearinghouse](#), located at Cornell University, aims to gather and disseminate information and stimulate research, real-world interventions, and policies to address the intersection of aging and climate change.

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