WEEKLY E-MAILING
August 31, 2021
Table of Contents

Helpful Links
NCLER: Important Change for SSI Reciepients & Applicants
Recall Alert for Certain Philips Medical Devices
Virginia Housing: Upcoming Webinars
VA Department of Rail & Public Transportation Study
VA Department of Rail & Public Transportation TitleVI Plan
ACL: Get Ready for National Preparedness Month
ACL: ACL Awards Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program Grants*
Medicaid.Gov: 2020 Medicaid & CHIP Beneficiary Profile & Infographic
CFPB: The CDC Eviction Moratorium has Ended
NCLER: Resources for Advocates Serving Older Immigrants
Supreme Court's WINGS Partnership Guide Available
Link to DARS Independent Living Newsletter

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Helpful Links

ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

https://acl.gov/

ADvancing States (NASUAD) Information

Here is a link to state technical assistance from ADvancing States:

http://www.advancingstates.org/state-technical-assistance/enhancedtechnical-assistance

NATIONAL CENTER ON LAW & ELDER RIGHTS

Important Change for SSI Recipients & Applicants

The Social Security Administration (SSA) recently changed their rules about how pandemic-related financial assistance can affect an individual's eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or monthly SSI benefit amount. Previously, SSA had been counting many types of assistance as income and resources for SSI purposes, resulting in individuals having their SSI benefits reduced or suspended, or having their applications for SSI benefits denied. However, due to the severity of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, SSA has decided they will not count most types of pandemic-related financial assistance against SSI eligibility or benefit amount. Read our new Practice Tip for more information.

Read the Practice Tip

Explore Our Website!

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Request a Free Case Consultation

Case consultation assistance is available for attorneys and professionals seeking more information to help older adults. Contact NCLER at **ConsultNCLER@acl.hhs.gov**.

Medicare.gov

Recall alert for certain Philips medical devices

Philips recently issued a product recall for specific ventilators and sleep apnea devices.

If you own or rent one of the Philips products that was recalled, **talk to your doctor as soon as possible about whether to continue using your recalled equipment** . More Info

If you would like to replace or repair your equipment, the supplier you bought the equipment from is responsible for replacing or repairing rental equipment at no cost to you when the equipment is less than 5 years old. If the equipment is more than 5 years old, **Medicare will help pay** for a replacement.

Important: Register your recalled equipment with Philips so they know you need a replacement, and can provide information on the next steps for a permanent corrective solution.

To register your equipment:

- Visit **philips.com/src-update**, or Call 1-877-907-7508

Sincerely,
The Medicare Team

Upcoming Webinars

Virginia Housing and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services are offering companion webinars on Building Partnerships between LIHTC Owners and Supportive Service Providers. Please see information below to join either webinar on September 1st (LIHTC Owners) or September 2nd (Service Providers).

Virginia Housing Webinar: *Services Funding Opportunity to EncourageBuilding Partnerships Between Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Properties and Service Providers*
Date: Wednesday, September 1st 10-11am

Virginia Housing, with the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) is offering a webinar for property owners and managers interested in building partnerships with community service providers to provide integrated supportive housing. Properties may choose to enter into partnerships with experienced service providers to provide tenancy support services on-site and in the community. An upcoming services funding opportunity will be discussed.

You can access this webinar using the following link: **https://virginiahousing.webex.com/virginiahousing/j.php?MTID=m522ddcdd75ebc6ec90a3dafe542feb34**

DBHDS Webinar: *Building Partnerships with Between Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Properties and Service Providers*
Date: Thursday, September 2nd 2pm - 3pm
Audience: Experienced community behavioral health and developmental service providers (public and private) who are interested in partnering with properties that have committed to offer rental housing to individuals experiencing homelessness, repeated hospitalizations, or transitioning to independent living.
Please see log-on information below. There is no cost or need to register. You may share this email and Zoom link.

The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) is offering a webinar for community service providers on building partnerships between property owners and service providers in integrated supportive housing. Virginia Housing (VH) has committed rental units in specific properties that are designated for individuals referred by state partners, including individuals with developmental disabilities and those with serious mental illness. Properties may choose to enter into partnerships with experienced service providers to provide tenancy support services on-site and in the community. The webinar will cover Virginia's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) initiatives, including VH's Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) preference units and its partnership with DBHDS. Fundamental components of tenancy support services and principles of service provider-property owner partnerships will be described. **An upcoming services funding opportunity will be discussed.**

Join Here:
Topic: LIHTC Services Webinar
Time: Sep 2, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join ZoomGov Meeting
https://dbhds.zoomgov.com/j/1604959004
Meeting ID: 160 495 9004
Passcode: LIHTC_svc1

VA Department of Rail & Public Transportation Study

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Policy Analyst

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is studying opportunities to advance equitable, accessible, and modern transit within the Commonwealth. Virtual interview participants will discuss whether the current public transportation network meets your needs and gather reactions to efforts to modernize the system.

Interested? Please visit **https://tinyurl.com/VATransitFocusGroup** to complete a short questionnaire.

VA Department of Rail & Public Transportation: Title VI Plan – Public Comment Period

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Policy Analyst

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that no person shall be excluded participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin. All recipients of federal funding, including the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), are required to have a Title VI Plan (including a Public Participation Plan and Language Assistance Plan) that dictates how Title VI principles are implemented and monitored at the agency. The plan is required to be updated periodically and staff did so in July 2021 to reflect staffing changes and the newest demographics in the Commonwealth.

The draft plans can be found here and attached below. After reviewing, we ask that you let us know what you think. What are we missing? Are there outreach methods we are not using that could help reach certain populations? Is the plan understandable?

Whatever your thoughts, share them with us before the public comment period ends at 5:00 pm on Friday, September 24, 2021. Comments can be submitted via:

- Email: drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov
- Phone: (804) 786-4440
- Mail: to DRPT at 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219

Upon completion of the comment period, our Title VI plan will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration's Regional Civil Rights Officer.

- VA DRPT PPP FY2022-2024.pdf
- VA DRPT Title VI Plan FY2022-2024.pdf
- VA DRPT LAP FY2022-2024.pdf

ACL Administration for Community Living UPDATES

Get Ready for National Preparedness Month

Resources from Ready.gov and ACL

Each September, Ready.gov leads the observance of National Preparedness Month, a time to highlight the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies. The 2021 theme is "Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love." Throughout the month, the campaign will focus on several aspects of preparedness for individuals, families, and communities. Visit the National Preparedness Month webpage for materials and more information.

Related ACL Materials

Emergency Preparedness Poster/Infographic: Provides essential tips and preparedness steps for older adults and people with disabilities.

Medical Information Card: Captures vital information that emergency and medical personnel should know during a crisis.

Communication Assistance Card: Helps first responders to assist someone whose disability may make it difficult for them to communicate their needs.

Emergency Preparedness Page: General preparedness resources, including material on COVID-19 and information for people with disabilities and older adults.

Emergency Response Page: Connects you to a range of services available in your local area.

ACL Awards Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program Grants

ACL recently awarded 28 five-year cooperative agreements under the new funding opportunity for ACL's Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) State Partnership Program.

The goal is to create and strengthen systems of services and supports that maximizes the independence, health and well-being of people with traumatic brain injuries across the lifespan, their family members, and their support networks. Grantee work is supported by the TBI Technical Assistance and Resource Center to maximize the program's impact nationally.

Each grantee will support a state TBI advisory board, at least 50 percent of which is comprised of individuals with TBIs; create a TBI state plan based on stakeholders' unmet needs; and connect people with TBIs and their families to comprehensive services and supports across relevant systems.

The 2021 TBI State Partnership Program Grant recipients are:

- University of Alaska Anchorage
- Alabama Department of Rehabilitation
- University of Arkansas – Institute for Digital Health & Innovation
- California State Department of Rehabilitation
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Georgia – Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission
- Idaho State University – Institute of Rural Health
- Indiana State Department of Health
- Iowa Department of Public Health, Office of Disability
- Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services
- Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- Maine Department of Health and Human Services

- Maryland Department of Health
- Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
- Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
- Nebraska Department of Education
- New Jersey Department of Human Services
- North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
- North Dakota Department of Human Services
- The Ohio State University
- University of Oregon
- Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Rhode Island Department of Health
- Tennessee Department of Health
- **Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services**
- Utah Department of Health
- West Virginia University Research Corporation

For additional information, please contact tbi@acl.gov. Back to top

Medicaid.gov
Keeping America Healthy

This week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the **2020 Medicaid and CHIP Beneficiary Profile and Infographic**. The Beneficiary Profile and associated Infographic provide an overview of the characteristics, health status, access, utilization, expenditures, and experience of the beneficiaries served by Medicaid and CHIP.

- **Learn more here: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/releases-announcements/index.html**

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Good afternoon,

On August 26, 2021, the United States Supreme Court issued a decision ending the CDC eviction moratorium. If you are facing eviction now, we have resources to help.

Even though federal protections have ended, some state or local moratoriums are still preventing evictions. Visit Eviction Lab to see if your state or local government is stopping evictions.

Renters and landlords may also be able to apply for financial assistance to cover rent, utilities, or other housing expenses.

Learn more about what financial help is available.

Thank you,

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

NATIONAL CENTER ON LAW & ELDER RIGHTS

Resources for Advocates Serving Older Immigrants

Many older immigrants face barriers to accessing services and public benefits, as well as immigration law challenges. As new immigrants from Afghanistan are arriving in the United States this month, aging services advocates and legal assistance providers can play a role in helping older immigrants navigate these barriers to critically needed services and explain their rights.

Immigration status generally determines eligibility for benefits programs and services, such as cash assistance and health insurance. Some Afghans may qualify for Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) and others may be seeking refugee status. Aging services and legal assistance providers might find it helpful to reach and assist older immigrants through partnerships with resettlement agencies and similar organizations aiding in the resettlement efforts.

Here are some resources for advocates to help deliver trauma-informed services and better understand eligibility issues, available services, and asserting language access rights:

- NCLER: Access to Public Benefits for Older Immigrants (webinar recording and Chapter Summary)
- NCLER: Language Access Rights: Tips for Advocates of Limited English Proficient Older Adults
- NCLER: Trauma-Informed Lawyering
- Justice in Aging: Older Immigrants and Medicare
- Social Security Administration: Spotlight on SSI Benefits for Noncitizens
- HealthCare.gov: Health Coverage for Immigrants
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center: Public Charge Resources
- National Immigration Law Center: Overview of Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs and Overview Table
- National Immigration Law Center: FAQ- Eligibility for Assistance Based on Immigration Status

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View as webpage

Supreme Court's WINGS Partnership Guide Available

On behalf of Commonwealth Council on Aging Member Erica Wood

The Supreme Court's WINGS partnership (Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders) has created a seven-page, plain language guide for the public on decision-making options less restrictive than guardianship. The Guide is called Options in Virginia to Help Another Person Make Decisions: Choices Less Restrictive Than Guardianship or Conservatorship. It sets out options for both health/personal decision-making, and financial decision-making. These options could help to preserve rights and reduce unnecessary guardianships and conservatorships. The Guide is posted on the Virginia Judicial System website at: http://vacourts.gov/courts/circuit/resources/guardian_options_pamphlet.pdf.

Link to DARS Independent Living Monthly Newsletter
Kevin Koziol, Director of Independent Living

The current issue of IL Impact is available here:

https://conta.cc/2SE6olP