



## WEEKLY E-MAILING

October 4, 2022

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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>

We are pleased to announce VGCA's 2023 theme:

*Shaping the Future of Aging in Virginia: Informed.  
Inclusive. Innovative.*

[Submit Online - Session Proposal Form](#)

**Call for Session Proposals**

Virginia's population is becoming older and more diverse. Today there are nearly 1.5 million adults in the Commonwealth aged 60 and over, and this population will expand to more than 2 million by 2030 when the baby boom generation will be between 66 and 84 years old. Virginia's aging population is living longer due to the advances in health care; older Virginians with chronic conditions will need assistance longer while contributing as valuable resources, bringing knowledge to the workforce and wisdom to communities.

As Virginia shapes its future as one of the best states to live in and do business, it also has leaders striving to create a leadership culture for caregivers and individuals aging in their communities. Being a great place to live encompasses valuing seniors.

This conference will explore the spectrum of aging services in Virginia, providing a forum for discussion about what is currently happening, how we responded over the past two years, and what we see on the horizon. Join all who see themselves as aging advocates for a two-day conference in Richmond that will yield recommendations to policymakers and create a vision for the future of aging in Virginia.

*Shaping the Future of Aging in Virginia: Informed. Inclusive. Innovative.* will focus on engaging presenters and attendees from across the Commonwealth and beyond in main focus areas:

**Informed Virginia** - What are organizations currently doing to successfully support aging Virginians and their networks. How do those foundations set the pace for what comes next?

**Inclusive Virginia** - What does inclusion across the aging spectrum mean in Virginia? How do we ensure ageism is defined?

**Innovative Virginia** - Over the past two years, organizations, public and private, have had to be creative and innovative to support this growing older population. What are the lessons we have learned that we are taking forward? What successes can be replicated as we strengthen the supports needed to continue building a strong aging network in Virginia?

**The Governor's Conference on Aging (VGCA) welcomes session proposals in alignment with this theme:**

**[DUE by 5pm on October 31st, 2022]**

The Program Selection Committee seeks proposals for presentations including individual presenters, groups, and panels. Presenters are encouraged to apply creativity to their sessions and to consider an audience with varying needs and learning styles.

The Committee strives to create a balanced program, incorporating a variety of presentations which dive into the different topics that make up the Conference theme.

In response to the high level of interest from presenters, please note this is a competitive process.

Each session proposal will be reviewed by a committee of peers and should meet the following criteria:

**Submission of proposal form in the requested format, fully completed. All submissions must meet the following guidelines,**

- Via the online submission form
  - If you are unable to submit online, please contact VGCA staff for alternate options.
- A clearly stated session title
- A clear description of the proposed session and objectives
- Be submitted by 5 pm on October 31, 2022.

If any section is incomplete, it will result in the disqualification of the proposal.

**Please submit proposals by 5pm on October 31st, 2022!**

Session proposal submission is **completed online** using the form link below. A PDF version will be made available upon request.

Any questions about the Call for Session Proposals can be directed to VGCOA Conference staff.

**VGCOA Conference Staff:**

Martina James Nalley, [martina@vgcoa.com](mailto:martina@vgcoa.com)

Gillian Saul, [gillian@vgcoa.com](mailto:gillian@vgcoa.com)

[Submit Online - Session Proposal Form](#)

[Email Gillian Saul](#)

Email Martina James

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## **VGCOA Sponsorship Opportunities will be available soon!**

Interested? Contact VGCOA Conference Manager, Martina James, [martina@vgcoa.com](mailto:martina@vgcoa.com) or (540)809-7505

Email Martina James

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## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENT!**

**May 8, 2023**

### ***Virginia Dementia Capable Summit***

This is a special one-day pre-session. The Summit, presented by the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission, DARS, and the Virginia Department of Health, will have a particular focus on advancing brain health and dementia risk reduction and will be a great opportunity to learn about the Dementia State Plan and provide input into the next version of the Plan.

Interested in receiving more information as it is announced? Use the button below to be added to the mailing list!

**I am interested in attending the Summit and would like more information when available!**

## **Financial Well-Being of Medicare Beneficiaries Data and Update to Medicare Beneficiaries at a Glance Infographic Now Available**

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Policy Analyst*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the availability of a new public use file on financial well-being of Medicare beneficiaries. This public use file presents estimates on asset ownership, food insecurity, access to transportation, and access to the internet for Medicare beneficiaries living in the community who were enrolled in Medicare in 2020. To learn more, the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) Financial Well-Being of Medicare Beneficiaries is available [here](#).

CMS also released an update to the Medicare Beneficiaries at a Glance infographic with data from 2020. This infographic is a quick reference tool that presents a visual summary of key metrics for the Medicare population including information on types of coverage, utilization, average cost for specific services, chronic condition prevalence, beneficiary satisfaction and access to care, and usual source of care. To learn more, the CMS Medicare Beneficiaries at a Glance Infographic is available [here](#).

## **HUD Offers Section 202 Elderly Housing Funds**

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Policy Analyst*

The [Section 202](#) program makes capital advances to sponsors to finance construction, reconstruction, moderate or substantial rehabilitation, or acquisition of a structure with or without rehabilitation, to provide housing to elderly persons who can live independently with some services. This year HUD is also supporting the development of intergenerational housing for elderly caregivers raising children. [Applications](#) are due January 25. For more information, [contact HUD staff](#).

**The Medicare & You Handbook is Available in Spanish,  
Chinese, Korean, & Vietnamese**

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS. Policy Analyst*

The Medicare & You Handbook is now available in four additional languages. If you work with any clients who speak any of these languages, you should have a copy of this important resource on your desk. And when you see or talk to your clients, you can help them order their own copy online. It takes less than a minute. Spread the word!

Why is Medicare & You so useful?

- It is the core consumer document on how Medicare works – enrollment, coverage choices, and beneficiary rights. Medicare & You helps to empower your clients to understand the program, know their rights, and make better choices. This is particularly important since they will be bombarded with advertisements during the Open Enrollment Period that starts on October 15.
- When used side-by-side with the English-language version that is mailed to every beneficiary, the non-English language version provides vocabulary and is an aid to help English-speaking family members talk with their loved one about the program. Because the Handbook lists medical services covered by Medicare, it is particularly valuable in providing a set of terms in each language to ensure that communication is accurate.
- For programs using in-house interpreters, side-by-side use also facilitates communication and understanding.

### **Order now**

- To order, go to [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov), or [follow this direct link to ordering publications](#). It is very quick. All that is needed is name and address. A Medicare number is NOT required.
- Note that the Spanish versions are also available in audio, Braille, and large print. It is also possible to order by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (keep saying “AGENT” to get through the prompts).

**Advocates have worked hard over many years to get these translations.** We want more languages, but we need to show the Medicare program that the current translations are valuable. Last year, when Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese versions were introduced, uptake was limited. **It is important to get the word out! Please share.**

## **Free Webcast: Medicare Part D Basics & 2022 Updates**

*Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs*

**When: [Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 11:00-12:00 P.T./2:00-3:00 E.T.](#)**

People with Medicare get their prescription drugs through the Medicare Part D program. This program is separate from the parts of Medicare that provide recipients with hospital and medical coverage. Medicare Part D has its own rules and can be complicated to navigate, even for seasoned advocates.

[During this training](#), presenters will provide essential information and updates on Medicare Part D, with particular emphasis on how the program works for low income consumers. This training will provide an overview of:

- Eligibility and enrollment
- The Low-Income Subsidy (“Extra Help”)
- Changes to both programs arising from the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
- Plan choices

- Exceptions and appeals

Following the training, the audience will have a foundational understanding of Medicare Part D and the most common issues advocates encounter, and an awareness of the most significant changes that will result from recent legislation

Legal assistance, elder rights, and aging services professionals looking to understand the basic principles of Medicare Part D and 2022 updates are encouraged to attend.

**Presenters:**

- Georgia Burke, Director, Medicare Advocacy, Justice in Aging
- Murray Scheel, Senior Attorney, Justice in Aging

*Closed captioning will be available on this webcast. A link with access to the captions will be shared through GoToWebinar's chat box shortly before the webcast start time.*

This training will be presented in a **WEBCAST** format to accommodate more participants. Due to the high volume of participants, computer audio will be the only option to listen to the presentation. No telephone call-in number will be provided. Please plan accordingly. Thank you.

This webcast will be recorded and available on our website shortly after the presentation. The recording and training materials will also be emailed to all registrants within a few days after the training.

**The webcast will take place on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. P.T./2:00 p.m. ET and will run for one hour.**

[Register Here](#)

## **Meals on Wheels America: Washington Update**

*Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs*

**SEPTEMBER 30,  
2022**

**CONGRESS PASSES BILL TO FUND GOVERNMENT THROUGH DECEMBER**

**16**

***AND, RECAP OF THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON  
HUNGER, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH***

Today, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 6833 – the *Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023* – on a final vote of 230-201. The bill – which passed in the Senate by a vote of 72-25 yesterday – is a continuing resolution (CR) that will temporarily extend current federal funding through December 16. A stopgap funding bill is necessary at this time because

Congress has not yet been able to reach bipartisan agreement and approve its twelve annual appropriations bills in time for the new fiscal year which begins tomorrow, October 1. The bill also includes additional funding assistance for Ukraine and for emergency disaster relief efforts, and the President is expected to sign it into law.

The CR will avoid a government shutdown and allow for additional time to negotiate and pass the FY 2023 appropriations bills in the House and Senate. Through this process, we will collectively continue to advocate for increases to the federal programs that support the Meals on Wheels network, including a **doubling of the Older American Act (OAA) Nutrition Program for a total of \$1.934 billion in FY 2023**. Check out the [Advocacy Center](#) for tools and resources to use in your own advocacy, and we will keep you updated about ways to take collective action as this process continues.

## **HISTORIC WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HUNGER, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH**

The long-awaited [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#) took place on Wednesday, September 28. The Meals on Wheels network was well-represented in person by Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America, Patti Lyons, Meals on Wheels America Board Chair and President of Senior Citizens, Inc., and Carol Wright, a volunteer at Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland. They joined the Conference to advocate for and elevate the voices of older adults and senior nutrition programs. We know that many of you participated virtually, as well. **If you missed the event,**



you can still watch the session recordings [here](#), see the press release we issued prior to the Conference [here](#) and check out this message from Ellie about the historic day on Twitter [here](#).

In advance of the Conference, the White House released a [National Strategy](#) to end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030. We are heartened to share that several essential recommendations related to older adults are included. **Importantly, the Biden-Harris Administration commits to working with Congress to increase funding for the OAA Nutrition Program.** Several other notable initiatives include support for:

- Pilot programs within Medicare to provide coverage of medically tailored meals;
- Incentivizing screening for food insecurity in healthcare and hospital settings;
- Expanded nutrition counseling and education for older adults;
- An ACL report on best practices for OAA Nutrition Program and restaurant partnerships; and
- Developing an older adult Nutrition Research Agenda to help identify research gaps with the long-term goal of advancing services and policies that address food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition.

We continue to analyze the National Strategy for its potential impacts on older adults. You can read the National Strategy [here](#).

Thank you for all of your engagement with the White House Conference over the past few months. While we would have preferred even greater attention to the nutritional needs of older adults during this Conference, momentum is in our favor. We consider this to be an exciting launching off point to build support for increased funding and implementing policies that can solve for hunger and malnutrition for all older Americans. We look forward to continuing to work with you to achieve these goals.

## **DRPT Coordinated Human Services Mobility (CHSM) Plan**

*Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs*

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is requesting your input to develop an update to its Coordinated Human Services Mobility (CHSM) Plan. Please complete [this survey](#) to give an overview of your transportation needs, preferences, and use.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has affected transportation, this survey is intended to gather general information about your regular transportation experiences.

The CHSM Plan identifies transportation gaps and challenges for older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals with low income. Virginia also focuses on other populations, including veterans and youth, in its plan. The plan identifies statewide and regional gaps as well as recommendations for meeting transportation needs and improving human services transportation in Virginia. The plan will be developed with public feedback gathered through this survey.

[This survey](#) is intended to gather feedback from older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals with low income. Please feel free to share this survey with individuals in your network.

If you are an aide, assistant, caretaker, counselor, or otherwise assisting an individual who meets one of the three criteria, please complete this survey on their behalf. [This survey](#) is not intended to collect feedback from aids, assistants, caretakers, counselors, or providers of any type.

## **DHCD Funding Opportunities During October**

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Policy Analyst*

The [Department of Housing and Community Development's Affordable and Special Needs Housing \(ASNH\) Program](#) will hold concurrent funding opportunities through the month of October.

The ASNH Program is the consolidated, competitive application used by DHCD to award National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), Virginia Housing Trust Fund (VHTF), and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) funds towards the development of affordable multifamily rental and single family homeownership projects across the Commonwealth.

For FY23 (Fall 2022 & Spring 2023), DHCD will also make available Housing Innovations in Energy Efficiency (HIEE) funds to complement the competitively awarded federal and state funds. HIEE funds are available to projects which score high enough to earn a competitive award of NHTF, HOME, VHTF, or PSH funds and which demonstrate that they are designed to meet the HIEE standards

The Fall 2022 ASNH Competitive Application will open in CAMS on Friday, September 30, 2022 and accept applications until Monday, October 31, 2022 at 11:59pm.

The ASNH Housing Innovations in Energy Efficiency (HIEE) Supplemental Funding Round, currently accepting applications in CAMS, will remain open until Friday October 14, 2022. The ASNH HIEE Supplemental Funding Round is designed to provide an additional HIEE funding opportunity for projects which have previously secured a competitive award of funds from the ASNH Program, which are not applying for additional NHTF, HOME, VHTE, or PSH funding through a concurrent Fall 2022 Competitive Application, and which meet all eligibility criteria in the Program Guidelines available through that application in CAMS.

If you have questions, please contact Chloe Rote at [chloe.rote@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:chloe.rote@dhcd.virginia.gov)

[Learn More](#)

**Link to DARS Independent Living Monthly Newsletter**

*Kevin Koziol, Director of Independent Living*

The current issue of IL Impact is available here:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/IL-Impact-Newsletter.html?soid=1134646283912&aid=gLre4ZwuqA0>