



WEEKLY E-MAILING
December 13, 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>



GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR RAIL, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, AND COMMUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OPEN THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022

Prospective grantees have until February 1, 2023, to submit applications for FY 2024 funding

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will begin accepting applications for rail, transit, and commuter assistance grants for the 2024 Fiscal Year at 12:01 A.M. Thursday, December 1, 2022. The annual grant application period runs through February 1, 2023.

Rail, transit, and commuter assistance funds are available through multiple state and federal sources to support public transit service, human service transportation, planning, transportation demand management, and rail programs in Virginia. Current Application Guidance for all DRPT administered grants, including eligible project categories, is available online at olga.drpt.virginia.gov. Please note that all applications must ALSO be submitted online.

Once the application period closes, DRPT will evaluate all submissions and submit recommended project funding to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for the Draft FY24 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). A series of statewide public hearings will then be held before the CTB considers the final adoption of the FY24 SYIP next June.

For general questions about rail applications, please contact [Mike Todd](#), Director of Rail Programs.

For general questions about transit applications, please contact [Neil Sherman](#), Director of Statewide Transit Programs, or [Todd Horsley](#), Director of Northern Virginia Transit Programs.

For general questions about commuter assistance applications, please contact [Chris Arabia](#), Manager of Statewide Commuter Programs.

Social Security Administration: Website Upgrades

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst

Putting you
in control...



Securing today
and tomorrow

Starting today, visitors to SSA.gov will experience a fresh homepage and a new design to help them find what they need more easily.

“SSA.gov is visited by over 180 million people per year and it is one of our most important tools for providing efficient and equitable access to service,” said Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. “Whether providing service in person or online, our goal is to help people understand what they may qualify for and seamlessly transition them to an application process.” Improved self-service capability allows people to skip calling or visiting an office, which helps Social Security staff focus on those visitors who need in-person assistance.

For more information, please
visit www.ssa.gov/news/news/press/releases/2022/#12-2022-1

SSA.gov

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst



Moving into a nursing home can be stressful experience, and in many cases, caregivers may be unaware of their rights and protections when signing a contract to admit a loved one.

Nursing homes are not allowed to make caregivers financially responsible for a loved one's bill as a condition of admission, but some nursing homes and debt collectors are billing and suing caregivers for residents' cost of care based on illegal admission contracts.

The financial impact of debt collection can be devastating for caregivers and their families. That's why the CFPB and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living (ACL) are encouraging practitioners and professionals to identify and report illegal nursing home debt collection tactics.

[Learn how to spot red flags and report illegal nursing home debt collection practices.](#)

Thank you,

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Center for Medicare Advocacy: New Hospice Resource

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst



Posted on December 9, 2022

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAHC and CMA Announce New Hospice Resource for Consumers Washington, D.C. - Over 1.7 million Medicare beneficiaries receive hospice care^[1]. It is one of many benefits available under Medicare and provided by approximately 5,000 Medicare-certified hospices. Each of these hospices must provide certain services and meet specific requirements. However, each can provide these services in different ways. Navigating the details can be confusing, leading to many questions and misunderstandings. Making the decision to choose hospice care and choosing a hospice provider are two of the most important decisions anyone will make for themselves or a loved one. Finding a hospice that meets the needs of each patient may take some time.

To help beneficiaries sort through the details and learn about the hospice options available under the Medicare Hospice Benefit, the Center for Medicare Advocacy (CMA) and the National Association for Home & Hospice Care (NAHC) jointly developed "*Questions to Ask When Choosing a Hospice*." These questions are intended to prompt discussion between beneficiaries and hospices so that patients fully understand coverage under the Medicare Hospice Benefit and how these services are provided by the hospice they are considering.

"With a growing use of hospice care, it is essential that Medicare beneficiaries and their families are well-equipped to understand what it takes to choose the right hospice," said NAHC President William A. Dombi. "We are proud to have the opportunity to team-up with the Center for Medicare Advocacy to contribute well-focused guidance on hospice care and provider options. There are few

health care decisions that one may make that are more important than selecting a qualified hospice provider.”

As patients face terminal illness, the decision to choose hospice care is complex, and often difficult. We hope this document will help patients and families understand Medicare hospice coverage, the benefit from receiving hospice care, and available provider options. The booklet includes questions and guidance we hope will be valuable in finding care people can rely on as they live with serious illness, said Judith Stein, Executive Director, Center for Medicare Advocacy.

The Questions to Ask When Choosing a Hospice document is available on the [CMA website](#) and the [NAHC website](#).

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About NAHC: The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) is the voice of home care and hospice. NAHC represents the nation’s 33,000 home care and hospice providers, along with the more than two million nurses, therapists, and aides they employ. These caregivers provide vital services to Americans who are aged, disabled, and ill. Some 12 million patients depend on home care and hospice providers, who depend on NAHC for the best in advocacy, education, and information. NAHC is a nonprofit organization that helps its members maintain the highest standards of care. To learn more, visit nahc.org.

About CMA: The Center for Medicare Advocacy (the Center) is a national, non-profit, law organization that works to advance access to comprehensive Medicare coverage, health equity, and quality health care for older people and people with disabilities. Founded in 1986, the Center focuses on the needs of people with longer-term and chronic conditions. The organization’s work includes legal assistance, advocacy, education, analysis, policy initiatives, and litigation of importance to Medicare beneficiaries nationwide. Our systemic advocacy is based on the experiences of the real people who contact the Center eve

[1] *MedPAC Report to the Congress (March 2022):*
https://www.medpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Mar22_MedPAC_ReportToCongress_v3_SEC.pdf