



WEEKLY E-MAILING

May 25, 2023

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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>

AARP Andrus Awards Nominations Open

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2023 AARP Virginia Andrus Award for Community Service, AARP's most prestigious and visible state volunteer award for community service.

The award recognizes outstanding Virginians age 50+ who are making a powerful difference in their communities in ways that are consistent with AARP's purpose, vision, and commitment to volunteer service and that inspire others to volunteer.

We know that you have seen and experienced the impact that a dedicated, caring, and experienced volunteer can have on lives, programs, communities, and society. This is an opportunity to recognize that impact and to let an outstanding volunteer know that his or her service is valued.

Please take a few moments to review the attached nomination guide and form and think about the exceptional volunteers in your life.

Nominations must be submitted online or received in the AARP Virginia office no later than July 15. The nomination form and additional information is also available on the web at www.aarp.org/AndrusAward.

Nomination Tips:

- Be specific about the nominee's contributions. The selection committee may not know the individual and has only your nomination form on which to base their decision.
- Give examples of the work performed and when, where and who was served.
- Please do not include accomplishments from paid work experience. Volunteers receiving small stipends to cover costs associated with the volunteer activity are eligible.
- Ask other people to nominate the same person.

We look forward to receiving your nomination and honoring exceptional volunteers. Please feel free to share this information.

AARP Andrus Award for Community Service

Nomination Guide



The annual **AARP Andrus Award for Community Service** recognizes individuals who are sharing their experience, talent, and skills to enrich their communities.

Legacy Of Service

AARP's commitment to volunteer service can be traced back to our founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, whose motto "to serve, not to be served" has shaped our community service efforts at the national, state, and local levels. Each year, AARP honors the legacy of Dr. Andrus with the AARP Virginia Andrus Award for Community Service (hereafter referred to as "the Award").

About the Andrus Award for Community Service

The annual Andrus Award for Community Service is AARP's most prestigious and visible volunteer award. It recognizes individuals who are sharing their experience, talent and skills to enrich their communities in ways that are consistent with AARP's purpose, vision, and commitment to volunteer service, and that inspire others to volunteer. Only one Virginia volunteer (or couple performing service together) can receive the Award.

Award Eligibility Guidelines

Nominees for the Award must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Nominees must be 50 or older.
- The achievements, accomplishments or service on which nominations are based must have been performed on a volunteer basis, without pay. Volunteers receiving small stipends to cover costs associated with the volunteer activity are eligible.
- The achievements, accomplishments or service on which the nominations are based must reflect AARP's vision and purpose.
- The achievements, accomplishments or service on which the nominations are based must be replicable and inspire others to serve.
- Partisan political achievements, accomplishments or service may not be considered.



- Elected or appointed officials currently serving in office are not eligible.
- Candidates currently campaigning for an elected office are not eligible.
- Married couples or domestic partners who perform service together are eligible; however, teams are not.
- The recipient does not need to be an AARP volunteer or an AARP member.
- The recipient must live in Virginia.
- Previous Andrus Award recipients are not eligible.
- Volunteers serving on the Andrus Award selection committee are not eligible.
- AARP staff members are not eligible.
- This is not a posthumous award.

Who Can Nominate?

Nominations for the Award may be submitted by AARP members, volunteers, chapter or unit members, community partners and members of the public at large. AARP staff and Selection Committee members may not nominate candidates for the Award.

Recipient Selection Process

AARP Virginia convenes a Selection Committee to ensure diverse perspectives and to review all nominations. The inclusion of community-level AARP volunteers as well as community organizations is encouraged. While the AARP National Office provides guidance for the Andrus Award for Community Service, the selection of the recipient is at the sole discretion of AARP Virginia.

Nomination Form and Deadline

Visit aarp.org/AndrusAward or use a form provided by AARP Virginia to nominate an exceptional volunteer. The deadline, which is noted on the form, will be no earlier than July 15.



About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the nation's largest circulation publications, *AARP The Magazine* and *AARP Bulletin*. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.

AARP Vision

A society in which all people live with dignity and purpose, and fulfill their goals and dreams.

AARP Purpose

AARP empowers people to choose how they live as they age.

AARP Virginia

901 E. Byrd Street, Suite 1005 | Richmond, VA 23219 | 1-866-542-8164 | aarpva@aarp.org | aarp.org/va



AARP Andrus Award for Community Service Nomination Form

An electronic version is available at: www.aarp.org/AndrusAward.

Nominee Information *(Please print clearly)*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

I have informed the nominee of this nomination: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes, the nominee (or nominated couple) is 50 years or older.

Does the nominee volunteer with AARP? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

Does the nominee receive any compensation or stipend for volunteer service? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

Community Service Work: Please be thorough and specific in your answers to the following questions. **Please use examples that are quantifiable and keep each answer at or under 500 words. Nominations will be evaluated by what is written on the form.**

1. Please describe the volunteer work that inspired you to nominate this individual for the Award?

2. How has the nominee's work supported AARP's vision and purpose?

3. How has the work of the nominee improved the community or enhanced the lives of its residents for which/whom the work was performed?

4. What is inspiring, courageous, unusual, or innovative about the nominee's achievement?

5. How has the nominee's work impacted other volunteers or inspired others to volunteer?

AARP Andrus Award for Community Service

Nomination Form — Page 2

I am pleased to nominate _____ for the AARP Andrus Award for Community Service.
I believe that the nominee meets these eligibility requirements:

- Nominee must be 50 years or older.
- The achievements, accomplishments, or service on which the nomination is based must have been performed on a volunteer basis, without pay. Volunteers receiving small stipends to cover costs associated with the volunteer activity are eligible.
- The achievements, accomplishments, or service on which the nomination is based must reflect the AARP vision and purpose.
- The achievements, accomplishments or service on which the nomination is based must be replicable and provide inspiration for others to serve.
- Partisan political achievements, accomplishments or service may not be considered.
- Couples or partners who perform service together are eligible; however, teams are not eligible.
- The recipient must live in this state.
- Previous Andrus Award recipients are not eligible.
- Volunteers serving on the Andrus Award selection committee are not eligible.
- AARP staff members are not eligible.
- This is not a posthumous award.

Nominator Information *(Please print clearly)*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

How did you become familiar with the volunteer's accomplishments?

- ☐ By my signature below, I certify the information I provided on and in connection with this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

Signature of Nominator _____ Date _____

If the nominee's service was performed as a volunteer for a specific organization or group, please provide a name, address, telephone number, and contact person for that group.

CMS Announces Medicare Will Cover Seat Elevation Equipment for Eligible Power Wheelchair Users

Yesterday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced in a [national coverage decision](#) that Medicare will now cover seat elevation devices for power wheelchairs. This decision follows years of advocacy by disability and aging organizations. Seat elevation devices are critical to power wheelchair users who use them to perform activities of daily living, such as transferring to and from their wheelchair, preparing food, and dressing. Beneficiaries will be responsible for applicable cost-sharing.

The decision by CMS follows a formal request from the Independence Through Enhancement of Medicare and Medicaid (ITEM) Coalition and other supporting organizations. Their request was supported by public input from numerous individuals and aging and disability organizations and the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency that advises on disability policy. Research funded by ACL's [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research](#) (NIDILRR) helped provide the evidence base to inform the decision.

ACL and its network of disability and aging organizations will partner with CMS to help make sure wheelchair users are fully aware of this new benefit.

In their request for Medicare coverage, advocates also asked CMS to cover standing equipment for certain power wheelchairs. CMS is considering that request separately.

[Read the CMS Decision Summary](#)

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: Have Medical Debt?

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst



Have medical debt? Anything already paid or under \$500 should no longer be on your credit report

In April, the nationwide credit reporting companies – Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion – took action to remove medical collections already paid, under \$500, or less than a year old from consumer credit reports.

If you're one of the millions of Americans with overdue medical bills, you may be able to take steps to ensure this information no longer affects your credit, including your access to employment and housing.

[Learn more](#)

Meals on Wheels America: Grant Application Deadlines

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs



GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES APPROACHING *LEARN MORE AND APPLY TODAY*

Meals on Wheels America is offering a number of Member-only grant opportunities this spring. Read on to learn more about our three open applications. **And don't miss the helpful grant proposal writing resources below!**

OPEN APPLICATIONS

MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA MEETING UNMET NEED GRANT

Funding: \$5,000-\$25,000

Application closes: June 9, 2023

Nutritious meals are the cornerstone of health and vitality. However, despite serving 2.8 million older adults annually, there are still older adults in need of our Meals on Wheels services and those who could benefit further from new types of meals. This grant opportunity is specifically designed to further the following goals:

- Serve more underserved or unserved seniors in your community to meet their nutrition needs.
- Expand access to medically tailored meal options for seniors with specific focus on meals that support the following conditions: hypertension, diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder and cancer.

[LEARN MORE](#)

MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA SOCIAL CONNECTION GRANT

Funding: Up to \$10,000

Application closes: June 9, 2023

This invite-only grant program aims to enable Meals on Wheels programs to overcome the key operational barriers that limit their adoption or expansion of social connection programs. This grant opportunity is specifically designed to further the following goals:

- Serve more underserved or unserved seniors in your community to meet their social connection needs.
- Expand the variety and enhance the quality/capacity of social connection program offerings to meet the diverse interests and needs of older adults.

See invitation email for application access instructions.

LEARN MORE

MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA COLLABORATION GRANT

Funding: \$50,000-\$75,000

Application closes: June 23, 2023

Partnership and collaboration are critical to the Meals on Wheels network. The ever-evolving landscape in which we operate often has us working together in new and exciting ways. This grant opportunity is specifically designed to further the following goals:

- Create collaboration model(s) with potential to scale and replicate in other communities to better serve underserved or unserved seniors in community.
- Expand access to medically tailored meal options for seniors with specific focus on meals that support the following conditions: hypertension, diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder and cancer.

LEARN MORE

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted through our [Online Grants Management System](#) (login required). You can start your application at any time and save as you go. Looking for guidance on how to write a strong application?

[Writing a Strong Grant Proposal](#)

- [Effective Grant Research Strategies to Position Your Organization for Success](#)
- [The Bane of Most Grant Writers' \(and Program Managers'\) Existence: Writing Effective Sustainability and Evaluation Plans](#)

Please reach out to grants@mealsonwheelsamerica.org with any questions.

DMAS Cardinal Care: Virginia's Medicaid Program

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst



Effective June 1, 2023, Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus (CCC Plus) members will use a new website to choose a Medicaid health plan, learn about benefits, and search for in-network providers. The website, [VirginiaManagedCare.com](https://www.VirginiaManagedCare.com), will replace the existing CCCPlusva.com website, and is organized in a familiar manner. As of June 1, 2023, CCCPlusva.com will automatically redirect members to the new website going forward.

The Enrollment Helpline is also changing for CCC Plus members to [1-800-643-2273](tel:1-800-643-2273) (TTY: [1-800-817-6608](tel:1-800-817-6608)). The current phone number will forward members to the new helpline during this transition. The helpline hours remain the same: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. DMAS will use the [VirginiaManagedCare.com](https://www.VirginiaManagedCare.com) address and [1-800-643-2273](tel:1-800-643-2273) (TTY: [1-800-817-6608](tel:1-800-817-6608)) phone number on CCC Plus materials in the future.

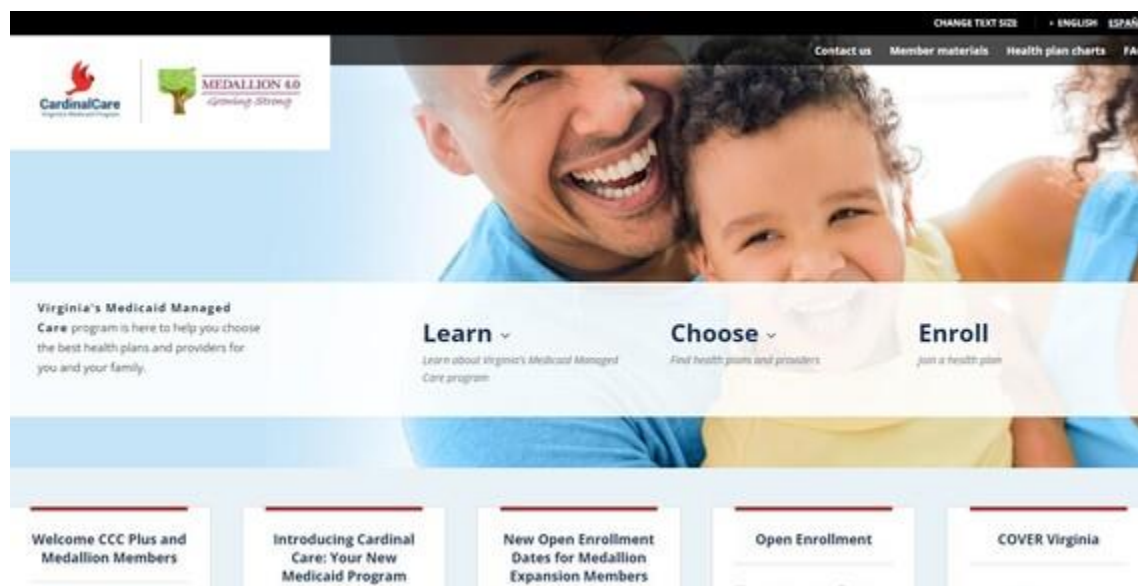
[Visit the Website](https://www.VirginiaManagedCare.com)

DMAS Partner Points Newsletter May 2023

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs



Important Updates



New Enrollment Site and Helpline for CCC Plus Medicaid Members

Effective June 1, 2023, Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus (CCC Plus) members will use a new website to choose a Medicaid health plan, learn about benefits, and search for in-network providers. The website, VirginiaManagedCare.com, will replace the existing CCCPlusva.com website, and is organized in a familiar manner. As of June 1, 2023, CCCPlusva.com will automatically redirect members to the new website.

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Renewals are Here! Help Members Find their Renewal Date

DMAS returned to its normal renewal operations this March after a nearly three-year pause and has already completed over 196,000 Medicaid renewals. Through mailings, emails and robocalls, DMAS is working quickly to remind members to update their contact information, check their mail, and return any paperwork as quickly as possible.



You can assist members by locating their renewal date so they are prepared when it is their turn. Check the DMAS [renewal calendar](#) that explains when members should expect to receive their information, or call Cover Virginia at 1-833-5CALLVA to find out a member's renewal date.

Providers can find out more information about the renewal process by visiting the [Medicaid Enterprise System \(MES\) portal](#), or by viewing the [provider memo](#) with frequently asked questions about renewals. Visit Cover Virginia to find more information about [the return to normal enrollment process](#).

U.S. Attorney's Office Reminds Healthcare Providers of ADA's Effective Communication Requirements

The United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia announced on April 14, 2023, that it sent a [Dear Colleagues Letter](#) reminding healthcare providers of the effective communication requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To strengthen awareness and understanding of these requirements, the U.S. Attorney's Office is inviting the public, including personnel at healthcare provider offices, to an [informational meeting](#) on June 6, 2023, at 1 p.m.

For more information, view the [press release](#) from the United State's Attorney's Office.

New Streamlined Process Simplifies SNAP Application for Elderly



In March 2022, the Department of Social Services (DSS) launched the Elderly Simplified Application Process (ESAP) for [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) benefits](#). This streamlined application and recertification process seeks to increase participation for SNAP benefits among the older adult (60+), low-income population.

In Virginia, ESAP will extend the certification from 12 to 36 months for ESAP households; remove the requirement of interim reporting; and simplify the reporting process. Older Virginians who may be eligible for SNAP benefits may apply [online through CommonHelp](#); by completing and submitting the “ESAP Application for Benefits” form on the VDSS [website](#) and returning it to their [local Department of Social Services](#); or by calling the Enterprise Call Center at 1-855-635-4370.

