COVID-19
UPDATES & INFORMATION
4/16/20

A Reminder from MCOA

The Maine Council on Aging, in partnership with LeadingAge ME & NH and the Maine Resident Services Coordinators Association, hosts a weekly meeting for congregate housing coordinators and managers to address concerns related to a potential outbreak of Covid-19 in congregate housing settings. This week, we’re inviting municipal leaders to join in the call, as we’ve invited some state officials and guests to join us to help us all understand better what the process is when an outbreak in a congregate housing setting is discovered. Dr. Lisa Letourneau, Dr. Dora Ann Mills, and CDC District Liaison Kristine Jenkins will join us along with some folks from regional emergency management. Please join us!

Standing MCOA/LeadingAge Housing Call – for RSCs and Housing Managers – every Friday at 10:15
Join Zoom Meeting (video encouraged): https://zoom.us/j/992754142
Meeting ID: 992 754 142
Password: 535837
Conference Call Line: 1-646-558-8656 passcode: 992754142#

The meeting will be recorded for later viewing for those who cannot attend.

Webinar 4/16: New Opportunities for Community-Based Organizations
Thursday, April 16 at 1:00pm
Join the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) for a webinar held in partnership with ACL on guidance recently issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—and how community-based organizations may benefit.

One flexibility relevant to area agencies on aging (AAAs) partnering with health care organizations is the CMS Hospital Without Walls program, which allows health care systems and hospitals to provide services in locations beyond their existing walls to help address the urgent need to expand care capacity and to develop sites dedicated to
COVID-19 treatment, including offering outpatient care at home.

Register for the webinar on Thursday, April 16 at 1:00 pm ET

FEMA and HHS COVID-19 Teleconference for Civil Rights Stakeholders
First teleconference: April 16, 2020, 3:00pm - 4:00pm ET
Teleconference information: 1-888-270-9936, Access Code: 2977830 (500 lines available.)

Live Captioning Link
FEMA’s Office of Equal Rights will be hosting regular teleconferences to share information on the COVID-19 response and to hear civil rights-related concerns. OER will be joined by FEMA’s Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC) who will provide updates on their regional coordination activities, as well as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Both FEMA and HHS will share information, address questions, and dispel rumors and misinformation.

The first call will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 3pm ET. The frequency of additional calls will be discussed with stakeholders, to gather input. Scheduling information will be shared via FEMA and HHS listservs.

Participants include:
- Jo Linda Johnson, Director, FEMA OER
- Linda Mastandrea, Director, FEMA ODIC
- Roger Severino, Director, HHS Office for Civil Rights

Funding Opportunities

MeHAF Announces COVID-19 Rapid Response Grants Program
MeHAF will award grants of up to $15,000 through a new COVID-19 Rapid Response Program being launched today. Funding is for maintaining or expanding access to health care, behavioral health, or substance use disorder services for vulnerable populations in response to challenges and additional barriers created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The intent of this opportunity is to fund organizations with limited resources to support these unexpected needs. The application process is streamlined so that grants can be awarded as quickly as possible.

Click here to learn more and apply

Advocacy Opportunities

Urge Congress to protect and enhance resources for vulnerable populations
Alzheimer’s Association and the Alzheimer’s Impact Movement (AIM) are launching an advocacy campaign to advance several key federal priorities through the U.S. Congress. The COVID-19 pandemic is challenging health systems worldwide and raising many important issues, especially for those living with Alzheimer’s and other dementia. As Congress acts to pass legislation addressing our nation’s public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic they have the ability to protect and enhance resources for critical populations.

Click here to learn more & link to take action

Contact Congress Today for Aging Services Relief
Congress is Developing Next COVID-19 Relief Package Now
Congress has the opportunity to provide critical funding and resources for aging services providers throughout the country. Urge Congress to include these LeadingAge priorities in the next coronavirus legislation today!
Updates, Information & Resources

Resources from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA: What you need to know about Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
Click here to read more

VA: COVID-19 CARE RESOURCE GUIDE  
Click here to read more

VA: Stay Connected During COVID-19  
Click here to read more

New Hampshire: Extra pay, expanded testing for front-line workers  
Click here to read the article

Bright Focus Foundation: Coronavirus and Alzheimer's Disease  
Click here to read more

Being Patient: Dr. Dylan Wint: Recognizing COVID-19 Symptoms in People with Dementia and Taking Action  
Click here to read more

AARP: CALLING ALL MAINE VOTERS: Vote Safely. Vote from Home.  
Click here to read more

NPR: For Centenarian Survivor Of 1918 Flu Pandemic, Coronavirus Is Just Another 'Problem'  
Click here to read the article

At a critical time, survey aims to identify broadband gaps across Maine  
Click here to read more

BDN: Maine jobless claims decline significantly  
Click here to read the article

Enhancing the Care and Health of Older People Living with Dementia (ECHO-D) Newsletter: Resources and Learning Opportunities  
Click here to read more

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Nonprofit Finance Fund Webinar Series

Managing through Uncertainty Part 1
Thursday, April 16, 1:00 PM ET  
Click here to register

Managing through Uncertainty Part 2
Friday, April 17, 1:00 PM ET
"Suddenly Remote" Webinar Series
Each Tuesday this month from 1-2pm
April 21: Hosting a Virtual Event
April 28: Safeguarding Your Home Workforce
Learn more and register today!

UMaine Health Connection Chats
Wednesdays from 11am – 12 Noon
Click here to read more

Coping with COVID-19: Mindfulness Tools for Geriatric Providers
Thursday, April 16th at 12-1:30pm
Click here for more information and to register

Reframing the Response to COVID-19: Applying Reframed Language to Counteract Ageism
Tuesday, April 21, 2020
1:00 – 2:00 pm ET
Register Now
Many of us are concerned by the ageism exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this webinar, faculty offer ways that we can respond using empirically-supported narratives developed by the FrameWorks Institute for the Reframing Aging Initiative and other projects to frame the public discourse on social and scientific issues. Join us to learn strategies for connecting COVID-19 and aging without perpetuating ageist tropes.
Presented by:
Patricia M. D’Antonio, BSPharm, MS, MBA, BCGP, Vice President, Professional Affairs, GSA, and Project Director, Reframing Aging Initiative
Moira O’Neil, PhD, Vice President for Research Interpretation, FrameWorks Institute

Webinar 4/23: Ensuring Continuity of HCBS During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Thursday, April 23 at 3:00 - 5:00 pm ET.
ACL and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are hosting a monthly Webinar series to assist states and stakeholders in developing high quality programs to address social determinants of health (SDOH) and provider capacity building in home- and community-based services (HCBS). The series will focus on best practices in a number of key areas, including person-centered planning, guardianship reform, aligning HCBS policy with SDOH, housing, employment, community inclusion, transportation, and more.
Register for the webinar

Understanding Cognitive Loss: Basics for Family Caregivers
Webinar Hosted by Southern Maine Agency on Aging
Thursday, 4/30/20 from 1-3pm
Click here for more information & registration

Local Community Volunteer Efforts
Check out this initiative!
Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department
In addition to assisting with Meals-On-Wheels program with deliveries, they are also offering a Good Morning wellness call-in program and providing wellness checks on request for older adults in the Sagadahoc County area.
Click here to learn more

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Maine Council on Aging is working to share any community efforts & available resources across Maine and have started sharing on our website for easy reference. Check out the link below & share within your networks to ensure that service providers of all kinds can more easily find the services older people need during this crisis. This page is updated daily as we hear from more communities - please check back often!

**MCOA Local Community Volunteer Efforts Listing**

Are you a part of a local volunteer effort in your community and do not see it listed at the webpage above? Please let us know about it by completing the brief survey here.

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**In Case You Missed It**

**Mills, 2 New England Governors Working Together To Figure Out When To Reopen Their States' Economies**
Click here to read the article

**New Guidance about COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Beneficiaries from Social Security Commissioner Andrew Saul**
Click here to read the Press Release

**Looking for more resources and information?**
Click the button below to access more information and resources from MCOA and past daily email updates.

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