COVID-19
UPDATES & INFORMATION
4/23/20

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 will be joined by folks from the CDC and we'll of course have federal updates from LeadingAge as well as updates on the new CARES Act. We'll also be joined by Becky Hayes Boober of the US Census to help us understand why it's important to ensure residents of your buildings are being counted and how things have changed with the Census due to Covid-19.

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.

Updates, Information & Resources

Nearly $11 million in federal funds to support essential workers and child care providers in response to COVID-19
Click here to read the bulletin

Alzheimer's Association Resources
- New Tip sheet: COVID Tips - Caring for a Person with Dementia at Home
- Other COVID caregiver resources can be found here
- 24/7 Helpline (800-272-3900) is ready and waiting to provide emotional support,
Online Support from UNE Center for Excellence in Aging & Health
UNE’s Center for Excellence in Aging & Health is offering online peer support and educational programs via the Zoom platform for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis. Sessions are hosted by students and/or faculty, and include a weekly knitting group, topical lectures, and conversations with older adults across the globe on Friday mornings. A chef will teach us how to make Coq Au Vin this week! A pharmacist will visit soon to take medication questions. Want to join? Adults, 55+, are welcome. Register online at [https://sites.une.edu/ceah/legacy-scholars/online-learning-support/](https://sites.une.edu/ceah/legacy-scholars/online-learning-support/). You will receive an email each Sunday with the week’s activities. Questions? Contact CEAH Director, Dr. Tom Meuser, at [tmeuser@une.edu](mailto:tmeuser@une.edu).

New ACL Blog: Solving a Problem by Working Together on Local, State, and Federal Levels
[Click here to read more](#)

Senior Centers Connect
Senior Centers Connect is a resource guide from the National Council on Aging for centers that are temporarily closed due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The guide includes ideas for programming and continuing services. [Click here to read more](#)

Kidney Fund Established
The American Kidney Fund has raised $2 million for a Covid 19 Emergency Fund. They are providing $250 for low income individuals who are on dialysis or who have had a kidney transplant that can be used for anything that they need. Individuals can go online at [www.kidneyfund.org](http://www.kidneyfund.org) to complete an application or, if they are having in-center dialysis treatment they can ask the social worker how to apply.

Cancer Nutrition Assistance COVID-19 Responsive Program
The Christine B. Foundation (CBF) is responding to the additional burdens the COVID-19 virus has on hundreds of active cancer patients residing in Eastern Maine. CBF, in strong partnership with area food banks and volunteers, plans to take immediate action by safely making home deliveries of meals/food items to cancer patients across Piscataquis, Penobscot, Hancock, and Washington County. [Click here to read more](#)

An Update from Southern Maine Agency on Aging - COVID-19
[Click here to read more](#)

SeniorsPlus: The BlueZone Newsletter
[Click here to read more](#)

Whitefield Manufacturer ProKnee Swaps Knee Pads for Face Shields
[Click here to read the article](#)

Old Town community leaders, firefighters help city’s most vulnerable
[Click here to read the article](#)
Join Today’s National Day of Action for Aging Services
Contact Congress Today for Aging Services Relief in Next COVID-19 Relief Package
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!

Click here to learn more & link to take action

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!

Click here to learn more & link to take action

Funding Opportunities

Click here to read more

Maine Philanthropy Center: COVID-19 Response Funds
Click here to read more

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

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
Social Media Tools For Lifelong Communities Webinar  
Hosted by UMaine Center on Aging  
April 30th, 9-10AM  
Click here for more information and to register

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

Resources for Integrated Care (RIC) Webinar: Supporting Family Caregivers of Older Adults through Times of Stress and Isolation  
Thursday, April 30, 2020 12:00-1:30 PM ET  
More than 34 million individuals in the U.S. provide unpaid care for an older adult, including many individuals who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Due to the emergency brought on by COVID-19, caregivers of older adults may be experiencing new challenges and others may be new to caregiving responsibilities. The emotional, physical, and financial impact of caregiving can lead to stress, depression, anxiety, and other health problems. Providers and health plan staff can play key roles in supporting caregivers, particularly during this time of isolation. This webinar will offer strategies for supporting caregivers and their loved ones, information on access to health and social supports, and practical tips for addressing the needs of caregivers experiencing social isolation and stress-related conditions. Speakers will also include strategies for virtual settings.  
Featured Speakers:  
- Erin E. Emery-Tiburcio, Ph.D., ABPP, Co-Director of Rush Center for Excellence in Aging at Rush University Medical Center  
- Kathy Kelly, Executive Director, Family Caregiver Alliance/National Center on Caregiving  
- Bryan Godfrey, LCSW; Care Management Social Worker, UNC Geriatrics Specialty Clinic  
Register for the webinar

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

American Society on Aging: Older Adult Malnutrition: A Health Crisis  
Date: May 5, 2020  
Time: 1:00-2:30pm ET  
Did you know that the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to place older Americans at an increased risk for poor nutrition and its negative health impacts? Older adult malnutrition continues as a health crisis in America today, and can be addressed through a collaborative effort of key stakeholders in aging research, policy, and programs. The webinar National Developments in Addressing Older Adult Malnutrition: From Research to Policies to Programs will report on the latest national developments in malnutrition prevention, including the recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on federal nutrition programs for older adults, the consideration of sarcopenia and the special nutrition needs of older adults in creating updated Dietary Guidelines, and the integration of malnutrition/undernutrition screening measures into national health surveys. You will walk away with next steps to take to participate in and take action on these opportunities.  
Find out more information below and register here.

National Older Adults Mental Health Awareness Day 2020 Webinar  
May 7, 2020
1-2:30 pm EST
Please join the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Administration for Community Living, Veterans Health Administration, and National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging for the NATIONAL OLDER ADULT MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY 2020: Combating Social Isolation for Seniors during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day 2020 will include important remarks from the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use - Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, the Assistant Secretary for Aging – Mr. Lance Robertson, and the latest information on coping with social isolation and loneliness from University of California San Diego Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry, Dr. Dilip Jeste.
Click here to register

Engaging Community Food Sources During COVID-19
Hosted by Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging
Tuesday, May 12th, 2020
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM
On Tuesday, May 12 from 12:00 to 1:30, the focus of the Idea and Experience Exchange: Wisdom Inquiry series will be engaging community food sources during COVID-19. Has your lifelong community initiative developed a hot meal to go program instead of a weekly hot meal? Is your food pantry developing new ways to meet the needs in your community? Are restaurants, local grocery stores, and farmers finding new ways to deliver food safely to their customers? Are you planning a "Victory Garden"? If you know about any of these in your community, please come prepared to share. People who attend this webinar will leave inspired with new ways to engage community food sources during COVID-19 and beyond.
Click here to register

Local Community Volunteer Efforts

Check out this initiative!

Town of Dexter
Good Morning Neighbor is a long-term community based program designed and operated by the Dexter Age Friendly Community Committee. In addition, they are offering snow shoveling, sand delivery, and assisting with Meals on Wheels for older adults in the community.
Click here to learn more
Find the Dexter Age Friendly Community Committee on Facebook

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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.

In Case You Missed It
Click here to read more

National Domestic Workers Alliance: NATIONAL COVID-READY CAREGIVER CERTIFICATION
Click here to sign up for the free training

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