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NASUAD Congratulates Seema Verma on Confirmation as Administrator of CMS

On March 15th, Martha Roherty, on behalf of National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), wrote to congratulate Seema Verma on her confirmation as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Ms. Roherty writes, "We look forward to working with you in your new role. We are excited to work in partnership with a CMS Administrator that possesses such a strong background in the Medicaid program, including experience with LTSS-related issues in several states. We believe that there are opportunities for strengthening the partnerships between states and the federal government as we seek to improve supports and services for older adults, people with disabilities, and other individuals who require LTSS."

To learn more, [click here](#).

Webinar: NASUAD: Medicaid 201: Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS), for State and Local Ombudsman

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) is hosting a webinar on Medicaid managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) and the new Federal requirements for states to offer ombudsman services to managed care enrollees. This will be of particular interest to State and Local Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

This webinar is the second in a series on managed care; the first webinar, Medicaid 101 for State and Local Ombudsman, was held in January 2017. Building on the groundwork laid in January, this webinar will provide an overview of Medicaid managed long-term services and support (MLTSS) programs across the country; explain the new Federal requirements for MLTSS programs to offer managed care ombudsman services to enrollees; discuss opportunities and challenges of operating a managed care ombudsman program within a State LCTO office; and highlight the

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work of the Iowa SLTCO in managing both a State Long-term Care Ombudsman Program and a managed care ombudsman program. The webinar will feature NASUAD's Deputy Executive Director, Camille Dobson, Iowa's State Long-term Care Ombudsman, Deanna Clingan-Fisher, and Kelli Todd, Iowa's Managed Care Ombudsman Program Coordinator.

The webinar will take place on **Tuesday, March 21, 2017, from 3:00 - 4:00p.m. ET .**

[Click here](#) to register for the event.

Webinar: The National Limb Loss Resource Center: A Critical Tool to Help You Meet the Needs of your Clients with Limb Loss

The National I&R Support Center will host a webinar on The National Limb Loss Resource Center: A Critical Tool to Help You Meet the Needs of your Clients with Limb Loss. This webinar is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 22, 2017, from 3:00-4:00p.m. ET.**

Since 1997, the Amputee Coalition has operated the National Limb Loss Resource Center to meet the information and resource needs of the limb loss community. As a specialized I&R center, the Coalition's NLLRC provides a critical resource for I&R practitioners who may encounter clients with limb loss. This webinar will provide background about the limb loss community - including information and resource needs, how the Amputee Coalition's NLLRC addresses these needs, how the NLLRC can serve as a resource for other I&R centers.

Real-time captioning will be provided for this webinar.

Pre-registration is required for this webinar. Space is limited so make sure to register as soon as possible.

To register:

1 [click here](#)

2. Click "Register".

3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

HCBS Clearinghouse

This section of Friday Update highlights reports that have been added to the HCBS Clearinghouse within the past week. Visit www.nasud.org/hcbs for more information.

A Profile of Older Americans: 2016

On March 15, 2017, ACL released the annual summary of the latest statistics on the older population, A Profile of Older Americans:2016 covers 15 topical areas including population,

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income and poverty, living arrangements, education, health, and caregiving. Principal sources of data for the Profile are the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Center for Health Statistics, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Profile incorporates the latest data available. Some of the highlights from the Profile include:

- From 2005 to 2015, the population of adults over the age of 65 in the U.S. increased from over 36 million in 2005, to close to 48 million in 2015 - a 30 percent increase;
- Approximately 15 percent of the U.S. population is now an older American;
- Roughly 29 percent of noninstitutionalized older adults live alone, including almost half of women age 75 and older;
- Social Security provided 90 percent or more of the income received by 33 percent of beneficiaries in 2014; and
- Over 4.2 million older Americans, or 8.8 percent, were below the poverty level in 2015.

To learn more, [click here](#).

Integrating Behavioral Health into Long-Term Care Rebalancing

In January 2017 the National Coalition on Mental Health & Aging (NCMHA) released a report on integrating older adult behavioral health into long-term care rebalancing. The report includes opportunities and recommendations for funders such as public health agencies and managed care organizations (MCOs). The report notes that close to 50 percent of individuals receiving long-term care have a mental disorder other than dementia.

To learn more, [click here](#).

From the Administration

Administration for Community Living

Centers for Independent Living Annual Program Performance Report Open for Public Comment

On March 10, 2017, ACL released for public comment proposed revisions for the Centers for Independent Living Annual Program Performance Report (CILPPR). The notice for the Proposed Revisions is now on display in the Federal Register. ACL notes that the final CILPPR will not take effect until all comments have been reviewed and a final information intake tool is released. Comments are due by **May 5, 2017**.

[Click here](#) for more information on how to submit comments, and [click here](#) for the notice of Proposed Revisions.

Issue Brief: Opportunities to Improve Nutrition for Older Adults and Reduce Risk of Poor Health Outcomes

On March 15, 2017, ACL released a new issue brief that discusses new opportunities to enhance nutrition and health for older adults. As people age they may experience malnutrition due to a variety of factors - changes in appetite, medications, and limited ability to shop for, and prepare, foods, among others.

Malnutrition may lead to poorer health for older individuals as well.

However, states, service providers, and health plans can access evidence - such as this brief - to help improve older adults' nutritional welfare and health status. Examples from this brief could be useful for state and local officials from State Units on Aging, Medicaid programs, and health care organizations that serve older Americans.

[Click here to view the issue brief.](#)

FY 2015 Report to Congress: Older Americans Act

AoA/ACL recently released its FY 2015 annual report to Congress on the Older Americans Act (OAA). In FY 2015, AoA and the Aging Network provided direct services to nearly 11 million Americans 60 and over - or one out of every six older adults - including three million clients who received intensive in-home services and supports. Additionally, over 700,000 caregivers received supports such as respite and access to a peer support network.

[Click here to view the report to Congress.](#)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CMS Releases Letter to States on Section 1332 Innovation Waivers

On March 13, 2017, CMS sent a letter to states on Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Section 1332 State Innovation Waivers give states increased flexibility to provide services under their state Medicaid programs as long as the waiver will provide coverage that is at least as comprehensive and affordable as before the waiver, and also does not increase the federal deficit.

CMS encourages states that are interested in pursuing a Section 1332 Waiver to reach out to the relevant Departments soon in order to gain assistance in developing their waivers.

[Click here to view the letter.](#)

CMS Announces New Educational Initiative to Raise Awareness of Chronic Care Management

On March 15, 2017, the CMS Office of Minority Health (CMS

OMH) and the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy at the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) announced a new educational initiative call Connected Care, which aims to raise awareness of the benefits of chronic care management (CCM) services for Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions. Connected Care is a part of a nationwide effort to better serve Medicare beneficiaries under fee-for-service with a particular focus on racial and ethnic minorities and rural populations, which generally have higher incidence of chronic diseases. Some of the resources from Connected Care are:

- A toolkit for health care professionals;
- A toolkit for partners; and
- Patient education resources.

[Click here for more information on Connected Care.](#)

CMS Releases RTI Evaluation of Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents

On March 7, 2017, CMS released a new evaluative report from RTI on the Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents, which indicated some promising results. For the second consecutive year, all seven long-term care (LTC) facility partners taking part in the initiative indicated a decline in all-cause hospitalizations as well as potentially avoidable hospitalizations, when compared to a comparison group.

Additionally, MDS-based quality measures did not show any pattern of change in regard to the Initiative, which suggests that the lower hospitalization rates are not generally leading to a decrease in quality of care for individuals residing in a LTC facility.

[Click here to access the evaluation.](#)

Congressional Budget Office

CBO Releases Score of the American Health Care Act

The Congressional Budget Office has released its official score of the American Health Care Act, which is the legislation that would repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. As a reminder, a CBO score is the official estimate of impacts of a piece of legislation under consideration in congress. These are the numbers that will be used when discussing the effects of this legislation for purposes of budgeting, the number of people covered, etc. The most basic summary is that the bill is expected to save the federal government money while increasing the number of uninsured individuals in the country.

In summary: The bill is expected to reduce government revenues by \$900 billion over the 10 year period from 2017-2026, primarily due to repealing the majority of the ACA taxes. Despite the reduced revenues, the legislation would save the Federal government \$300 billion since it reduces spending on health care

and Medicaid by a total of \$1.2 trillion over that period. The bulk of these savings comes from reducing Medicaid expenditures.

CBO estimates that the bill will reduce total Medicaid spending by 1/4 of the projected amount in 2026, for a total reduction of \$880 billion in Federal spending. This amount would presumably be increased by states reducing their share of spending on the program in response to the limit in Federal spending. CBO's projections estimate that 14 million fewer individuals would be served by Medicaid under this legislation, and there would be 24 million more uninsured people overall by 2026.

Substantial savings would also come from the repeal of the ACA subsidies (the advance premium tax credits) and the implementation of less generous refundable tax credits in the AHCA. The repeal of ACA credits would save \$673 billion, which would be offset by \$361 billion for new tax credits - resulting in a total saving of \$312 billion over the ten-year period. The legislation is also expected to increase insurance premiums in the short term due to healthier people exiting the market, but decrease them in the long-run because of the reduced mandates regarding covered benefits and actuarial equivalency in the marketplace. CBO specifically notes that the premiums will decrease substantially for younger people, but will likely increase for individuals in their 50s and 60s due to insurers being able to charge older adults more under this bill than the ACA allowed

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Webinar: Money Smart for Older Adults: Prevent Financial Exploitation

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) are hosting a webinar on preventing elder financial exploitation aimed at older adults and family caregivers.

The webinar will take place on **Thursday, March 30, 2017, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET.**

[Click here to register.](#)

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

MACPAC Issues March 2017 Report to Congress

On March 15, 2017, MACPAC released its March 2017 report to Congress, which included a new analysis of 2014 data that indicates declines in hospital uncompensated care but also continued financial stress for safety-net providers. Specifically,

aggregate hospital uncompensated care decreased by \$4.6 billion between 2013 and 2014, with the most significant declines found in states that expanded Medicaid.

As a part of the report MACPAC provides nine recommendations to Congress, which includes a recommendation to extend the CHIP program for another five years through fiscal year 2022.

[Click here](#) to access the MACPAC report.

From Congress

House of Representatives

House Budget Committee Passes American Health Care Act

On March 16th, 2017, the House Budget Committee passed the American Health Care Act (AHCA) on a vote of 19 to 17. The bill will now go to the House Rules Committee for further consideration.

To read NASUAD's summary of the legislation [click here](#).

Senate

Senate Approves President Trump's Nominee to Lead CMS

On March 13th, 2017, the U.S. Senate confirmed President Trump's nominee to head the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Seema Verma, on a vote of 55 to 43. Ms. Verma will oversee an agency that accounts for approximately a trillion dollars in health care spending each year.

Prior to her confirmation, Ms. Verma was the founder and CEO of SVC Inc., a private health care consultancy that worked with a number of different states on Medicaid waivers.

From the White House

President's 2018 Budget Blueprint

President Trump Releases Budget Blueprint for 2018

On March 16th, 2017, President Trump released a "Budget Blueprint" for 2018. This "skinny budget" provided a broad outline of his proposed budget. The budget blueprint propose topline spending of approximately \$1.1 trillion. As expected, the White House proposed a \$54 billion increase in military

spending, with corresponding decreases in many domestic programs.

Highlights include:

- A \$15.1 billion decrease in funding for Health and Human Services funding
 - No details on ACL funding were included
- Proposed elimination of the following programs
 - SCSEP - Senior Community Service Employment Program
 - CDBG - Community Development Block Grant
 - LIHEAP - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

[Click here](#) for NASUAD's full analysis.

From Other Organizations

AARP Public Policy Institute

The Basics: Medicaid and Long-Term Services and Supports

AARP Public Policy Institute has published a new fact sheet on Medicaid's importance for individuals in need of long-term services and supports, or LTSS. The fact sheet provides a brief overview of Medicaid, and the two types of LTSS: institutional care in a facility, and home and community based services (HCBS).

[Click here](#) to view the fact sheet.

State Fact Sheets on Impacts of Block Grants or Per Capita Caps

AARP Public Policy Institute has released a fact sheet for every state and the potential impacts of Medicaid block grants or per capita caps for health and long-term services and supports (LTSS) across all populations, including older adults and individuals with disabilities.

[Click here](#) to access the fact sheets.

Medicaid: Essential for Individuals Needing Long-Term Services and Supports

AARP Public Policy Institute has published a new report on Medicaid's essential role in providing LTSS for many Americans, especially older adults. Although most U.S. seniors will not rely on Medicaid, an estimated one out of every five will need the program to assist with paying for LTSS at some point in their lives. This will become all the more important as most Americans do not have private long-term care insurance, family caregivers become strained, and percentage of older adults in the population in the U.S. continues to increase.

[Click here to view the report.](#)

ARCH National Respite Network

Call for Presentations for the 2017 National Lifespan Respite Conference Now Open

The 2017 National Lifespan Respite Conference will be held in Huntsville, AL at the Embassy Suites Hotel on **October 11-13, 2017**. The conference will be hosted by the [Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network](#) in collaboration with the [ARCH National Respite Network](#). The conference theme, Take Off with Respite!, reflects the incredible history of the space industry in Huntsville, AL, also known as Rocket City USA. It also reflects the mission of the respite care network - to rise to meet challenges, heighten awareness, and push innovation to ensure a safe landing for the nation's 43 million family caregivers. The [Call for Presentations](#) is now available. The deadline for responding is **March 24, 2017**. A proposal for a breakout session on any aspect of planned or emergency respite service delivery, access, research, evaluation, policy, best practices or innovation is welcome. [Sponsorship and Exhibitor opportunities](#) are also available. For more information, please visit the [National Lifespan Respite Conference website](#).

Alliance of Information and Referral Systems

Registration Now Open for the AIRS Conference

Registration is now open for the **39th annual AIRS I&R Training and Education Conference in Tampa, Florida May 21-24!**

The Registration Brochure is available through the AIRS website at www.airs.org/conference, along with additional conference information including hotel reservations, online registration and a preliminary program summary. The conference registration is open, and Early Bird Savings (\$100 per person on the standard rate) are available to all who register by April 1st, 2017.

For aging and disability I&R/A professionals, the National I&R Support Center invites you to join us for the **National Aging and Disability Information and Referral Symposium** during the AIRS Conference. The Symposium offers a pre-conference National I&R/A Summit for aging and disability professionals, a full complement of conference workshops, and an Aging and Disability Luncheon. Conference workshops will feature national, state and local professionals presenting on key topics such as national policy developments impacting aging and disability programs, the role of I&R in managed care contracts, long distance caregiving, partnerships, decision-making support, community transportation, disability rights and accessibility, and other key issues. This year's pre-conference summit will include an interactive training on motivational interviewing for aging and disability professionals.

For further information on the Symposium, contact Support Center Director Nanette Relave.

LEAD Center

Webinar: Cooperation and Collaboration: The Role of Interagency Coordination in Securing Competitive Integrated Employment for Transition

The National Disability Institute's LEAD Center is hosting a webinar on facilitating successful transitions from school to work. Transitions can be more successful when taken as a cooperative and collaborative endeavor backed by strong relationships. In Utah these efforts began at the state level and involved the agencies on Vocational Rehabilitation, Developmental Disabilities, Education and Workforce Development.

The LEAD Center webinar will focus on Utah's example, and provide the perspectives of state and local leaders as well as youth in transition and their families.

The webinar will take place on **Wednesday, March 22, 2017, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET**

[Click here](#) to register.

Webinar: Service Provider Transformation: From Policy to Opportunity

The National Disability Institute's LEAD Center is hosting a webinar on provider transformation, which pertains to the process of changing over a disability service provider from a sheltered workshop-style setting to one that provides competitive and integrated employment. This process can be challenging and complex. Attendees will learn about provider transformation at the systems, services, and individual levels.

The webinar will take place on **Wednesday, March 29, 2017, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET**

[Click here](#) to register.

**National Institute on Disability,
Independent Living, and
Rehabilitation Research
(NIDILRR)**

NIDILRR Releases February Jobs Report

NIDILRR has released its February jobs report for individuals with disabilities, and notes that Americans with disabilities continue to contribute to job gains. The report notes that the employment-to-population ratio for working-age people with disabilities increased from 26 percent in February 2016, to over 28 percent in February 2018. February 2017 marks the eleventh consecutive month of the proportion of individuals with disabilities working having increased.

To access the report, [click here](#).

NCOA

Webinar: Reaching People with Arthritis: Strategies and Tools

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is co-sponsoring a webinar with the Arthritis Foundation on outreach to individuals with arthritis, which is the leading cause of disability for adults in the U.S. and affects over 50 million people. Attendees will learn about the prevalence of arthritis; strategies regarding evidence-based health programs to manage symptoms; resources from NCOA and the Arthritis Foundation and; promising practices from the Utah Arthritis Program.

Presenters include Mary Altpeter and Serena Weisner from UNC at Chapel Hill Thurston Arthritis Research Center, OsteoArthritis Action Alliance; Nick Turkas, Arthritis Foundation, and; Nichole Shepard and Rebecca Castleton, Utah Department of Health.

The webinar will take place on **Monday, March 28, 2017, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET.**

To register for the webinar, [click here](#).

Events

Dementia Action Alliance Hosts "Re-Imagine Life with Dementia" Conference & Technology Showcase

The Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) is hosting the 2017 U.S. - Canada "Re-Imagine Life with Dementia" Conference & Technology Showcase. The conference aims to bring together diverse stakeholders from across the dementia community to learn, and partake in important discussions and interactions.

The conference will take place from **June 25-27, 2017**, at the Westin Buckhead Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

[Click here](#) for more information on the conference.

National Adult Protective Services Association 3rd Global World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) Summit Sponsorship Opportunities

The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) has released information for sponsorship opportunities at the 3rd Global World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Summit .

The summit will take place on **June 15, 2017**, at the Securities and Exchange Commission Building.

[Click here](#) for more information on the summit.

Jobs & Internships

NASUAD Seeks Summer Intern

NASUAD seeks candidates for a paid summer internship. Interns will assist with production of documents, publications and other materials, as well as maintain communications for NASUAD's large events such as the HCBS Conference. Successful candidates must have strong oral and written communication, time management, organization skills.

To apply, send resume and cover letter to Rachel Feldman.

Grant Opportunities

AARP Grant: Identifying Evidence-Based Solutions for Vulnerable Older Adults

The AARP Foundation has launched a new grant opportunity for programs that ensure that low-income and vulnerable older adults have nutritious food, affordable, livable and healthy housing, a steady income and sustaining social bonds. All applications must be completed [online](#).

The application itself will consist of two parts:

Mandatory pre-application: **deadline April 7, 2017**

Invited full application: **deadline May 19, 2017**

All are invited to submit the pre-application, which, besides general organizational information, contains a list of basic information about your current program and how it aligns with AARP Foundation's mission and impact area objectives. The pre-application submissions undergo a thorough review process, from which a smaller number of organizations will be invited in April to complete a full application. During the review, applicants may receive clarification questions and follow up (which may include video conference or on-site visit). A final decision will be made by mid-June.

ACL Grant: Using Robotics and Automation to Improve Accessible Transportation

The Administration for Community Living's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) announced a new grant opportunity, Using Robotics and Automation to Improve Accessible Transportation Options for Individuals with Disabilities, under the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects Program (DRPP). The purpose of this grant is to further the applications of automated products and robotics to assist with transportation for people with disabilities and to improve the overall traveling chain to meet the needs of travelers with disabilities. All applications must be electronically submitted by **March 21, 2017**.

[Click here](#) to view grant details.

ACL Grant: New Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems

The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) at ACL has announced a new grant under the Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (SCIMS) Multi-Site Collaborative Research Project.

The purpose of this grant is to support multi-site research topics related to rehabilitation following spinal cord injury. The grant must include collaborative multi-site research with three or more of the NIDILRR-funded SCIMS centers. The proposed research must be designed to contribute to outcomes of individuals with spinal cord injury in one or more of these domains: health and function, community living and participation, and employment.

This grant opportunity closes on **May 9, 2017**.

[Click here](#) to view grant details.

ACL Grant: New Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers Program Grant Opportunity

The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) at ACL has announced a new grant under the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC) Program on Rehabilitation Strategies, Techniques, and Interventions.

In the area of rehabilitation strategies, techniques, and interventions, NIDILRR seeks to fund research and development that leads to rehabilitation practices and services that improve the health, and the physical, cognitive, sensory, and communication abilities, of individuals with a wide range of disabilities. Rehabilitation engineering in this area should result in new or improved products, devices, and technological advances that enhance rehabilitation services in clinical or community settings.

This grant opportunity closes on **May 9, 2017**.

[Click here](#) to view grant details.

ACL Grant: New Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects Grants

Four new grant opportunities from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) at ACL have been announced under the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects Program (DRRP) for several areas.

Click on each grant below to find out more:

[DRRP Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research](#) - Closing date **May 9, 2017**

[DRRP Burn Model System Centers Program](#) - Closing date **May 9, 2017**

[DRRP Traumatic Brain Injury Model System Centers Program](#) - Closing date **May 9, 2017**

[DRRP Americans with Disabilities Act National Network Collaborative Research Project](#) - Closing date **May 9, 2017**

ACL Grant: Evidence-Based Falls Prevention Programs

AoA/ACL forecasts the possible availability of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 funds to make three-year grants to approximately 6-8 entities to bring to scale and sustain evidence-based falls prevention programs that will reduce the number of falls, fear of falling, and fall-related injuries in older adults and adults with disabilities. The first goal is to significantly increase the number of older adults and adults with disabilities at risk of falls who participate in evidence-based community programs to reduce falls and falls risks; and the second goal is to implement innovative funding arrangements (e.g. contracts with integrated health care systems) to support community-based falls prevention programs beyond the grant period, while embedding the programs into an integrated, sustainable evidence-based prevention program network.

This grant opportunity closes on **May 13, 2017**.

[Click here](#) to view grant details.

ACL Grant: Empowering Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities through Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs

AoA/ACL forecasts the possible availability of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 funds to make three-year grants to approximately 6-8 entities to bring to scale and sustain evidence-based programs that empower older adults and adults with disabilities to better manage their chronic conditions. The first goal is to significantly increase the number of older adults and adults with disabilities who participate in evidence-based self-management programs to empower them to better manage their chronic conditions; and the second goal is to implement innovative funding arrangements (e.g. contracts with integrated health care systems) to support the

CDSME programs beyond the grant period, while embedding the programs into an integrated, sustainable evidence-based prevention program.

This grant opportunity closes on **May 12, 2017**.

[Click here](#) to view grant details.

Friday Update Archive

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