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Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the 2015 White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) newsletter. We will bring you the latest news on Conference activities and information on how you can get involved with this once-a-decade event.

The Conference will connect generations to help address aging issues and to inform aging policy for the next ten years, so that we can all enjoy longer and better lives. To do this, we need your voice as part of the national conversation we are having about key issues. We need your input and ideas. We need you.

Date and Theme of National Conference Announced

At the WHCOA regional forum in Boston today, U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia Burwell announced that the 2015 national Conference will be held on July 13 at the White House.

The July event is part of a year-long effort to listen, learn, and share with older adults, their families, their caregivers, community leaders, and experts in the aging field on how to best address the changing landscape of aging in the coming decade. According to Nora Super, Executive Director of the WHCOA, "The 2015 Conference seeks to embrace the transformative demographic shift occurring in the United States to recognize the possibilities, rather than the limitations of aging."

We urge Americans of all ages to get involved. Join us by:

- Watching the event
- Hosting a watch party
- Participating in Q&A using Twitter
- Interviewing someone of a different generation using the [StoryCorps app](#)
- Completing the sentence: "Getting older is getting better because...." and sending us your answer via Twitter using #WHCOA

White House Conference on Aging Hosts Fifth Regional Forum

Today in Boston, the Conference on Aging hosted its [fifth, and final, regional forum](#) at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute.

HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell gave the keynote on the importance of [healthy aging](#), and she announced a new component of the Department's Million Hearts initiative, which aims to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by 2017. Today, the Secretary announced a new Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Center project to help healthcare providers treat the whole health of their patients to improve heart health and reduce the risk for heart disease and stroke.

The forum also featured remarks by Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and U. S. Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA). Acting Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillian discussed the importance of transportation options in helping older Americans remain in their communities. A community of more than 200 older adults, their families, caregivers, and experts participated in an open dialogue about the issues most important to older Americans and their families, including the challenges and possible solutions to better prepare for our aging society.

Panels and breakout sessions on retirement security, healthy aging, long-term services and supports, and elder justice gave everyone the opportunity to discuss common issues.

White House Conference on Aging Hosts National Caregiving Event

On May 18, the Conference on Aging hosted an important conversation at the White House about supporting older Americans and their caregivers.

The [caregiving forum](#) included the many faces of caregiving. An audience of more than 120 older Americans, caregivers and interested stakeholders heard about the issues and challenges facing a family caregiver who cares full-time for her husband, a social worker who counsels caregivers, and a home care worker who travels many miles every day to care for a diverse group of older Americans with different needs. Actor David Hyde Pierce added to the event by presenting a very personal story of his family's multigenerational struggle with Alzheimer's.

Our discussion included breakout sessions on economic security for caregivers, the unique needs of different types of caregivers, caregiver support, and the capacity and training of care providers. Although the diverse group of participants presented very different stories, challenges, and life journeys, participants focused not on the problems but on the opportunities

for supporting caregivers.

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Assistant Secretary for Aging Engages at Tribal Listening Session

Earlier this month, Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging and Administrator for the Administration for Community Living, engaged with tribal leaders at the [American Indian and Alaska Native White House Conference on Aging Listening Session](#) in Norman, Okla.

She heard directly from tribal leaders, elders, their families, caregivers, and advocates on how to best address the current aging landscape in Indian Country. Hosted in partnership with the National Indian Council on Aging, over 100 individuals from approximately 31 Tribal Nations in Arizona, Alaska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Washington were undeterred by threats of severe weather, including tornadoes, and convened for the forum. Many of the participants discussed the focus areas of the White House Conference on Aging, including retirement security, healthy aging, long-term services and supports, and elder justice.

The Tribal Listening Session was just one of upward of 100 meetings, events, listening sessions, and other opportunities for public dialog and discussion that the Conference on Aging staff and others have engaged in over the past year.

White House Conference on Aging Participates in Oregon Mini-Conference

Nora Super, Executive Director of the WHCOA, joined the Oregon Governor's Commission on Senior Services and the Oregon Department of Health Services for a Mini-Conference on Aging in Portland on May 20. The discussion ranged from the White House Conference on Aging focus areas to innovative initiatives in Oregon to address the needs of both informal and paid caregivers. The mini-conference was just another effort to take the Conference on Aging into communities across the country.

Commenting on Policy Briefs

The White House Conference on Aging has released [four policy briefs](#) on the topics of retirement security, healthy aging, long-term services and supports, and elder justice.

The briefs define and frame each issue and examine it from various perspectives. They also include comments collected from the Conference on Aging website, and the latest in evidence based information. Each Brief concludes with a series of discussion questions, to which organizations and individuals are [encouraged to respond](#). Comments received by June 12 will be used to develop a report that will be issued in conjunction with the summer conference.

According to Nora Super, Executive Director of the WHCOA, “The briefs provide the public with a very concrete and important way to share their feedback on how we best prepare as nation for our coming aging society.” We look forward to your input and feedback.

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