

# March 11, 2009

## Technical Assistance Exchange Newsletter

A Weekly Update for Aging & Disability Resource Center and Nursing Home Diversion Programs and their Partners

*You must be logged in to the [ADRC-TAE.org](http://ADRC-TAE.org) website to access newsletter links. Contact Allison Yudt at The Lewin Group with questions: 703.269.5504*

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### AoA & Veterans Health Administration National Meeting Attendees:

Please fill out an [electronic meeting evaluation](#). This your last chance to let us know what you thought about the meeting. We value your feedback!

:: [adrc-tae@lewin.com](mailto:adrc-tae@lewin.com) ::

:: [www.adrc-tae.org](http://www.adrc-tae.org) ::

## National Council on Aging Awards Grants to 10 Organizations to Help Seniors, People with Disabilities Access Benefits

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) announced grants to 10 organizations nationwide for the purpose of finding and enrolling older people and younger adults with disabilities who have limited means into public benefits programs.



Awarded through NCOA's [National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment](#), the grants support the development of person-centered community-based systems for outreach and enrollment into public benefits through the creation of local and state Benefits Enrollment Centers (BECs). The BECs will reach and assist older people and younger adults with disabilities throughout the country, who may qualify for but are not yet enrolled in programs that help pay for prescription drugs, medical care, food or utilities.

"The economic downturn makes the work of the Benefits Enrollment Centers all the more critical," said Wendy Zenker, NCOA vice president, Benefits Access Group. "At risk older people and younger adults with disabilities will now have access to assistance that will help them to apply for vital benefits that many people in need may not have known that they are eligible for."

Benefits Enrollment Centers have an ultimate goal of creating community or state based, person-centered benefits enrollment systems that are as seamless as possible for consumers and their families and are sustainable beyond the period funded by these grants. The following state and local organizations are the recipients of the grants (listed alphabetically by state):

- South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, Mobile, AL
- AgeOptions, Oak Park, IL
- Green River Area Development District, Owensboro, KY
- Maine SHIP, Office of Elderly Services, Augusta, ME
- Washington County Commission on Aging, Inc.,

- Hagerstown, MD
- Elder Law of Michigan, Lansing, MI
  - Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services, Helena, MT
  - Center for the Independence of the Disabled in New York, New York, NY
  - Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, Cleveland, OH
  - Benefits Data Trust, Philadelphia, PA.

To view the entire press release, please visit [NCOAs website](#).

### **Your Action Needed - Please fill out a brief PAS Survey!**

A survey has been developed by the Center for Personal Assistance Services, an organization providing research, training, dissemination and technical assistance on issues of [personal assistance services \(PAS\)](#).

The survey aims to increase the Center's understanding of the role of ADRCs in connecting seniors and disabled individuals with in-home workers providing personal assistance, home care, and other services such as homemaking, respite, and companionship.

Please complete the survey at [this location](#).

A tabulation of survey results will be provided in a future newsletter. Thank you!

## **Upcoming Technical Assistance Events**

### **March Monthly Call for NHD Grantees**

The Lewin Group will review evaluation and data collection issues as they relate to the nursing home diversion (NHD) programs. The team will introduce a proposed set of National Data Elements that we recommend all Area Agencies on Aging participating in NHD programs collect and report to AoA regularly so that program outcomes can be measured across organizations and states at a national level over time. We will also focus on states that have early experience with data collection or who are committed to gathering the proposed elements. Sufficient time will be available for questions and answers. If you have specific questions that you would like to see addressed on the call, please send them in advance to Cindy Gruman at [cindy.gruman@lewin.com](mailto:cindy.gruman@lewin.com).

- **Topic:** Evaluation
- **Date:** Today, Wednesday, March 11, 2009
- **Time:** 2:00 - 3:30pm, Eastern
- **Toll-Free number:** 1-888-844-7278
- **Participant Passcode for phone:** 2695542 #
- **Webinar ID:** 651-471-182
- [Register in advance](#) (Recommended)
- Please visit the NHD Monthly Call page on [the TAE website](#) for more information, including presentation materials.

## Upcoming Training Call

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) initiative is part of a nationwide effort to restructure services and supports for older adults and persons with disabilities. ADRCs complement other long-term care (LTC) systems change activities designed to enhance access to community resources and supports. The goal of the ADRC program is to empower individuals to make informed choices and to streamline access to long-term support. This training is an introductory course that provides an overview of the purpose, goals and activities of ADRCs by detailing the required functions of ADRC's, specifically Awareness, Assistance and Access. The content of the course is built upon lessons learned from the first five years of the ADRC demonstration grant program that began in 2003.

*Audience: This course was designed and intended for new ADRC or Single Entry Point staff, advisory board members and volunteers.*

**Date:** March 19, 2009

**Time:** 2:30 - 4:00pm, Eastern

**Webinar ID:** 649-796-479

[Register in advance \(Recommended\)](#)

Call information will be contained in your confirmation email upon registration

Please visit [the Training page](#) on the TAE website for more information, including presentation materials.

## Website Additions

### Resources from NY Connects



[NY Connects "Choices for Long-Term Care" - Information and Assistance Training Video and Manual:](#)

This curriculum, "Choices for Long-Term Care" was developed by the New York State Office for the Aging in partnership with the Center for Excellence in Aging Services, University at Albany School of Social Welfare and the Professional

Development Program of the University at Albany Rockefeller College.

