



Leading Aging Organizations Applaud HHS Announcement of Stimulus Package Funds for Prevention and Wellness

Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative Funding Opportunity

(September 18, 2009) - The National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA), the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), and the National Council on Aging (NCOA) applaud Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius's announcement Thursday of the release of \$373 million in stimulus funds for disease prevention and wellness initiatives at the community level. This is a portion of the total allocation of \$650 million included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for prevention and wellness. Secretary Sebelius also announced that when more funds are released over the next several weeks, HHS Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy J. Greenlee will oversee a portion of that funding.

HHS created a comprehensive initiative within the stimulus package for chronic disease prevention efforts, called *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* (<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/cdc/chronicdisease.html>) The initiative, which will be led by the CDC, aims to reduce risk factors, prevent or delay chronic disease, promote wellness in children and adults, and provide positive, sustainable health change in communities. The grants, which will be awarded through a competitive selection process, support communities using evidence-based approaches to chronic disease prevention and control to affect the following outcomes:

- Increased levels of physical activity
- Improved nutrition
- Decreased overweight/obesity prevalence
- Decreased tobacco uses; and
- Decreased exposure to secondhand smoke

NASUA, n4a, and NCOA commend Congress and HHS for recognizing the importance of prevention in reducing the burden of chronic disease in this country, and urge members of the aging services network across America to join the broad array of community organizations that will invest this money to improve people's lives. This network brings skills and expertise that will contribute to the success of these community-based prevention programs.

Communities that wish to apply for awards will be able find a Funding Opportunity Announcement at:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=5QvRky4Q1Q2zFSt7xnmBpvkJJ3CZL9sLVgmWnzDNTThfvQ0D8PLd!-1017983794?oppId=49571&mode=VIEW>

The application deadline for the community projects is December 1, 2009. Applicants must

also submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to be eligible to apply for this program and that deadline is October 30, 2009.

NASUA, n4a, and NCOA are pleased to note that future announcements will include funding for the continued expansion of the aging services community work on evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention programs that improve the health of people with chronic conditions. The level of funding for state units on aging, area agencies on aging and community-based aging service organizations has not yet been announced.