

GEC PIPELINE



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FROM THE BUREAU

Joan Weiss, PhD, RN, CRNP

Administration on Aging's Evidence-Based Prevention Program Announcement

Please read the following announcement for the Administration on Aging's Evidence-Based Prevention Grants Program. The deadline is August 15, 2003. This is a good opportunity for partnership building.

Overview: AoA has launched a grants program to demonstrate the efficacy of delivering evidence-based prevention programs for the elderly through community-based aging service provider organizations. The program will support local partnerships involving aging service providers, area agencies on aging, local health entities and research organizations. Grants will be for up to \$250,000 per year for up to three years. AoA will also fund a complementary national technical assistance center to assist in the development of these programs.

The program is designed to:

- Strengthen the role of our Aging Services Network in providing high quality preventive health interventions targeted at the elderly.
- Effectuate AoA's role in translating research into practice nationwide through its network of community aging services provider organizations – drawing on the Department of Health and Human Service's research investments at NIA, CDC, AHRQ, and other sources (e.g. RWJF, John A. Hartford Foundation). AoA will begin to "take to scale," in the community, interventions that show promise in research settings.
- Advance the President's *HealthierUS* goal and the HHS Secretary's prevention priority.

Eligible Applicants: Local public and/or non-profit agencies and organizations that primarily provide home and community-based social and/or nutritional services to older persons and are funded at least in part, through the Older Americans Act.

Key Components of Local Programs:

1. Evidence-Based Interventions:

Grantees will be required to use interventions that are documented to be effective in reducing the risk of disability and/or disease. The areas where there is evidence documenting the effectiveness of risk-based interventions include:

- Physical activity
- Sound nutrition
- Smoking cessation
- Medication management
- Disease self-management (e.g. diabetes)

- Falls prevention

2. Community Partnerships

Applicants will be required to involve key community partners in the design, implementation and evaluation of their project, including (at a minimum) a:

- Community Aging Service Provider Organizations to delivery the intervention.
- Health agency or organization to assure the quality of the health components of the program.
- Area Agency on Aging to assure the program is linked to appropriate collateral services, and to help promote the adoption and expansion of successful programs in the community.
- Research organization to assist with the translation of the research evidence and with the program evaluation.

3. Evaluation

Local projects will be required to evaluate the impact of their program on the participants (e.g., knowledge, behavior, self-reported health status, and satisfaction). Projects will also be required to conduct a formative evaluation to support continuous quality improvement.

NOTE: No more than 20% of the total federal grant funds over the 3-year project period can be used for community partnership and evaluation activities.

4. National Technical Assistance Program:

To complement the grants program, AoA will establish a national technical assistance program to:

- Assist the grantees of this program in refining their interventions, performance goals and indicators, and their program evaluations.
- Assist AoA in the development and dissemination of best practice manuals, training materials, subject area monographs, etc (all will be available on AoA's web site); also assist AoA in planning and conducting meetings, conferences, seminars, etc., as appropriate.
- Assist others in the Aging Services Network (SUAs, AAAs and Aging Service Providers) who are interested in implementing evidence-based interventions.
- Support the National Blueprint.

AoA Partnerships: AoA will involve others in the implementation of the program, including: NIA, CDC, AHRQ, ASPE, CMS, RWJF and the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Application Forms and Instructions: are contained in AoA's Consolidated Program Announcement (AoA-03-07) at: <http://www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp/fundopp.asp>

Deadline for Submitting Applications: August 15, 2003

CONSORTIUM OF NEW YORK GECs

Andrea Sherman, PhD, Project Director

Ageing Well: Living with Chronic Disease: How to Keep the Balance

The Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers, at NYU Division of Nursing, Steinhardt School of Education held its Third Annual Aging Well Conference. This year's topic was "Ageing Well: Living with Chronic Disease: How to Keep the Balance." Held at the Oneida Indian Nation, Ray Elm Children and Elder's Center on May 19th & 20th, 112 people attended. They represented the following tribes: St. Regis Mohawk, Seneca, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk, Lakota Sioux, Algonquin, and Tonawanda Seneca. 37 Tribal Professional Staff, and 5 Elders attended. Sessions included "Making the Most of Life with Diabetes", Managing Arthritis, and Stories the Elders Tell Us. A highlight of the conference was with Valerie Staats (Mohawk) Addiction Counselor and Coordinator of Native American Services at Stutzman Addiction Treatment Center on "The Good Mind and the Power to Forgive the Unforgivable". Joan Henry, (Tsalagi/Nde Singer) concluded the conference with a session on Healing Through Song.

VIRGINIA GEC

E. Ayn Welleford, PhD

What Factors Influence a Student's Pursuit of a Career in Gerontology

Despite the workforce shortage of service providers to elderly adults, research findings suggest that students generally have little interest in working with older person. As gerontological educators, we not only disseminate knowledge, but continually develop ways to generate new interest in the field. This requires an understanding of the values and motivation of current and future gerontology students.

In exploring factors that influence students' pursuits of gerontological careers, Eunice Park, MSW, University of Maryland, College Park, and Catherine Tompkins, PhD, Council on Social Work Education, Alexandria, Virginia, conducted focus groups with twenty-eight graduate students who received either an AARP Andrus Foundation scholarship or a National Institute on Aging grant to pursue gerontological research. When asked to reflect on what influenced their interest in gerontology and their subsequent career pursuit, the students provided no single answer. Rather, students identified six factors that were important in their decision to pursue careers in aging:

- ◆ Unexpected gerontological opportunities that “opened up” – from funding opportunities to work with older adults to aging-related projects and service-learning experiences;
- ◆ Interaction with older adults and with professionals in the field of gerontology. Students spoke about the importance of exposure to older adults, such as that which occurs when a retired older adults is brought into the classroom;
- ◆ Learning about the needs and resources of the field;
- ◆ Positive gerontological experiences;
- ◆ Wanting to know more about specific subject matter;
- ◆ Personal preference to work with elders and personal desire (values) to provide services.

These themes are consistent with the current “pipeline” approach to generating a pool of gerontological providers and should inform our efforts to understand the motivating factors influencing gerontological career choices. When we as educators enthusiastically provide positive learning experiences and “open up” gerontological opportunities, our passion is contagious.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
August 18-20, 2003	14 th Annual Summer Institute	Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing Portland, OR	Patricia Ebert 503-418-2171 ebertp@ohsu.edu
August 22, 2003	24 th Annual Conference on Aging: “New Horizons in Geriatric Primary Care”	Omni San Antonio Hotel San Antonio, TX	Lily Porter-Tarrillion 210-567-7439 tarrillion@uthscsa.edu
September 2003	Young Onset Parkinson's Video Teleconference	TBA	Michigan Parkinson Foundation 800-852-9781
September 17-18	Nutrition and Aging XVIII: Obesity in Older Adults	Peabody Hotel Little Rock, AR	Kelly Chapman 501-257-5543 kelly.a.chapman@FCSMPT.uams.edu
September 17-20, 2003	20 th Annual UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review	Marina Beach Marriott Marina del Rey, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu

September 17-20, 2003	Intensive Course in Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review	Marina Beach Marriott Marina del Rey, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu
September 20, 2003	Rehabilitation in Long-Term Care: Optimizing Function in the Frail Adult	Fetzer Conference Center Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, MI	Janis Yonker 517-353-7828
October 13-14, 2003	Historical Influences on Lives and Aging	The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel State College, PA	Judy Hall 814-863-5100 conferenceinfo1@outreach.psu.edu
October 24, 2003	2 nd Annual Chronic Care Conference	Midwestern University Downers Grove, IL	Jan Severance 630-515-6944 http://midgec.midwestern.edu
October 24, 2003	To Prescribe or Not to Prescribe: Medication Use in the Older Adult	Kellogg Center Michigan State University East Lansing, MI	Myrna Simms 517-353-4876 www.chm.msu.edu/chmhome/graded.htm
October 25, 2003	Primary Care Ethnogeriatrics: Bridging the Gap in Health Care Disparities for Elders	Palo Alto, CA	Jillian Dubman 650-494-3986 jdubman@stanford.edu
October 26-29, 2003	6 th International Conference on Care Management	Philadelphia, PA	www.asaging.org/icm
November 21-25, 2003	GSA's 56 th Annual Scientific Meeting	San Diego Convention Center & Marriott Hotel & Marina San Diego, CA	202-842-1275 meetings@geron.org
December 4-6, 2003	International Conference on Aging, Disability, and Independence	Washington, DC	www.asaging.org/icadi
Ongoing	ASA Web Seminars		www.asaging.org/webseminars