

# *COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*

*Department for the Aging  
James A. Rothrock, Interim Commissioner*

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

12-137

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** James A. Rothrock, Interim Commissioner

**DATE:** April 10, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Article on Traumatic Brain Injury

As the population ages in western countries, traumatic brain injury (TBI) resulting mainly from falls is on the rise among the elderly, introducing new complications and treatment challenges, according to an article in *Journal of Neurotrauma*, a peer-reviewed journal from Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. The article is available free on the *Journal of Neurotrauma* website:

<http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/neu.2011.1995>

Nino Stochetti and colleagues from University of Milan and San Raffaele Hospital, Milan, and San Gerardo Hospital, Monza, Italy, reported that one in five patients in a series of adult TBI cases was 70 years of age or older. Increasing age is a predictor of worse outcomes in TBI, mainly due to a higher likelihood of bleeding in the brain, the presence of other chronic diseases, medication use, and diminished capacity for brain repair with age. However, early intensive interventions can produce good results, conclude the authors in the article "Traumatic Brain Injury in an Aging Population."



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department for the Aging

12-138

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Nancy Lo, GrandDriver Coordinator

DATE: April 10, 2012

**Register soon!**

Easter Seals Project ACTION will be hosting one more online course and two webinars this spring, all free of charge.

**Upcoming Webinars**

Transportation Advocacy at the Local Level  
On **April 25** at 2 p.m. Eastern Time, ESPA will conduct a webinar titled *Transportation Advocacy at the Local Level*. Participants will learn how to become effective advocates for accessible transportation by connecting with local advisory committees and other groups involved in transportation planning. The webinar will also address considerations for ensuring that a meeting is accessible. Registration deadline: **April 23**.

Best Practices in Premium Paratransit Service  
On **May 16** at 2 p.m. Eastern Time, ESPA will conduct a webinar titled *Best Practices in Premium Paratransit Service*. The session will feature Karen Hoesch, executive director of ACCESS Transportation Systems in Pittsburgh, Pa., and participants will learn about ACCESS' successful premium paratransit services. Transit customers with disabilities, paratransit professionals and paratransit system managers are encouraged to attend. Registration deadline: **May 14**.

**Upcoming Online Course**

Excellence in Service for Paratransit Managers  
ESPA will hold *Excellence in Service for Paratransit Managers* from **April 25** to **June 7**. This 10-week course is designed for ADA complementary paratransit managers who are new to the field. The course curriculum highlights the history of the disability movement and how to engage the disability community in different service areas while helping participants gain a greater understanding of the ADA and sensitivity toward people with disabilities. Registration deadline: **April 13**.



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

12-139

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Katie Roeper  
Assistant Commissioner

**DATE:** April 10, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Funding Opportunity Reminders

**M·A·C· AIDS Fund Food and Nutrition Funding Opportunity**

The [M·A·C AIDS Fund](#) United States Community Grants Program supports organizations working to address the link between poverty and AIDS through grants for programs that provide food and nutrition or housing services to people living with HIV and AIDS.

The Fund has released the guidelines and application for the food and nutrition component of the program. (The housing services application will be available July 13, 2012. Eligible organizations may apply for only one of the two grant opportunities each year.)

To be eligible, organizations must have 501(c) (3) status; operate an HIV/AIDS food and nutrition program five days or more per week and supply 50 percent or more of a person's daily nutritional requirements in the form of prepared meals, congregate meals or pantry bags; and have been in operation for a minimum of three years. Organizations also must have a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and specifically protects LGBTQ clients.

Grants range up to a maximum of \$25,000. Grant requests should not exceed 20 percent of the total HIV/AIDS food or nutrition program budget. Funding categories include food purchases, capacity building, organization sustainability, and collaborations between organizations.

The application deadline is May 4, 2012.

Visit the M·A·C AIDS Fund website for complete program guidelines and to access the eligibility questionnaire and online application.

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=375300033](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=375300033)

Contact:

[Link to Complete RFP](#)

### **New Initiative to Reduce Costly and Avoidable Hospitalizations Announcement of Request for Applications**

In March 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a request for applications to participate in the Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents. This new effort aims to improve the quality of care for people residing in nursing facilities.

Organizations interested in applying to participate in this initiative must submit a proposal by June 14, 2012.

The Request for Applications is available by searching for CFDA Number 93.621 at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

### **National Service Agency Announces RSVP Funding Opportunities**

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) announced the availability of federal funding for the agency's RSVP program, part of Senior Corps.

The deadline for applications is May 15, 2012, 5:00 p.m. EDT. All applications must be submitted via egrants, CNCS's grants system at <https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp>. CNCS will host six technical assistance calls and/or workshops to answer questions about this funding opportunity, including how to submit an application. Calls for new grant applicants are taking place on March 26, at 2:00 pm Eastern; April 9, at 1:00 pm Eastern; or April 11, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Calls for existing RSVP grantees interested in augmentation grants will take place on March 27, at 2:00 Eastern; April 10, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern; and April 12, 2:00 p.m. Eastern.

*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*Department for the Aging*

12-140

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors,  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Tim Catherman

**DATE:** April 10, 2012

**SUBJECT:** AAA Finance Training - Refresher

On Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> VDA will offer refresher AAA Finance Training. The training will be 2 ½ hours from 1 to 3:30 in afternoon. The training will be available at the following sites:

1. VDA Conference Room
2. MEOC
3. AASC
4. New River Valley, Radford City Health Dept.
5. Valley Programs, Waynesboro Health Dept.
6. Loudoun County, Dept. of IT, Loudoun Center Place, Conf. Rm C., Leesburg
7. Central Virginia, Lynchburg Health Dept.
8. Southern, West Piedmont Health Dept. Martinsville
9. Senior Services of Southeastern VA, Norfolk Health Dept.
10. LOA-Roanoke Health Dept. - Tentative

The Draft Agenda includes:

- Older Americans Act Overview
- Audit Requirements
- Cost Sharing/Fee For Service Policies
- Obligations Page Review
- AMR Completion
- Remittance Reconciliation
- Match Requirements

Individuals who would benefit from the Finance Training include existing Fiscal Directors and staff that work on the AMR, Remittance Reconciliation and Audit. Executive Directors are always welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Cecily Slasor or me.

1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100, Richmond, Virginia 23229  
Toll-Free: 1-800-552-3402 • Phone: 804-662-9333 • Fax: 804-662-9354  
E-mail: [aging@vda.virginia.gov](mailto:aging@vda.virginia.gov) • Web Site: [www.vda.virginia.gov](http://www.vda.virginia.gov)



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

12-141

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Katie Roeper  
Assistant Commissioner

**DATE:** April 11, 2012

**SUBJECT:** MFP-ADRC Partnership Development Webinar

The Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have a partnership to lead transformation of long term services and supports systems through initiatives such as the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) and Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstrations. This webinar explores the purpose of both ADRC and MFP and highlights state innovations in ADRC/MFP Partnerships. [Register Here](#)

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 3:00-4:00 PM ET  
(877) 216-1555 Code: 686637

This is a great opportunity for your AAA and CIL to listen together and discuss how ADRC and MFP are working together in your community.



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

12-142

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors, Information & Referral Specialists, Case Managers  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Patricia Cummins

**DATE:** April 10, 2012

**SUBJECT: VAIRS CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 29 FROM  
10:00 – 12:00 AT THE AUGUSTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT BLDG., 18  
GOVERNMENT CENTER LANE, VERONA, VA**

**CONTACT: Alan Fairfield 540-245-5899 x101 frrc2005@yahoo.com**

VAIRS had provided the following details:

If you are interested in sitting for this exam for the CRS, CIRS, or CRS-A certifications, applications to take an exam are due in the AIRS office 30 days prior to a test.

Application Form:

[http://www.airs.org/files/public/AIRS\\_Certification\\_ApplicationForm.pdf](http://www.airs.org/files/public/AIRS_Certification_ApplicationForm.pdf)

Please be aware that registration for your local Affiliate Conference or the AIRS Conference does not constitute registration for the AIRS Certification exam. If you are interested in taking a test, all certification exam applications, supporting documentation and appropriate exam fees must be mailed to the AIRS National Office in Fairfax, VA, and must arrive 30 days prior to the exam. DO NOT send your application for Certification with your conference registration.

If an application and payment are mailed to an address other than the AIRS National Office in Fairfax, Virginia, the application will not be processed and the applicant will be unable to sit for the exam.

For additional questions, contact the AIRS Headquarters at 703-218-AIRS (2477) ext 201 or [certification@airs.org](mailto:certification@airs.org)

SUBJECT:VAIRS CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 29 FROM  
10:00 – 12:00Page 2 of 2

Alan Fairfield, the contact person listed above, can provide information such as directions to the test site, whether training or a study session will be available before the exam, and if there are additional charges

Please forward this information to appropriate staff.



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

12-143

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors, Information & Referral Specialists, Case Managers  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Patricia Cummins

**DATE:** April 10, 2012

**SUBJECT: REMINDER TO REGISTER FOR VAIRS ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> IN RICHMOND**

Attached is Virginia Alliance of Information and Referral Systems' (VAIRS) flyer announcing its one-day training and education conference on **Friday, April 27** in Richmond at "The Place at Innsbrook".

The registration deadline is April 23<sup>rd</sup>. You may go to [www.VAIRS.org](http://www.VAIRS.org) for seminar descriptions.

Please forward this information to appropriate staff.



## **V.A.I.R.S**

Virginia Alliance Of  
Information & Referral  
Systems

Spring 2012 Training &  
Education Conference

Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Richmond, VA

The Place at Innsbrook  
4036-C Cox Road  
Glen Allen, VA23060

804.346.2100

### **VAIRS PURPOSE**

To increase general community awareness and utilization of Information and Referral (I&R) services, improve the quality of information and referral through education, training and advocacy, foster better communications and relationships among information and referral providers, provide members with information on new human services and changes in existing services, and assist members to meet and maintain national information and referral standards as set by the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems and the national 2-1-1 collaborative.

### **VAIRS INFORMATION**

For more information about VAIRS, visit [www.vairs.org](http://www.vairs.org) or contact VAIRS President Joan Phelps (434) 455-6906 or [joan.phelps@unitedwaycv.org](mailto:joan.phelps@unitedwaycv.org)

### **CONFERENCE INFORMATION OR SPECIAL REQUESTS**

If you have any questions, or need special accommodations, please contact Trisha Steiniger at [steinigert@yourunitedway.org](mailto:steinigert@yourunitedway.org) or (804) 225-7916

The registration  
deadline is **April  
23rd, 2012** so mail  
your Registration  
Form **TODAY!!**

Cost: \$45 for AIRS  
Member

\$85 for Nonmember

You can become an  
AIRS member for as low  
as \$50 – join now!

[www.vairs.org](http://www.vairs.org)

Click [HERE](#) to  
register:

### **HOTEL INFORMATION:**

There are several  
Hotels located near The  
Place at Innsbrook. If  
you need a hotel please  
refer to the  
directions/hotel sheet.

## Spring 2012 Conference Schedule

- 8:00am Registration  
Welcome & Opening Remarks from VAIRS President, Joan Phelps
- 8:30am
- 9:00am Session 1a:  
Vicarious Traumatization and the I&R Specialist
- Session 1b:  
Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and I&R
- 10:30am BREAK
- 10:45am Session 2a:  
The ABC's of Military Resources
- Session 2b:  
Panel Discussion with Aging and I&R
- 12:30pm LUNCH
- 1:45pm Facilitated Discussion – 2-1-1 Virginia & Specialized I&R. How do we work together?
- 4:00pm Adjourn

For detailed seminar descriptions, please visit [www.VAIRS.org](http://www.VAIRS.org)



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

12-144

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**AND:** Nutrition Directors  
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Coordinators

**FROM:** Elaine S. Smith, MS, RD  
Program Coordinator

**DATE:** April 10, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Injury and Violence Prevention Symposium

Registration for the Virginia Department of Health's 2012 Injury and Violence Prevention Symposium is now available! The symposium will be held at the Hilton Hotel & Spa Short Pump in Richmond, VA June 5-6, 2012 and will feature distinguished keynote speakers, engaging concurrent sessions, and valuable networking opportunities. Click on the link to see a tentative agenda, register for the symposium, and receive hotel information: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2S7XDYJ> . Registration is free and will be available through May 18, 2012 or until the conference is full.

Please pass this information along to any colleagues you feel may be interested.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Piver-Renna at 804-864-7735 or [jennifer.piver-renna@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:jennifer.piver-renna@vdh.virginia.gov) .

Following is the tentative agenda.

2012 Injury and Violence Prevention Symposium  
Hilton Hotel & Spa Short Pump  
12042 West Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23233  
June 5 – June 6, 2012

DAY ONE

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012

12:00pm – 4:00pm Registration Open

12:30pm - 1:30pm Networking Lunch and Opening Remarks

1:30pm - 2:30pm Current Data and Trends in Injury & Violence

2:30pm – 2:45pm Networking Break

2:45pm – 3:45pm Concurrent Sessions

- Teen Dating Violence Prevention
- Older Adult Fire Prevention Program
- Non-profit Capacity Building
- Youth Violence Prevention in Schools

3:45pm – 4:00pm Networking Break

4:00pm - 5:00pm Concurrent Sessions

- Working with Media on Suicide: Safe Messaging
- Virginia's Prescription Drug Misuse Prevention Activities
- Grant Writing Workshop
- Dealing with the Aftermath of Injury

DAY TWO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2012

8:30am – 2:00pm Registration Open

9:00am – 9:15am Opening Remarks

9:15am – 10:15am Healthy Equity and Cultural Competence

10:15am - 10:30am Networking Break

10:30am - 11:30am Concurrent Sessions

- Current Data on Sexual Perpetrators
- Child Passenger Safety in Ambulances
- Coalitions and Partnerships in Community Health
- Best Practices in Older Adult Falls Prevention

11:30am - 11:45am Networking Break

11:45am - 12:30pm Innovative Project Presentations

12:30pm – 2:00pm Working Lunch  
Intersection of Violence and Chronic Disease

2:00pm - 2:15pm Networking Break

2:15pm – 3:15pm Concurrent Sessions

- Stimulating Change through Policy
- Brain Injuries in Juvenile Justice Settings
- Logic Modeling and Evaluation Workshop
- Positive Youth Development

3:15pm – 3:30pm Refreshment/Networking Break

3:30pm – 4:30pm Compassion Fatigue

4:30pm - 4:45pm Closing Remarks

*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*Department for the Aging*

12-145

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors,  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Tim Catherman

**DATE:** April 10, 2012

**SUBJECT:** New Title III-D Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Programs  
Requirements

**Virginia Department for the Aging**  
**2012 Title III Part D Older Americans Act Changes**  
**April 10, 2012**

Since FY 2001 the federal Appropriations Act required AAAs to use a prescribed portion of their Title III-D funds for medication management, screening, and education services as part of their Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Programs. VDA issued Interim Guidelines in March 2001 to provide guidance. Effective with the passage of the 2012 Appropriations Act, **Medication Management is no longer a required service** with Title III-D funds. **Therefore the Interim Guidelines are no longer applicable.**

The 2012 Appropriations Act requires, “**Title III Part D Disease Prevention and Health Promotion funds to be used only for programs and activities which have been demonstrated through rigorous evaluation to be evidence-based and effective**”. This requirement does not apply to funds previously awarded with the continuing resolution. It applies only to funds awarded with the passing of the appropriations act. Please refer to the attached sheet for the amount of funds awarded this year that **must** meet the new requirement. Next year **all** Title III-D funds will be subject to this requirement.

Recognizing the history of the program and the degree of change, AoA has provided guidance. They have adopted a tiered approach for defining evidence-based programs and activities. The goal is for all Title III-D activities to move towards the highest-level tier.

## New Title III-D Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Programs Requirements Page 2 of 3

AAAs are **required** to use Title III-D fund for programs that meet the criteria in one of the three tiers below. Materials used only to inform and educate older individuals about health and wellness activities or events are no longer an appropriate use of funds. Examples include informational brochures, pill boxes, pill cutters, and information and referral.

### Minimal Tier

- Demonstrated through evaluation to be effective for improving the health and wellbeing or reducing disease, disability and/or injury among older adults; *and*
- Ready for implementation by community based organizations using appropriately credentialed practitioners.

*Examples: [Healthy Eating for Successful Living among Older Adults](#); similar programs that prevent or mitigate the effects of chronic disease (including osteoporosis, hypertension, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease), alcohol and substance abuse reduction, smoking cessation, weight loss and control, stress management, falls prevention, physical activity and improved nutrition; and most health screenings qualify if they meet the criteria. For example, Yoga taught by a certified yoga instructor.*

### Intermediate Tier

- Published in a peer-review journal; *and*
- Proven effective with older adult population, using some form of a control condition (e.g. pre-post study, case control design, etc.); *and*
- Some basis of implementation by community level organizations.

*Example: [Eat Better Move More](#)*

### Highest-level Tier

- Undergone Experimental or Quasi-Experimental Design; *and*
- Full implementation has occurred in a community site; *and*
- Product(s) have been developed and are available to the public.

*Example: [Chronic Disease Self-Management Program](#). AoA lists more than 25 other programs on their [website](#).*

More information including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is available at:  
[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/HPW/Title\\_IIID/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/Title_IIID/index.aspx)

**New Title III-D Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Programs Requirements  
Page 3 of 3**

Please amend your Area Plan program Disease Prevention / Health Promotion page to identify which program you will be implementing. Look over your Medication Management page to see if you want to make any adjustment there. If you are making changes that affect the budget pages, please submit a revised budget. If you have spent the III-D funds listed on the attached table in a program that is not evidence-based and effective, please review how you are allocating expenditures and make the necessary adjustments to become compliant with this requirement. Please send your amended Area Plan page and budget if needed to [Jane.Snead@vda.virginia.gov](mailto:Jane.Snead@vda.virginia.gov) by Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact Jane Snead, Kathy Miller or myself.

**FY'2012 III-D ALLOCATIONS  
JAS**

<b>PSA</b>	<b>FORMULA %</b>	<b>BASE</b>	<b>FORMULA SHARE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Evidence Based Portion</b>	<b>PSA</b>
1	4.26613	2,000	18,768	20,768	16,225	1
2	5.07154	2,000	22,311	24,311	18,993	2
3	4.65359	2,000	20,473	22,473	17,557	3
4	2.19489	2,000	9,656	11,656	9,106	4
5	3.49175	2,000	15,361	17,361	13,563	5
6	0.39056	2,000	1,718	3,718	2,905	6
7	1.33312	2,000	5,865	7,865	6,145	7
8A		2,000	0	2,000	1,563	8A
8B		2,000	0	2,000	1,563	8B
8C		2,000	0	2,000	1,563	8C
8D	1.11388	2,000	4,900	6,900	5,391	8D
8E		2,000	0	2,000	1,563	8E
9	3.50132	2,000	15,403	17,403	13,596	9
10	3.15079	2,000	13,861	15,861	12,391	10
11	3.38257	2,000	14,881	16,881	13,188	11
12	6.40345	2,000	28,171	30,171	23,571	12
13	5.18703	2,000	22,819	24,819	19,390	13
14	5.23754	2,000	23,042	25,042	19,564	14
15	10.06554	2,000	44,281	46,281	36,157	15
16	2.79660	2,000	12,303	14,303	11,174	16
17/18	5.04418	2,000	22,191	24,191	18,899	17/18
19	4.04838	2,000	17,810	19,810	15,477	19
20	19.18589	2,000	84,405	86,405	67,504	20
21	6.39409	2,000	28,130	30,130	23,539	21
22	3.08716	2,000	13,581	15,581	12,173	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>439,930</b>	<b>489,930</b>	<b>382,758</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

12-146

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Ellen Nau, Program Coordinator

**DATE:** April 10, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Lifespan Respite Care

**Caregiving in the Workplace**

***Best Practices in Workplace Eldercare*** is now available from the National Alliance for Caregiving at [www.caregiving.org](http://www.caregiving.org). It is based on a study by ReAct, a coalition of companies working to support employers and their employees who are family caregivers. The study identifies current trends in workplace policies to support employees who are caregiving for older adults. The Alzheimer's Immunotherapy Program of Janssen Alzheimer Immunotherapy and Pfizer Inc.

**Aging Well for Persons with Developmental Disabilities**

VDA and the Virginia Caregiver Coalition under the auspices of the Lifespan Respite Care Grant recently hosted a series of webinars from the Program in Aging and Developmental Disabilities (PADD) at the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities at the University of Rochester Medical Center. PADD is now offering various training modules for health professionals who work with the aging population with developmental disabilities. To order any of PADD's training materials, please see the attached flier.

**Respite Sources throughout the Commonwealth**

Children's Advocacy and Services Group LLLC provides center-based after school/weekend respite care.

Kempsville/Mt. Trashmore 757-376-3147

Hope Tree Family Services – Salem VA

Hope Tree provides residential, in-home and respite programs for at-risk children youth and adults with intellectual disabilities throughout Virginia.

[www.hopetreefs.org](http://www.hopetreefs.org) 540-387-5078

SUBJECT: Lifespan Respite Care

Page 2 of 2

The Spinal Cord Injury Association of Virginia will host its monthly meeting on April 17, 2012 from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at Health South Rehab Hospital of Virginia which is located at 5700 Fitzhugh Avenue in Richmond. The meeting will feature a presentation of the film, *An Independent Lens* that traces the development of the disability rights movement in the United States. For further information, contact: [info@sciava.org](mailto:info@sciava.org)

#### Caregiver Stress and Yoga Therapy

This course will address some of the common stresses affecting caregivers. It will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14 in the Poquoson. For further information, see the attached flier.

#### Special Olympics

The 2012 Special Olympics Virginia Summer Games are being held on June 8, 9, and 10th at the University of Richmond. On June 9th Special Olympics Virginia will be hosting a Health and Wellness Center from 12-6pm at the Robins Center. For more information, contact David Pawlowski at 804-726-3034 or email at [dpawlowski@specialolympicsva.org](mailto:dpawlowski@specialolympicsva.org)

#### **Emergency Preparedness and Persons with Disabilities**

The CDC - CDC.gov Feature Article: Emergency Preparedness and People with Disabilities

Tools and Trainings

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/EmergencyPreparedness/>

State Programs:

[Kansas Disability and Health Department](#) - [Nobody Left Behind](#) campaign.

[Oregon Office of Disability and Health](#) - ["Ready Now!"](#) toolkit.

[Arkansas Disability and Health Program](#) - emergency preparedness training, tools and resources for people with disabilities, disability providers, first responders and community members.



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

12-147

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**AND:** Nutrition Directors  
Care Coordinators

**FROM:** Elaine S. Smith, MS, RD  
Program Coordinator

**DATE:** April 10, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly the Food Stamp Program (SNAP) Presentation

Following is an excellent power point presentation by Lura Barber from the National Council on Aging (NCOA) explaining SNAP and efforts to improve access of seniors to this program.

SNAP is administered in Virginia by the Department of Social Services and seniors apply through their local department of social services. A number of AAAs have SNAP outreach grants and are working with social services to improve senior access to food assistance and remove some of the barriers and stigma seniors often associate with participation in this program.

You may remember SNAP is an entitlement, which means everyone who is deemed eligible receives the benefit. Contrast this with our congregate and home delivered nutrition programs in which there isn't enough funding for everyone who would like to participate. SNAP may be a valuable benefit worth exploring for some of your senior clients.

# SNAP and Older Adults



Lura Barber, Senior Policy Analyst  
National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment  
AIRS Monthly Call – April 5, 2012



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## NCOA - National Council on Aging

NCOA is a nonprofit service and advocacy organization.

Our mission is to improve the lives of millions of older adults, especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged.



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## Agenda

- Senior SNAP challenges
- Aging Network Assets
- SNAP 101
- Why seniors are missing out on SNAP
- What Aging Network service providers and states can do to improve access
- Examples of innovative projects
- Resources
- Q & A



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## The challenge: Senior hunger and low SNAP participation

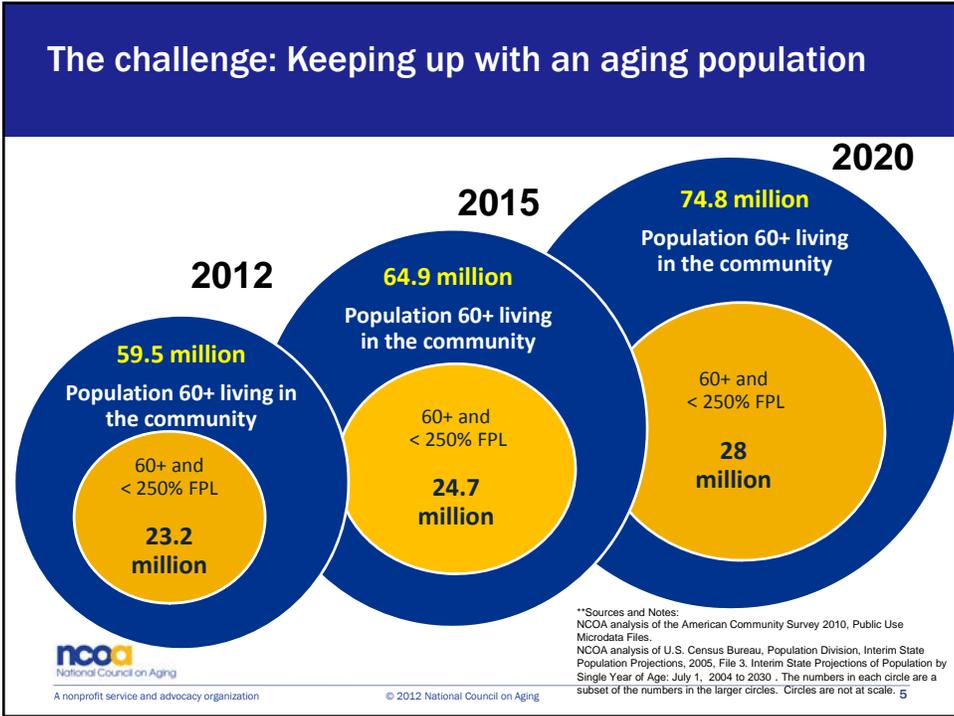
- About 5 million seniors will experience hunger this year
- Food banks are seeing more seniors become repeat clients
- Only 1 in 3 eligible older adults participates in SNAP, the lowest rate among all demographic groups – 65% are missing out
- Even as SNAP enrollment rates have risen to record levels among all eligible households during the recession, senior rates have remained low



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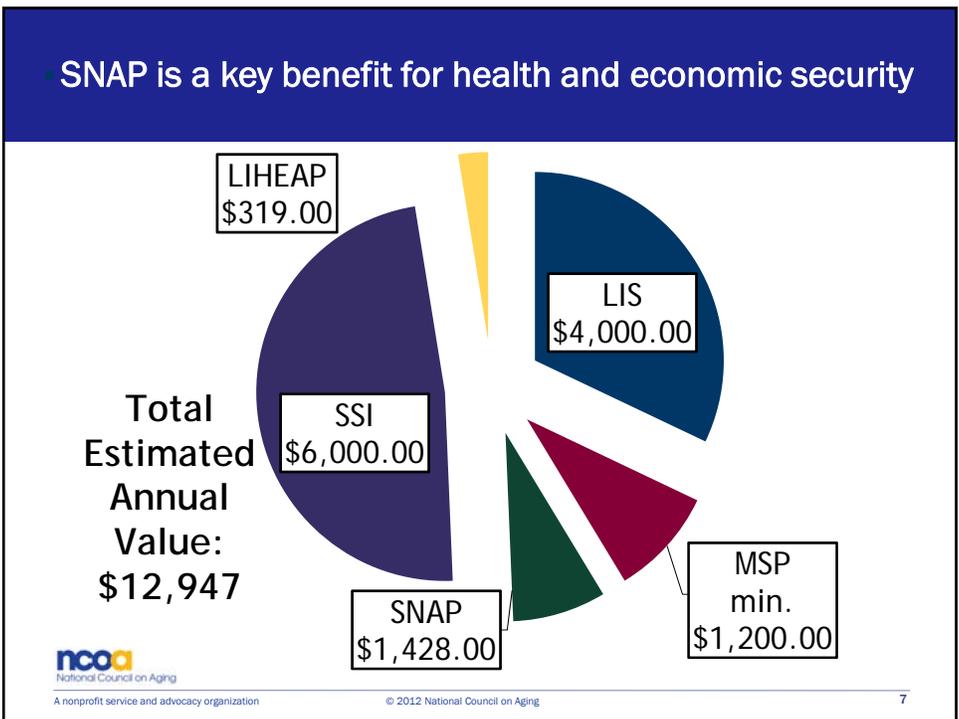


### Aging Network assets

- Aging Network is a trusted source of information and assistance among seniors, and has long experience in reaching out to seniors and helping the enroll in benefits
  - Information & Referral providers, Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs), and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), etc.
  
- SNAP is a relatively new benefit to the Aging Network, though many organizations do work with SNAP
  
- Opportunity to significantly increase SNAP enrollment rates, help seniors maximize their benefits, and tap into new sources of funding for outreach and enrollment activities

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Older adults missing out on benefits

Each year, low-income older adults miss out on

**\$20 billion**

in benefits that help paying for prescriptions, healthcare, food, and utilities.

**86%**

of older adults currently receiving one federal benefit are also eligible for and not receiving at least one other federal benefit.

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## SNAP 101



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## SNAP 101: Program structure

- SNAP is funded and regulated by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Program is administered and adjudicated at the state level, e.g., Department of Public Welfare (some states at county level)
- State programs follow broad federal rules
- By applying for waivers from USDA, states can exercise flexibility in their SNAP rules to simplify enrollment, for example:
  - Program name: SNAP, Food Supplement Program (MD), 3SquaresVT, CalFresh
  - Extended recertification periods (24-36 months)
  - Eliminating resource test in eligibility determination
  - Waiving face-to-face interviews

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## SNAP 101: How SNAP is used



- SNAP helps 3 million seniors each month afford food
- Average SNAP benefit of older adult living alone is \$119/month
- Benefits loaded onto an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which looks like a debit card (paper “food stamps” are no longer used)
- 217,000 participating stores nationwide
- Many farmers’ markets accept SNAP
- Every \$1 in additional SNAP benefits generates over \$1.73 in community spending
- Participation in home-delivered meal and congregate dining programs does not affect SNAP eligibility or benefit amount



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## SNAP 101: Eligibility rules

- Eligibility for SNAP is based on the income of a **household**.
- Households with elderly or disabled members have different income eligibility rules than other households.
- Some people are categorically eligible for SNAP because they get:
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - Public or General Assistance from a state or local government
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- “Categorically Eligible” for SNAP – means people have proved they are eligible for another means tested program
  - However, most still need to complete a SNAP application even if they are excused from proving certain components of eligibility – check your state rules!



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## SNAP: Income test



- Unless your state has different rules, households with an elderly person (60+) or a person who is disabled have to meet the net income test of 100% FPL
  - If they are receiving *only* SSI, General Assistance, or TANF – then they do not have to re-prove their income because it has already been verified
- Net income means gross income *minus* allowable deductions
  - Net income is very important because the deductions from gross income to net income establish both eligibility and amount of benefits
  - There are many types of deductions allowed for elderly/disabled households



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## SNAP 101: Allowable income deductions

- Deductions determine the amount of the SNAP benefit
- **Standard Deduction**
- **Medical Deductions**
  - For elderly or disabled members, subtract medical expenses that are more than \$35 for the month if they are not paid by insurance or someone else
  - No cap on medical deductions
- **Housing Deductions**
  - Allowable costs include rent or mortgage payments and taxes on the home
  - Utility costs may be accounted for in a “Standard Utility Allowance” (SUA)



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## SNAP 101: Resource test

- What's the SNAP resource limit?
  - As of January 2012, 25 states and D.C. have no resource limit for households with elderly or disabled members
  - Many states either use an increased resource limit or apply the resource test only if older adult gross household income is above 200% of FPL
  - Other states follow the federal limit - if at least one person is over age 60 or is disabled, household may have at least \$3,250 in countable resources (e.g., checking/saving account, stocks)
  
- What's not counted as a resource?
  - Home applicant lives in
  - Check with your state for additional exclusions



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## SNAP 101: How to apply

- Application can be started with name, address, and signature, but must be completed in order to determine eligibility and benefit
- Some states have online applications, others require submission via mail, fax, email, or in person
- Applicants may need to submit verification documents and have an in-person interview, unless waived
- The state SNAP agency must decide on eligibility within 30 days
- EBT card issued by mail or in person (may require PIN)
- Emergency SNAP: 7-day processing for households with little or no income or assets that can be used to buy food



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## Why are seniors missing out?

- Stigma of “welfare” programs
- Less likely to be aware of their eligibility, or how to apply
- Believe they are only eligible for minimum benefit of \$16
- Complicated application process
- Transportation



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## What works: Identifying SNAP-eligible older adults

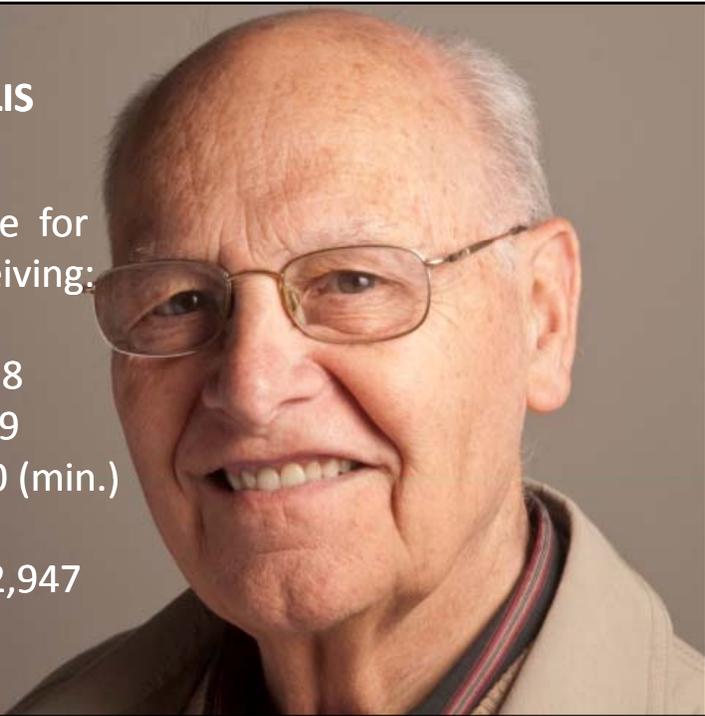
- Older adults likely eligible for SNAP are more likely to:
    - Live in a 1-person household
    - Live below 100% FPL
    - Be enrolled in Medicaid and/or SSI
  - 44% of SSI participants...
  - 40% of LIS participants...
  - 46% of MSP participants...
  - 51% of LIHEAP participants...
  - 56% of HUD public housing residents...
  - 38% of veterans benefit recipients...
- ... Are likely eligible for and missing out on SNAP**

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**Enrolled in LIS**

Likely eligible for but not receiving:

SNAP: \$1,428  
 LIHEAP: \$319  
 MSP: \$1,200 (min.)

MISSING: \$2,947

**What works: Effective messaging to engage older adults**

- SNAP is something that all “savvy seniors” get when they’re eligible
  - “Why wouldn’t you take advantage of this great program? Have you really been missing out on this until now?”
  - “You’ve paid into this through all these years, so why not use it? If you paid car insurance, wouldn’t you use it when you go to the mechanic?”
- Refer to SNAP as the “food assistance” benefit, like prescription drug assistance benefits.
- SNAP is now a debit card, so no one in the store can tell you have it.
- If you’re using a multi-program application for Medicaid or MSPs, you’ve already done a lot of the work to apply for SNAP



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## What works: Effective messaging for the \$16 benefit

- Visual demonstration of \$16 worth of groceries.
- Add the SNAP benefit up for a year – \$192 extra to spend on food sounds more substantial and could be spent on a special holiday meal
- “Would you throw away a \$16 coupon that you got in the mail?”
- “SNAP can free up more money to afford your medications or other expenses.”
- Look for opportunities to leverage SNAP, e.g., some states have Double Dollars programs to give people twice the value for their SNAP dollars at farmers markets.



\$21 worth of groceries  
Washington, DC (March 2012)



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## What works: Streamlining the application process

- Screen clients for all benefits, including SNAP, and help them complete applications if they appear eligible (or partner with an organization that can provide these services)
  - BenefitsCheckUp website has a screening tool, and a SNAP resource center with downloadable forms and links to online applications
- Provide checklists of required documents, interview reminders, etc.
- Assist clients in collecting and submitting verification documents
- Ensure that clients know how to use EBT cards
- Follow up for recertification
- Build relationships with county and/or state offices to aid in troubleshooting and tracking of client applications



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## How states can streamline application processes for seniors

- Waive face-to-face interviews
- Eliminate finger-imaging (NYC and AZ only)
- Extend certification periods to 24 or 36 months
- Simplify eligibility through broad-based categorical eligibility
- Shorter application forms, or multi-application online tools
- “Community Partner” log-in functionality in online application systems
- Standard medical deduction demo waiver
- **Example:** Alabama Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP)
  - 2-page application (front/back)
  - 36-month certification
  - No face-to-face interview unless requested by the household
  - Household self-declares eligibility information, unless questionable
  - Applications routed to central state-level office, rather than county offices



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## Seniors are Missing Out on Medical Deductions

- About **14%** of seniors take the medical deduction, but **55%** of SNAP-eligible seniors would qualify
- Deductions increase SNAP benefit amount by reducing net income
- Even seniors with LIS and MSP have unreimbursed out-of-pocket costs in excess of \$35 that would be eligible, including:
  - Medical and dental care, prescription drugs, health policy premiums
  - Costs of dentures, hearing aids, prosthetics
  - Vet bills, food, and other costs associated with owning a service dog
  - Eye glasses prescribed by an optometrist or specialist
  - Transportation and lodging costs incurred to obtain medical treatment, including mileage (calculated at federal rate = 55.5¢/mile in FY '12)
  - Attendant, home health aide, homemaker, or child care services



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## New Funds for the Aging Network– State SNAP Outreach Plans

- Most states have formal SNAP outreach plans
  - Describes planned outreach activities and budgeted costs
  - May include community organizations doing outreach to specific populations or geographic areas
  - Must be approved by FNS in order to leverage funds
- Partners are reimbursed by USDA for **50% of qualified expenses** from non-federal source
- How it works:
  - Submit proposal to state agency
  - Enter into formal MOU with state agency
  - Monthly/quarterly reporting to state for reimbursement
  - State establishes due date for proposals (check with SNAP agency)
  - Federal due date for State Outreach Plans is August 15, 2012 (FY13)



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## State SNAP Outreach Plan - Allowable Activities

Allowable Activity	Example
Eligibility pre-screening	Use of a paper or electronic tool to inform potential applicants they may be eligible and potentially, how much they could receive.
Application assistance	Assistance completing the application, including delivery of the application to the local SNAP office.
Assistance obtaining application verification documents	Informing potential clients which documents may be needed and making copies of verification documents.
Information dissemination in locations where low income people gather	Distribution of information at the employers of low wage workers.
Outreach exhibit or booth at community event	Set up and staffing of outreach booth at the annual community fair.
Conducting outreach workshops with community organizations at their locations	SNAP outreach fair at a senior center.
Placement of advertisements on radio, television, print or electronic media	Purchase time for SNAP advertisements on the local radio station.
Production and distribution of public service announcements (PSA) to radio, television, print or electronic media	Distribute USDA produced television PSA to local cable company for airing as a public service.



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## USDA/AoA Older Adult SNAP Pilot Project - Delaware

- **Goal:** Increase older adult participation in SNAP in Delaware
- **Elements:**
  - Leverage existing Aging Network outreach and programs for seniors and add SNAP messaging (e.g., myth-busting)
  - Streamline application process through data-sharing from BenefitsCheckUp to state SNAP agency to trigger SNAP application
  - Aging Network organizations follow-up with clients to ensure completion
  - Community groups and AARP Foundation become formal partners in state SNAP outreach plan (AARP leveraging tech build funds)
- **Partners:**
  - USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Administration on Aging, NCOA, AARP Foundation, DE state agencies on Aging and Human Services
  - Senior centers, senior nutrition programs, retired volunteers, Medicare counseling projects, other service providers for older adults



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## NCOA - SNAP as a Gateway Innovation Grant

### Isabella Geriatric Center, New York City

- Partnering with GrowNYC, the local farmers market organization
- Bringing farmers markets to senior centers
- Leading sessions about healthier eating through buying more fresh fruits and vegetables
- Presenting SNAP as a way to increase your budget for fresh food
- Screening interested clients for SNAP and other benefits, since eligibility criteria are similar
- Assisting individuals with applying for SNAP and other benefits



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## Resources

### ■ National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment

- SNAP 101 webinar available next week in Resource Library
- SNAP Resource Guide:  
<http://www.ncoa.org/assets/files/pdf/center-for-benefits/SNAP-details.pdf>
- Promising practices, issue briefs, webinars:  
[www.centerforbenefits.org](http://www.centerforbenefits.org)

### ■ BenefitsCheckUp®

- Comprehensive Screening Tool:  
[www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)
- SNAP Map:  
<https://www.benefitscheckup.org/cf/snap.cfm>



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## Resources, cont'd

### ■ USDA Food and Nutrition Service Resources

- SNAP outreach Toolkits, materials, PSAs, Promising Practices:  
[www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/default.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/default.htm)
- SNAP Outreach Plan Guidance and Templates:  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/guidance/stateplan.htm>
- SNAP State Options Report (state flexibility options):  
[http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/Support/State\\_Options/9-State\\_Options.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/Support/State_Options/9-State_Options.pdf)
- Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility, by State (as of Jan. 3, 2012):  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/BBCF.pdf>
- Farmers' Market Search and Mapping Tool:  
<http://search.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/>
- SNAP Household Characteristics Report, FY 2010:  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/published/snap/FILES/Participation/2010Characteristics.pdf>
- State Trends in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Eligibility and Participation Among Elderly Individuals (2010): [http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/nutrition/SNAP\\_elderly.pdf](http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/nutrition/SNAP_elderly.pdf)



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