



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
**DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

JAMES A. ROTHROCK  
Commissioner

**DIVISION FOR THE AGING**  
1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100  
Henrico, VA 23229

Office (804) 662-9333  
Toll free (800) 552-3402  
TTY users dial 711  
Fax (804) 662-9354

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**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** James A. Rothrock

**DATE:** December 18, 2012

**SUBJECT:** How Volunteers Can Reduce Hunger and More

How Volunteers Can Reduce Hunger and More

The importance of service made the news twice last week. These items can help you advance your volunteer program:

- \* Generations United released a report on hunger, pointing to solutions through service.
- \* See how volunteers can fight hunger <<http://agingnetworkvolunteers.us5.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=8e5a58f0539f4d7433f4faafc&id=e87fa99aee&e=85f811364a>> for older adults; read the Engaging Wisdom blog.
- \* Attend our free webinar to learn how your agency can relieve hunger: Create a Meals Program for the Community - Register!<<http://agingnetworkvolunteers.us5.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=8e5a58f0539f4d7433f4faafc&id=19dc03975e&e=85f811364a>> Dec. 12, 2-3 p.m. EST
- \* President Obama announced a national day of service will kick off his inaugural weekend. Plan for the Jan. 19 National Day of Service<<http://agingnetworkvolunteers.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8e5a58f0539f4d7433f4faafc&id=2f3c0abb98&e=85f811364a>>; find ideas in the Making a Difference blog.



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**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** James A. Rothrock

**DATE:** December 18, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS) News

The mission of the Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS) is to ensure that Virginians of all ages and abilities can acquire the appropriate, affordable assistive and information technologies and services they need to participate in society as active citizens. As the statewide Assistive Technology (AT) Program under the newly formed State agency, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, VATS sees a great opportunity to reach out to “vintage Virginians” to help them access affordable and appropriate assistive technologies. VATS is committed to developing outreach and training initiatives that will assist citizens of the Commonwealth to, as they age, maintain their independence as long as possible.

VATS recently hired Robert “Bob” Krollman to serve as the Assistive Technology Specialist to coordinate statewide “AT and Aging” related activities for VATS. For ten years, Mr. Krollman developed vocational programming for persons with Traumatic Brain Injuries. For the last eighteen years, he has worked demonstrating a variety of assistive technologies, has provided outreach services to various stakeholders and has conducted presentations on assistive technology devices and services at the local, State, and national levels.

Mr. Krollman will work with the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging which will include all statewide community Area Agencies on Aging, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and their statewide community AARP Chapters as well as other groups identified as serving this constituency to develop and deliver targeted training focused on “AT and Aging”.

Mr. Krollman and the Virginia Assistive Technology System welcomes ideas that will identify needed services and guide the development of training programs that will support the VATS commitment to serving this constituency. He can be reached at [Robert.krollman@dars.virginia.gov](mailto:Robert.krollman@dars.virginia.gov) or at (703) 400-1031.



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**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Tim Catherman

**DATE:** December 3, 2012

**RE:** May 2013 Older Americans Month

The Administration on Aging has designated Older Americans Month, May 2013 as "***Unleash the Power of Age***".

Older Americans are productive, active, and influential members of society, sharing essential talents, wisdom, and life experience with their families, friends, and neighbors.

This year, think about what your organization can do to help ***Unleash the Power of Age***. Giving our elders opportunities to volunteer their time to support those who are less fortunate, to teach others the skills they've honed over the years, or to become involved in civic matters are just a few ways you can ***Unleash the Power of Age***. Help our older Americans stay positive, active, and looking forward.

More information will be posted on the AoA website in the future.



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**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Tim Catherman

**DATE:** December 3, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Government Accountability Office Report: *Older Americans Act: Options to Better Target Need and Improve Equity*

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report on the Older Americans Act funding on State Funding Formulas to better target need and improve equity.

The GAO Report found:

- States use a variety of factors to distribute funding. All intrastate funding formulas use one or more demographic measures of need to target funding. Factors included age, income, rural residence, disability impairment status, and minority status.
- Funds are currently allotted to states according to the relative proportion of older individuals. The current statutory funding formula could better meet generally accepted equity standards in targeting greatest economic and social need for services by addressing differences among states with respect to the (1) needs of the elderly population, (2) cost of services to address those needs, and (3) capacity of individual states to finance needed services. Three options for revising the formula using generally accepted equity standards to illustrate a range of possibilities. The first, the partial beneficiary equity option, distributes funds based on the state's population in need of services by measuring older adults with limitations in their ability to maintain an independent lifestyle; the second, the full beneficiary equity option, accounts for differences in the costs of key inputs for providing services, such as wages, food, and office space; and the third, the taxpayer equity option, further accounts for state resource capacity.
- Modifying the formula under a partial beneficiary option using activities of daily living (ADL) limitations as a need measure could result in a number of states seeing

changes in their allotments. Several transition measures for moderating the impact of such changes were presented. Transition measures such as a phase-in or hold harmless provision, minimum allotment, or funding floors and ceilings could temper the effect on states.

The full report can be found at: [OLDER AMERICANS ACT: Options to Better Target Need and Improve Equity, GAO-13-74, Nov 30, 2012.](#)

On December 11, 2012, CSPAN covered the Senate Special Committee on Aging that heard the report. Charles Jeszeck, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security with GAO presented the findings.

[CSPAN: Senate Committee Looks at Older Americans Act.](#)