



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES



DIVISION FOR THE AGING

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner

VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

September 7, 2016

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ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<http://www.acl.gov/NewsRoom/NewsInfo/Index.aspx>

NASUAD Weekly Update

Here is a link to the weekly update from NASUAD:

<http://www.nasuad.org/newsroom/friday-update>

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DIVISION FOR THE AGING
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Governor McAuliffe Declares Month of September as Preparedness Month in Virginia



Commonwealth of Virginia

Office of Governor Terry McAuliffe

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 31, 2016

Office of the Governor

Contact: Brian Coy

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RICHMOND – Governor Terry McAuliffe today proclaimed September as National Preparedness Month in Virginia, encouraging business owners, families and communities to make the preparations necessary in the event of an emergency.

“As the most historically active time for hurricane activity in our Commonwealth, September is the right month for Virginians across the Commonwealth to take precautions that could save their lives in an emergency situation,” **Governor McAuliffe said**. “Individuals, families and businesses should always be prepared in advance for natural disasters, accidents, and human-caused emergencies. The right equipment, quick reaction time, and the proper safety precautions are crucial in emergency situations and can make a life-saving difference.”

“Our number one priority is to help ensure Virginia families are safe and prepared in case of emergencies,” **said Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security**. “Encourage your friends, neighbors and relatives to prepare for disasters by using the steps outlined below and having a plan in place.”

All Virginians are strongly encouraged to prepare for emergencies, including hurricanes, by taking these steps:

- **Sign up for text alerts/weather warnings that may be offered by your locality.**
- **Assemble an emergency supply kit for your home, office and car.** Important items to have during an emergency include: cell phone backup power, batteries, flashlights, bottled water, non-perishable food, first aid kit, battery-



powered or hand-crank radio, and portable generator. Account necessary items for pets, children, elderly and family members with disabilities. For a complete list of important emergency items, visit www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

- **Download the free Ready Virginia app for iPhone® and Android™.** Features include: National Weather Service warnings, customizable emergency plan, an emergency supplies checklist, the “I’m Safe!” text feature for notifying friends and family in an emergency, and an interactive map to identify potential storm surge risks.
- **Create a family emergency communications plan.**
 - Decide how and where everyone will meet up with each other if separated.
 - Choose an out-of-town emergency contact for your family and give that person’s phone number to each family member.
 - Make a sheet of emergency contacts and post it in visible places in your home and workplace, rather than relying on smartphones or online contact lists.
 - Get a free emergency plan worksheet at www.ReadyVirginia.gov, www.ListoVirginia.gov, or use the Ready Virginia app.
- **Talk to an insurance agent about flood insurance.**
 - Most homeowner’s insurance policies do not cover flooding; often, this is a separate policy. Renters and business owners also can get flood insurance.
 - Often times, just one inch of water in a mid-size home or office can result in about \$20,000 in repairs.
 - Go to www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-888-379-9531 for more information. Typically, there’s a 30-day waiting period from the date of purchase before the policy goes into effect.

Governor McAuliffe and Secretary Moran encourage all Virginians to have plans of action during power outages and/or during evacuations. People with disabilities or access and functional needs may need to take additional precautionary steps. For more information regarding emergency preparedness with special needs, please visit www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/getakit/disabilities.

To view the published release, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2bVz01p>

Governor McAuliffe Challenges Dominion to Accelerate Energy Efficiency Education and Outreach Program

Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of Governor Terry McAuliffe

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 1, 2016
Office of the Governor



Contact: Christina Nuckols

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Governor Challenges Dominion to Accelerate Energy Efficiency Education and Outreach Program

~ Governor McAuliffe challenges Dominion to attend 400 outreach events throughout its service territory ~

ALEXANDRIA – During a day-long tour of three locations receiving energy efficiency improvements, Governor McAuliffe challenged Dominion Virginia Power to accelerate outreach efforts by attending 400 events in the next 12 months, reaching as many as 240,000 people. This would double the number of events held and people reached by Dominion compared to last year. The outreach is intended to educate Virginians about the value of energy efficiency in reducing energy consumption and lowering their power bills.

“The progress we have made over the past year demonstrates the impact simple, low-cost energy efficiency measures can have on lowering energy bills,” said Governor McAuliffe, speaking at the first of three stops today. “In addition to working directly with consumers to use energy more efficiently, I am challenging Dominion to expand its efforts to educate people on the value of energy conservation and how reducing energy consumption can save them money. Our electric utilities are in the perfect position to drive this education and outreach, which is what this challenge is all about.”

“We accept Gov. McAuliffe’s challenge to reach even more low-income customers with solutions to reduce energy consumption,” said Robert M. Blue, president of Dominion Virginia Power. “We will continue to place strong emphasis on the energy efficiency measures that any consumers can take to reduce energy usage and save on their bills.”

As part of the challenge, Dominion will expand the educational component of EnergyShare, the company’s program to lower the energy bills of customers who need the most help. Dominion will provide training and materials to dozens of employees who will serve as energy efficiency representatives to speak at schools, professional organizations and other community venues. To schedule a speaker for your community event, please visit www.dom.com/speaker<<http://www.dom.com/speaker>>.

“Those who are least able to afford their energy bills are the Virginians who can benefit the most from energy efficiency improvements,” said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Maurice Jones. “The programs being implemented by the electric utilities, especially in multi-family buildings, will lower the energy bills for our vulnerable populations. But it’s equally important that the utilities increase their efforts to educate citizens on how making these improvements will reduce their power bills and keep more money in their pockets.”

The Governor will travel to sites in Alexandria, Virginia Beach and Petersburg. The project in Northern Virginia is making improvements to the Fairfax County home of two U.S. Army



veterans, one who served in Vietnam and the other who served in Korea, Germany and the U.S. The project in Virginia Beach is improving the efficiency of a home operated by Vetshouse, an organization that provides transitional housing for military veterans. The project in Petersburg is making energy efficiency upgrades to multiple houses on the same block. At each location, Dominion will be providing energy efficiency demonstrations and handing out efficiency kits to neighbors and attendees.

September 1st marks the one-year anniversary of the commencement of an energy efficiency initiative required by legislation passed in 2015. The bill that was signed by the Governor requires Virginia's investor-owned electric utilities to conduct programs that improve the energy efficiency of housing and lower electric bills for low-income, elderly, disabled and veteran citizens in the Commonwealth. The utilities must use non-ratepayer funds to implement the program. Both Dominion and Appalachian Power have worked closely with state agencies such as the Department of Social Services, Housing and Community Development, and Military Affairs to identify the most vulnerable Virginians who can benefit from this program.

Introducing the New Public Guardianship Program Coordinator

Kathy Miller, Director of Aging Programs

Please welcome Patti G. Meire, Esq. who joined DARS as the new Public Guardianship Program Coordinator on August 26. Patti is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center. She has an undergraduate degree in history from Mary Washington University. Since 2009, she has been working as a Guardian ad Litem representing children before the Henrico County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court. In this capacity, she has worked with individuals with ID/DD and mental illness. Prior to her work as a GAL, Patti practiced corporate law at Hunton & Williams, LLP, specializing in securities, and at Reynolds Metals Company. Patti's husband, Leo, works as an engineer at Jefferson Lab in Newport News. She has two young adult sons, Hill, who is a student at Johns Hopkins, and Chuck, a cadet at VMI.

Patti is very excited to begin working with the Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Program. She is looking forward to making contact with all thirteen of the Public Guardianship Program Directors as soon as possible.

DARS is beginning the recruitment process for a Public Guardianship Program Specialist who will be working closely with Patti to conduct program monitoring. Patti anticipates that she will begin monitoring visits in early 2017. She will also be busy planning the annual training for the Public Guardianship Providers that is tentatively scheduled for April, 2017.



USDA Announced Selected Organizations to Better Connect Low-Income Elderly and Disabled Americans with Healthy Food

Tim Catherman, Director of Aging Operations

Kudo's to Terri Lynch for connecting Senior Services of Alexandria with this USDA test pilot program. Senior Services of Alexandria is the nonprofit arm of Alexandria Division of Aging and Adult Services. They were one of five programs selected in this initial phase to test the SNAP benefits at grocery stores for homebound elderly and disabled persons.

USDA Announces Selected Organizations to Better Connect Low-Income Elderly and Disabled Americans with Healthy Food

Release No.

FNS-001116

Contact:

FNS Communications (703) 305-2281

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31, 2016 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the organizations selected to participate in a nationwide pilot designed to improve access to groceries for homebound elderly and disabled persons participating in the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP). Nearly one in five SNAP participants is either elderly or disabled and therefore may face unique obstacles to obtaining healthy food at the grocery store.

"Home delivery of groceries will help ensure that elderly and disabled SNAP participants who are unable to shop for food have access to the nutrition they need to maintain a healthy diet," said Kevin Concannon, Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services. "Home delivery is particularly important for seniors living in rural areas because America's rural population is older than the nation overall and rural seniors experience higher poverty than others."

This pilot will help shape the upcoming final regulations first [proposed in 2015](#) that for the first time will permit governmental and non-profit food purchasing and delivery services to accept SNAP benefits as payment, thus increasing the opportunities for home delivery to those unable to shop for food. The organizations selected are:

- § Denver Food Rescue (Denver, CO)
- § Lutheran Social Services of Nevada (Las Vegas, NV)
- § Many Infinities, Inc. (Alabaster, AL)
- § Senior Services of Alexandria (Alexandria, VA)



§ Store to Door (Roseville, MN)

Here is more information about the [pilot](#) and the [proposed rule](#).

Concannon stressed that the home delivery pilot is separate and unrelated to USDA's ongoing efforts to explore the feasibility of SNAP online purchasing.

"Though both purchasing and delivery services and online shopping may help increase access to food for SNAP participants, this pilot for home delivery is devoted to better serving homebound participants, a particularly vulnerable subset of the SNAP population," he said. "However, we recognize that online purchasing shows great promise for the program and expect to issue a request for volunteer retailers who are interested in participating in the online purchasing pilot in the near future." The home delivery pilot is only one of many changes made in the last several years to strengthen SNAP and increase access to healthful foods for participants. USDA has provided funding to [incentivize participants in SNAP to purchase more healthy fruits and vegetables](#) through the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program, increased farmers' market participation in SNAP to improve access to fresh and nutritious food, and proposed updated SNAP retailer standards to include different varieties of healthy qualifying foods.

As the nation's first line of defense against hunger, SNAP helps put food on the table for millions of low income families and individuals every month and has never been more critical to the fight against hunger and food insecurity. SNAP is a vital supplement to the monthly food budget of more than 43 million low-income individuals. Nearly half of SNAP participants are children, 10 percent are over 60 and more than 40 percent of recipients live in households with earnings, where at least one adult is actively in the workforce. For more information visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>



UPDATES

September 1, 2016

**Webinar: Fire Preparedness and Post-Disaster Accessibility
Issues in the Home**



The NIDILRR-funded [Pacific ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [FEMA Promising Practices: Fire Preparedness and Post-Disaster Accessibility Issues in the Home](#), September 8th, 2:30-4pm ET. This webinar will have two presentations that look at preparedness and accessibility issues in the home, including selecting and installing smoke alarms and alert systems that meet the needs of people with disabilities. The webinar will also cover issues of access and universal design in post-disaster recovery and rebuilding. Registration is free and required. [Previous FEMA Promising Practices webinars are available in the archive.](#)

September is [National Preparedness Month](#). Throughout the month, ACL will highlight the importance of including people with disabilities and older adults in all aspects of emergency planning.



UPDATES



September 6, 2016

Grandparents Day: Sunday September 11

By Edwin Walker, Acting Assistant Secretary for Aging and Acting Administrator, ACL

September 11 is National Grandparents Day. Since 1978, the first Sunday after Labor Day has been designated as a day to pay tribute to our nation's grandparents. Grandparents are our important connections to the past and they help to lay the groundwork for our futures.



Like many Americans today, I too experienced first-hand the love, wisdom and caring that can only come from a grandparent. I was raised in part by my grandmother who instilled values and principles that I live by today. There is nothing that can compare to the cherished relationship that can exist between a grandparent and a grandchild.

Not only do grandparents play an important role within their families, sometimes they may find themselves back in the role of parent raising children due to unfortunate events. For many grandparents, stepping into a parental role again, means confronting new and different challenges than those they faced when they raised their own children. The Administration on Aging's [National Family Caregiver Support Program \(NFCSP\)](#) provides support for grandparents who are raising their young grandchildren. The program enables the Aging Network to address the unique needs of grandparents who step in to provide care for their grandchildren. To read more, [click here](#).



UPDATES

[Webinar: Translating Evidence-Based Dementia Interventions into Community Programs](#)

Thursday, September 22, 2016 3:00-4:00 pm ET

The National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center will present a webinar on grantee experiences bringing evidence-based dementia interventions into the community on September 22, 2016. Participants will learn about the successes and barriers associated with implementing evidence-based interventions and the experiences of programs in Maine and Nevada.

[Learn more and register for this webinar.](#)



UPDATES

September 07, 2016

ACL Awards over \$1.1 Million in Lifespan Respite Grants

ACL recently awarded grants to eight states to support lifespan respite care programs with the goal of improving the delivery and quality of respite services available to families across the age and disability spectrum.

Maryland and Mississippi were awarded [new state grants](#) totaling \$400,000 for three-year projects. The funding will be used to plan, establish, and expand lifespan respite care systems that provide new and planned emergency respite services, train and recruit respite workers and volunteers, and assist caregivers with accessing needed services.

Colorado, Delaware, Massachusetts, Montana, North Carolina, and Washington have been awarded [one-year expansion supplements](#) totaling more than \$750,000 to build upon their work developing an integrated and sustainable respite care system. All projects will focus primarily on the direct provision of respite services to fill identified gaps in service delivery and address unmet needs of family caregivers across the lifespan.

Caregivers are often referred to as the backbone of America's long-term care system. A 2009 study estimated that 65.7 million people in nearly 32% of U.S. household acted as unpaid family caregivers.

Respite care offers individuals or family members temporary relief from the daily routine and stress that can come with providing care. Respite can play a critical role in strengthening family stability and maintaining the health of the family caregiver.

Since 2009, ACL has awarded competitive lifespan respite grants to 35 states and the District of Columbia. Each state



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collaborates with an Aging and Disability Resource Center/NWD System as well as a public or private non-profit statewide respite care coalition or organization.



INDEPENDENT LIVING Weekly Newsletter

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES DIVISION

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner

ISSUE 169

September 6, 2016

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ADA Checklist for Polling Places



In light of the upcoming election, please review and distribute this new Department of Justice publication on polling place accessibility. Click [here](#) to view the ADA Checklist for polling places.

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NCIL 2016 Annual Conference Wrap Up



NCIL's 2016 Annual Conference on Independent Living was an unforgettable experience. This year's theme, *Solidarity: Everybody In*, brought advocates from all across the nation and the world to celebrate the Independent Living Movement and do the work that will bring our community to its full potential.

Attendance surpassed our expectations, with nearly 900 Conference attendees participating in the week's events. We created a major presence on the streets leading to the U.S. Capitol as we marched and chanted in support of disability rights.

Please click [here](#) for further detail, including **photos** of the march and rally!

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Tell Your Representatives: "Don't Roll Back Our Rights!"



We recently got word that **H.R. 3765, the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2015**, is expected to go to a full floor vote this month. This is a dangerous bill, and we need your help to make sure it doesn't pass!

This bill would be a major setback for our community. While the new version of the bill removes the contentious criminal fine, it would still make it harder for people with disabilities to exercise our rights. The bill would give businesses that have denied us access for over 26 years additional time to comply with the ADA, while removing any incentive for businesses to come into compliance before receiving a notification. These businesses will face no consequences for their years of discrimination, while millions of people with disabilities will continue to be unable to participate in basic activities in our communities.



We need to ensure that this bill does not get passed out of the full House. We must make sure that EVERY Representative hears from their constituents and understands the dangers of this bill. Please go to the NCIL Action Center and send a message to your Representatives telling them they must vote NO on H.R. 3765!

To read more about this urgent issue, please click [here](#).

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VDA Weekly E-Mailing

Click [here](#) for the latest issues of the VDA Weekly E-mailing.

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