



Expanding the World of Possibilities for Aging



In-Depth

February 1, 2012

CONNECT



A weekly broadcast of fiscal, policy and regulatory news & analysis as it affects providers of senior housing, care and services.

Top Stories

This Week In Olympia - Legislative Updates Posted Online

[Read the issues](#) published to date on the Aging Services of Washington website.

HUD Issues Protections for Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan announced new regulations Monday, January 30th intended to ensure that HUD's core housing programs are open to all eligible persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

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January 25, 2012 Issue of In-Depth Available Online

Missed an issue? Want to review a piece of news or regulation? Stay current with all of the regulatory, legislative and fiscal news & analysis from Aging Services of Washington: [Click/Bookmark this link](#).

For assistance, contact [Julie Martin](#).

CLASS Act Subject to Repeal This Week

Congress is scheduled to vote on the Fiscal Responsibility and Retirement Security Act this week, which includes a repeal of the consumer-financed insurance plan for long-term services supports.

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State News

New Interpretative Statement Issued: Filling Medication Organizers

Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses may fill customized patient medication packages (e.g. 'medisets', medication organizers) ONLY under the following conditions:

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Legislative News - Conference Calls Each Friday

Don't forget! Aging Services hosts a member call-in each Friday afternoon during legislative session from 3:00-3:30pm for Nursing Home issues, and then again from 3:45-4:15pm for Assisted Living topics. Contact [Paul Montgomery](#) or [Julie Martin](#) for access numbers and further assistance.

Federal News

October 2011 Medicare Cuts: Effects Published in Report

Among other things, the new data just released further diminishes the potential for any re-adjustment upward of the 11 % rate cuts.

CMS released its first monitoring report on the impact of the payment changes implemented October 1, 2012, which included: the recalibration of the parity adjustment (i.e., an 11% rate cut for cases involving therapy), allocation of group therapy and changes to the MDS including the introduction of the Change-of-Therapy (COT) Other Medicare Required Assessment (OMRA).

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HUD's Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan Updated

Please note that HUD's Form 935-2a was updated in December, 2011 and must be used for the submission of all Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plans until further notice. A helpful tip sheet can be found [here](#). Contact jmartin@agingwa.org for information.

We Should Reauthorize the Older American's Act

On Jan. 26, legislation in for the form of [S. 2037](#), was introduced and would reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA). The bill includes provisions to improve the calculation of inflation for the elderly to more accurately reflect out-of-pocket expenses for health care and prescription drugs.

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HUD Notice of Funds Available

Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA)

Deadline for application is 4/10/2012. Eligible applicants are public housing authorities (PHAs), local governments, nonprofits, tribal entities and for-profit developers that apply jointly with a public entity. [Applications](#) must present a plan to revitalize a severely distressed public and/or HUD-assisted multifamily housing project located in a distressed neighborhood into a viable, mixed-income community.

Your feedback is important to us.

Should you have questions, comments or would like assistance with any of the issues discussed in this email, please contact Julie Martin, Director of Senior Living & Community Services at jmartin@agingwa.org

Aging Services of Washington | 1495 Wilmington Drive, Ste 340 | DuPont, WA 98327 | 253.964.8870

www.agingwa.org