

The Healthy Elders Leadership Project

HELP Email-Alert

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March 5, 2007

I. NEWS UPDATES:

Immigration Fee Increases in June 2007

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) proposed a fee increase on Citizenship and Green Card applications that will take effect in June of 2007. Under the proposed plan, the cost for applying for citizenship would increase from \$400 to \$675 and for green card would jump from \$325 to \$905. Take action by writing a letter to your congressman. For a sample letter to congress, follow the link to the SEARAC website: <http://searac.org/new.html>

Medicare Part D

Recent efforts to extend California's Emergency Drug Benefit Program for those considered to be dual eligibles, individuals who receive both Medicare and Medicaid benefits, proved to be unsuccessful. The emergency program ended on January 31, 2007. As a result, those who are dual eligible may have trouble accessing appropriate and necessary medication. For more information, visit the California Health Advocates website: <http://www.cahealthadvocates.org/cmc/2007/alert0215.html>

II. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

Sierra Health Foundation Accepting Applications for REACH Program Improvement Grant

A grant of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to an organization seeking to improve youth programs and/or outreach to more youth to participate in quality programs. The REACH Program Improvement Grant is eligible only to those organizations in the *Capital Region* of California. Applications are due on April 13th at 5pm. For more information on eligibility or to download an application, visit the REACH website: <http://www.reachyouthprogram.org/?q=node/67>

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Fresh Ideas" Grant

Grants up to \$300,000 will be awarded over the course of three years to 8-10 organizations who are seeking to improve the health of immigrant and refugee communities. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is interested in new community-based approaches to helping immigrants and refugees in regards to their health and health care problems. Applications are due April 13th. For a full description and to download an application, visit the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation website: <http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=19480>

III. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

LEAP Civic Engagement Conferences

The LEAP Civic Leadership Institute (CLI) was created to address the need for more civic participation, voting, and electoral representation by one of the nation's fastest growing ethnic

groups - the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, as well as create a path for motivated and promising AAPI leaders to seek and secure elected and appointed positions at the local, state and federal levels. Please make note of the schedule changes. It is not too late to register for the remaining three conferences:

- March 24, 2007 - Central California – Stockton
- March 31, 2007- Central California – Fresno (**NEW DATE**)
- April 21, 2007 - Northern California -East Bay/ San Francisco (**NEW DATE**)

For brochure and registration information contact: Jade Agua, jagua@leap.org, (213) 485-1422, ext. 4107 or http://www.leap.org/docs/2007_CLI_Flyer.pdf

IV. COMMUNITY RESOURCE

California Immigrant Policy Center’s Governor’s 2007-2008 Health Plan Analysis

The California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC) is a great resource to find advocacy tools, education and research materials regarding California’s immigrants and their economic, social, and demographic impact on our state and nation. Their analysis of the Governor’s 2007-2008 proposed health plan is now available as well as their own set of budget priorities for this legislative year. To read the analysis and look at CIPC’s budget priorities go to: <http://www.caimmigrant.org/> and go to their “updates” link.

“Medicare Prescription Drug Plans Fail Limited English Proficient Beneficiaries” Survey

The National Senior Citizens Law Center and the California Medicare Part D Language Access Coalition have just released a survey, “Medicare Prescription Drug plans Fail Limited English Proficient Beneficiaries.” Click on the following link to access a press release in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean translations. <http://nsclc.org/about-us/nsclc-in-the-news/nsclcnews.2007-02-27.5577985100>

For more information, call or email SEARAC’s California office:

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HELP is collaborative project of the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC), California Health Advocates (CHA) and National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) through generous grants from The California Endowment (TCE) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service-Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). The project provides California-based Southeast Asian American community organizations – mutual assistance associations (MAAs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs) – with sub-grants, training, and technical assistance in order to improve their work with underserved elderly community members. Information and resources about the HELP project are available at <http://www.searac.org/help>