

The Healthy Elders Leadership Project

HELP Email-Alert

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June 25, 2007

I. UPDATES:

USCIS Fee Adjustments

Thank you to everyone who submitted public comments to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) earlier this year. Because of the efforts of grassroots organizations nationwide, USCIS has postponed new fee increases to take effect on July 30, 2007 instead of June 1, 2007. The following is a link to a list of questions and answers:

<http://www.uscis.gov/files/pressrelease/FinalFeeRuleQsAs052907.pdf>. Find the new fee schedule here: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/FinalUSCISFeeSchedule052907.pdf>.

29th Annual OCA National Convention

The Organization of Chinese Americans will be holding their national convention on June 28th-July 1st, 2007 at the Sacramento Convention Center and Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. There will be youth leadership trainings, college leadership trainings, job fairs and much more. Registration varies, for more information, click the following link: <http://www.ocanational.org/>.

SEARAC Annual Reception: A Decade of Strong Leadership

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of SEARAC's annual Leadership-Advocacy Training Conference. Since its inception, over 400 Southeast Asian American leaders have attended. This July SEARAC invites past attendees to unite with new participants at the 2007 Southeast Asian American National Leadership Gathering: Collaborating Actions among Leaders. Join us in celebrating this milestone on July 23rd from 6:30-8:30pm at George Washington University Campus, Marvin Center Continental Ballroom, Washington, DC. The cost is \$50.00 per ticket. More information is posted here: <http://searac.org/2007searacgala.html>.

II. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

Bank of America: Neighborhood Excellence Initiative 2007

Individuals and organizations that make a difference in their communities are the focus of this initiative. The "Neighborhood Builders" grant of \$200,000 over two years is available for those who work to promote vibrant neighborhoods. This grant provides for core operational support and leadership training to two non-profit organizations. **Deadline to apply is June 29th**. Please see the following link for details:

http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation/index.cfm?template=fd_neighborhoodbuilders. "Local Heroes" is another part of this initiative. Nominate yourself or another individual who has worked to improve their community by inspiring others to get involved or has advocated for vital community issues. \$5,000 will be given to the non-profit of the winner's choice. **Deadline to nominate is June 29th**! Please see the following link for details:

http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation/index.cfm?template=fd_localheroes.

John Burton Foundation for Children without Homes

This is nonprofit organizations works to improve the quality of life for children without homes and create public policy solutions or prevent homelessness. They also provide financial support for organizations providing social services like education, and physical and mental health.

Deadline to apply for this grant is July 1st! The following is a link to the application: http://nonprofitresourcectr.org/burton_rfp_final.pdf.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Improving the Health of Immigrant and Refugee Communities

As part of their “Vulnerable Populations Portfolio”, this foundation is interested in new community based approaches to health and health care issues in the immigrant and refugee communities. Grants of up to \$300,000 over three years will be awarded to organizations that are able to successfully link how social factors like education, poverty, cultural differences, etc, affect health and propose ways in which to improve the health of these new residents. Deadline to apply is July 13th. The following is a link to further information and the application:

<http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=19480>.

III. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:***Sierra Health Foundation: Health Leadership Program***

This intensive six month program is for those who are dedicated to improving the overall quality of life and health of their surrounding community. The curriculum will be developed by the University of Southern California’s School of Policy, Planning and Development and also the Marshall School of Business. This leadership class begins on October 16, 2007. **Application deadline is 5:00pm on Friday, June 29.** The application and more information are available here: <http://sierrahealth.org/doc.aspx?35>.

“How to Promote Healthy Living in Refugee Communities”

Hmong Women’s Heritage Association in collaboration with U.S. Committee for Refugee and Immigrants (USCRI) will be hosting this two day training on health and nutrition for refugee communities on Wednesday, July 18th and Thursday, July 19th from 9 AM-4 PM. The training will be held at: 2251 Florin Road, Suite 104 in Sacramento. Topics include “cultural barriers to nutrition” and “integrating nutrition and health promotion into existing service programs”. The session is open to all refugee service providers, resettlement case workers, employment advocates, ESL teachers, MAAs, refugee advocates, etc. Training materials and meals will be free of charge. To register, please contact: Dao Fang at 916-394-1405 or through e-mail: dao@hmongwomenheritage.org.

IV. COMMUNITY RESOURCES:***“Improving the Medicare Part D Program for the Most Vulnerable Beneficiaries”***

In this Commonwealth Fund report, Georgetown University’s Laura Summer and colleagues explores challenges presented to the frailest, sickest and most vulnerable beneficiaries of Medicare Part D. Included is a list of recommendations that would help alleviate the burden for this group and strengthen the Part D program. The following is a link to the report: http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=484282&#doc_484282.

Creative Ways to Thank Your Funders

Keep up the good relationships with your funders by creatively thanking them. The following link is to an article entitled: “Twelve Ways to Say Thank You”. This is another strategy to keep funders aware of all the good work your organizations are doing and hopefully, this will benefit your organization when the next funding cycle nears. <http://www.snpo.org/verizon/V160616.pdf>.

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>