

The Healthy Elders Leadership Project

HELP Email-Alert

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December 8, 2006

I. GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES:

James Irvine Foundation 2007 Leadership Awards

Irvine is inviting nominations for the 2007 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Awards, which recognize individuals who are advancing innovative, effective solutions to significant issues for California's future. Nominees can be from any field, working in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors. Each recipient receives \$125,000 to advance his or her work. The nomination deadline is January 19, 2007. Find out more and nominate a leader from your community by visiting <http://www.irvine.org/leadershipAwards/>

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

This initiative aims to give immigrants and refugees the tools and support they need to improve and maintain their own health. Today, more than 30 million immigrants and refugees live in the United States. They often have high rates of chronic health problems, due at least in part to difficulties they have getting appropriate social and health services. Language barriers, lack of education and cultural differences sometimes make it harder for immigrants and refugees to obtain culturally appropriate services, outreach or other information that could help them live healthier lives. Grants up to \$300,000 (maximum grant award) for up to three years will be available for 2007. The application deadline is January 15, 2007. For detail information about the program, visit <http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=19480>

II. MEDICARE PART D:

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Deadline Does Not Apply to "Dual Eligibles"

The December 31st deadline is approaching for enrollment in new part D plan. There are exceptions to that deadline. Dual eligibles can change their plan anytime (once a month) even after the December 31st deadline. Individuals enrolled in the Low Income Subsidy will be able to change their plan once anytime during 2007 and then again during the open enrollment period starting on November 15, 2007. Those that are determined to be eligible for LIS can pick a plan after they receive notice of their eligibility.

California Health Care Foundation reports on Part D plans for 2007

CHCF key findings include:

- ◆ The number of participating Part D plans in California will rise from 157 in 2006 to 200 in 2007. Much of this increase is attributable to a growing number of Medicare Advantage health plans with drug coverage.
- ◆ Most beneficiaries in stand-alone drug plans have to switch plans to take advantage of lower median premiums for both stand-alone drug plans and Medicare Advantage drug plans in 2007.
- ◆ More plans are offering coverage for generic drugs in the "doughnut hole" (the gap between the initial coverage limit and the catastrophic coverage threshold).
- ◆ The average co-payment for many generic drugs is falling, while many other benefit features are changing only slightly.
- ◆ Due to changes in federal policy, Medicare beneficiaries eligible for the full federal subsidy can choose from 14 stand-alone plans without paying a premium. The number of Medicare Advantage plans available to full subsidy beneficiaries at no premium varies by county. See report <http://www.chcf.org/topics/view.cfm?itemID=127055>

Medicare Part D Community Discussion

Share stories, lodge complaints, ask questions and exchange ideas about Medicare Part D via the California Health Advocate's **Medicare Part D Community Discussion** page. The site is designed to benefit the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) network, health consumer assistance organizations, community-based agencies and other individuals who are assisting Medicare beneficiaries and their families with Part D related problems, issues or questions. To join the discussion and share stories, just click on the following link:

<http://www.cahealthadvocates.org/partd/>

Part D appeals info. Available in 12 languages

Health Consumer Alliance (HCA) has a consumer fact sheet available on Part D exceptions and appeals in 12 different languages. The fact sheet also includes the standard Coverage Determination request form that beneficiaries or their representatives can use to start the appeals process. The fact sheets are available in Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Chinese, English, Hmong, Korean, Lao, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. See the following link for more details: <http://healthconsumer.org/brochures.htm#medicarepartd4>

III. TRAINING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Health Training Series in Central Valley, California

The Leadership Development in Interethnic Relations (LDIR) Health Training series in Central Valley will occur in February and March 2007. The LDIR's in Health program seeks to challenge and support individuals to broaden their ideas about community health while building deeper solidarities across sectors as individuals work to improve community health. The program provides opportunities for participants to work as a diverse collaborative in order to develop progressive community health strategies for policy and social change. For application and brochure, please contact Yiusa J. Gimeno, Community-based Program Coordinator at (213) 241-0244 or email at yuisa@ldir.org Additional information is available at <http://www.ldir.org>

2007 Women's Health Leadership (WHL)

Women's Health Leadership – Retreats, a program of the Center for Collaborative Planning, Public Health Institute is recruiting for the 2007 class of Women's Health Leadership - Retreats. WHL promotes health and social justice by supporting grassroots women leaders. These retreats are designed to build the capacity of women who already make a difference in their communities and have the desire to strengthen and build on their current work to achieve greater impact. The applications for the 2007 class are being accepted. The deadline for applications is December 22, 2006. Applications are available at <http://www.connectccp.org>.

IV. COMMUNITY RESOURCE:

The Hmong in California: A Case Study

A recent report published in August 2006 by The California Endowment. This latest *Health...In Brief* presents the policies and programs the Hmong community identified to make health and mental health services more culturally appropriate. These policy recommendations also can be more broadly applied to other refugee, immigrant and ethnic communities. A free copy of the PD of the Brief can be downloaded by visiting the following web-link: <http://www.calendow.org/reference/publications/pdf/disparities/Hmong%20Health%20in%20Brief.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>