

MCOA BRIEFS

Weekly News from your State COA Association

Friday 20 January 2012

(Best viewed in, e.g., Outlook/Options/HTML)

**We attempt to keep only the most important or recent news (last 30 days, dated) at the top.
Posting Requests — please notify us when Positions or Inquiries are filled — Thank you
(Posting date is at the right of each entry)**

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**Meetings / For Our Members / Upcoming Events / Member Inquiries / Job Opportunities
“Worth Repeating”**

This email was sent by peter@mcoaonline.com. To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

Submissions / Updates / Comments — peter@mcoaonline.com

ALWAYS ONLINE @ www.mcoaonline.com

The latest MCOA Monthly Newsletter — **December 2011**

Discover the MCOA Bulletin Board

http://www.mcoaonline.com/members_only/mcoabb/

(Right-Click on the open Bulletin Board to save as an icon on your Desktop.)

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Updated Health & Wellness Webpage

Updated webpage: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/wellness/index.php> 1/20

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — See MCOA’s Updated Webinar webpage

Webinars: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/webinar/index.php> 1/20

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — MA Office of Consumer Affairs...

Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs & Business Regulation — www.mass.gov/consumer

The Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation works to protect and educate Massachusetts consumers about their rights in the marketplace. Our efforts range from shopping rights and landlord/tenant rights to concerns regarding identity theft, home improvement, and foreclosures. The Office has recently launched an educational campaign with a website that contains valuable information about how to protect the consumer public. There are two components to this website: the first is a "teaser" page that appears to sell the consumer a work-from-home job that guarantees results no matter the situation of the individual consumer. It has been modeled to look very much like many of the websites that promise guaranteed results, but in fact deliver nothing in return for the consumer's money, or result in identity theft of consumer's personal information. On clicking any of the links to find out more information, the consumer is directed to a second page that reveals that the first page is an example of a scam and is brought to the consumer by the Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs. Most importantly, there is information about spotting fake work from home advertisements. The website also contains valuable information about how to protect yourself as a consumer, and a number of resources to consult if a consumer has become a victim of a scam.

Please help us publicize this website and further educate consumers about false advertising by adding this link to your website: <http://topmassachusettsdeals.com/Work-at-home.html> 1/13

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — MassHealth Eligibility Figures 2012-Jan-1

MassHealth Figures Update – Effective January 1, 2012

Some of the MassHealth amounts have changed effective Jan 1

MassHealth/SHINE Chart: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/wellness/SHINE.php>

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MCOA Briefs: For our Members — EOE A 2012 Incentive Grant Documents

Please find attached four documents for the FY2012 competitive Service Incentive Grant program:

- the announcement itself
- the application form
- a one year SINGLE YEAR budget form, as well as an OPTIONAL multi-year budget attachment

There are some categories that have been introduced this year as a result of requests from Councils on Aging. The turn around time is quick. It is not a complicated process but the focus is to show that these funds DO make a measurable (insofar as practicable) difference in serving seniors...as a way to demonstrate same to the community and others, as well as for continued SIG support should sufficient funds be available.

If you have any question/s regarding the application, please feel free to call me at 1-617-222-7471 or at 1-800-698-9723. Sincerely, Emmett Schmarsow, Prog. Mgr. COAs & Senior Centers, ELD

Documents & Application: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/eoea/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Women's Fund of Western MA Grants

The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts provides funding to organizations and programs working to benefit women and girls in the four counties of western Massachusetts.

The fund seeks to support diverse programs and projects that directly impact individual participants as well as efforts that address the broader social issues affecting women and girls, including advocacy and efforts to change systems and policies. Last year the fund supported nineteen organizations in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties.

The fund makes grants and advances social change in three major focus areas: Educational Access and Success, Economic Justice, and Safety and Freedom from Violence.

The fund will award \$150,000 in grants in the coming year in three funding categories

Deadline: January 31, 2012

Detailed Information: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/grants/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: For our Members — See NCOA's New Benefits Website National Center for Benefits Outreach & Enrollment

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The National Center's website has moved and improved—and now includes a host of new features to help benefits counselors find news and resources. As always, you can download fact sheets with the detailed info you need about core benefits programs, find promising practices in our clearinghouse, and get the latest information related to your work. The site also includes a library where you can find sample outreach materials, webinar slides and Q&A, and publications, searchable by topic, state, and keyword.

New Website: http://www.ncoa.org/enhance-economic-security/center-for-benefits/?utm_source=BenefitsAlert_120104&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=BenefitsAlert

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — RMV 2012 Safe Driving Workshops

Attached is a letter from MassDOT/RMV Registrar Rachel Kaprielian announcing the 2012 Safe Driving Workshop Series. If you have difficulty opening the attachments, please go to <http://www.mass.gov/rmv/forms/eldform.pdf> and follow the instructions on the form.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you and best wishes for a safe and happy holiday! Sincerely, Michele Ellicks, Community Outreach, MassDOT/Registry of Motor Vehicles, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 6620, Boston MA 02115

Letter & Form: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/roads/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Soldier ON for Veteran Senior Housing

On any given night, more than 275,000 veterans can be found huddled on the streets and under the bridges of our country. One in five homeless Americans is a veteran.

The veterans we serve are men and women who have served our country and who now struggle with a variety of issues. They have mental health problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse problems, and other issues that require treatment.

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides health services, but was not created to address homelessness. And other organizations that work with the homeless are not equipped to deal with the unique needs of veterans. We're here [as a non-profit] to fill the gap and to help those who have served reclaim their lives and their place in the community.

Information: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/consumer/veterans.php>

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MCOA Briefs: For our Members — MEMA Winter Preparedness Releases

Dec 7 — Storm Preparedness

Dec 14 — Roof Collapse & Storm Drain Safety

Press Releases: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/EM/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: For our Members — SNAP Information Page at NCOA

NCOA's "Everything you wanted to know about SNAP (but were afraid to ask)"

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly called the Food Stamp program, helps your clients with limited income and resources afford to eat well. Yet only 3 out of 10 eligible seniors get SNAP. Learn how to connect your clients to this critical benefit. Learn what SNAP is, how it works, and the eligibility criteria.

Information: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/consumer/foodstamps.php>

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MCOA Briefs: For our Members — SNAP's Medical Expense Deductions

Please know that a user-friendly website with respect to Medical Expense Deductions that may enhance support from the SNAP program may be found at <http://www.masslegalhelp.org/income-benefits/food-stamps/medical-expense-deductions>.

(with special thanks to Kathy Urquhart and Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello)

Courtesy: Emmett Schmarsow, Prog. Mgr. COAs & Senior Centers, ELD

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MCOA Briefs: For our Members — From the Center – South County TV

The South County Senior Center produces a show titled From the Center that airs on Frontier Community Access Television every Monday at 5 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. The show can be seen in Deerfield, Whately, Sunderland and Conway on channel 12. Past episodes can be seen by anyone with internet access at www.fcat12.org. If you click on "videos on demand" and then click on "From the Center" it will list all the past episodes which include shows about Adult Family Care, RSVP, SHINE, Benefits Counseling, Elder Law, and more. While some shows might be of more interest to people in the local area, some could be helpful to people in other areas of the state as well. We receive help from the station and from the local high school in producing this show and it has become an important outreach tool. The station is also going to provide the local libraries with copies of the show on DVD so people who don't have cable TV can see it as well. Anyone wanting more information about the show can contact me at scsc@town.deerfield.ma.us or 413-665-2141. Mary Wheelan, Director

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Upcoming Events — by Event Date

MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — Gerontology Classes at UMass/Boston

The list of classes for the Gerontology Undergraduate Program at UMass Boston for spring 2012 is now available. Registration is currently ongoing.

On-campus classes begin the week of January 22 and online classes begin the week of January 30.

We offer the 18 credit Manning Certificate Program, the 12 credit Certificate in Gerontological Social Policy (all can be used toward the BA program) and the BA program in Gerontology.

Please contact Mary St. Jean at 617-287-7330 for any questions about the program.

Gerontology Classes: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/edu/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — CDSMP Leader Training in Boston (JP)

Chronic Disease Self-Management Group Leader Training — We are delighted that you are interested in becoming a Chronic Disease Self-Management Course leader! The Self-Management Course leaders training will take place at: Ethos, 555 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

When: **January 30, 31, and February 6, 7** – 9:00-4:00

Information Flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/edu/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — CMS Medicare training webinar schedule

These training sessions provide current, accurate, consistent Medicare information and materials for people who are new to Medicare and those people wanting a refresher. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is authorized by The International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) to offer 0.4 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for this program.

Four training sessions: ~~1-2 November 2011~~ / **6-7 March 2012** / **5-6 June 2012** / **2-3 October 2012**

Flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — LGBT Elders in a Changing World

An interdisciplinary Practice and Policy Conference for Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and transgender older adults and caregivers

Friday 16 March 2012 — 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Salem State University School of Social Work, Marsh Conference Center, Central Campus, Salem MA

Keynote Speaker:

Judith Bradford, Ph.D., Director, Center for Population Research in LGBT Health, The Fenway Institute

Flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — AAA Western Mass Eldercare Conference

May 22, 2012 — ~Aging Well, Living Well~ — 22nd Western Massachusetts Elder Conference

Holyoke Community College, Kittredge Center, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke MA 01040

Attached, you will find our Save the Date card to announce our Western Mass Eldercare Conference. Please send this out to your mailing lists, agencies, and any other appropriate recipients. I would appreciate a quick email back telling me who you sent it to and also an email with responses.

I hope you all have a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving, Heather Jolicoeur, AAA Community Coordinator, (Area Agency on Aging), Greater Springfield Senior Services, (413)781-8800 ext. 148

Attached Flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — Aging With Dignity 2012 Conference
“Preventing and Responding to Substance Use and Related Problems in Older Adults”
Wednesday, June 6, 2012 — College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA
Flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php> 12/9

Member Inquiries
(Posting COAs — please notify us when inquiries are answered — Thank you)

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Employment Contracts for Directors ?
I would like to know if most COA Directors have an employment contract. Would anyone be willing to share a copy of their contract? The salary can be blacked-out. Thanks.
Carole Mullen, Hopedale COA — ckmullen@comcast.net 1/20

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Available Photocopier
We have a copier that is in great shape, collates, staples etc. We had to change this year to a copier printer. I would like to offer this to another COA or Senior Center for \$200.00, otherwise the town will put it in the town auction.
Florence Choate, Director, Scituate COA — 781-545-8722 — fchoate@town.scituate.ma.us 1/13

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Zipcars & Volunteers to Transport Srs ?
If your COA is using Zipcars to transport seniors with or without the help of volunteers. Please respond via email. Thank you.
Dawn Folopoulos, Director, Melrose Council on Aging, COA@cityofmelrose.org 12/30

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Successful Presentation Topics ?
Our presentations are no longer bringing out the crowds... even when there is food. If you have had successful presentations please share the topics? Thank you.
Dawn Folopoulos, Director, Melrose Council on Aging, COA@cityofmelrose.org 12/30

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — RUOK or Select Reverse 911 Programs ?
Our Consortium has recognized that the physical isolation of many of our seniors puts them at risk, especially when we have severe weather conditions. We are looking at a variety of means of lessening this risk. One of the services we are considering is the RUOK program or possibility a select reverse 911 program. We are also considering a program using volunteers to make calls to seniors. We are interested in knowing if you know of any COAs in Massachusetts who have a successful RUOK or volunteer calling program? We would like to contact them and learn from their experience rather than possibly making unnecessary mistakes and gain recommendations and knowledge from them.
George M. Reichert, Coordinator II, Southern Hilltown COA Consortium — 413-348-9909 12/16

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Special Event ‘COA-Group’ Fundraising?
Volunteers at a number of seniors centers would like to form a group to fundraise for special events, etc. Monies raised would be donated to the senior center for the particular event or necessity. To your knowledge has this been done at other senior centers without calling themselves “The Friends of.....”? We want to make sure this is something we can do without concerns of any sort.
Felice Monteiro, COA Coordinator, 181 Hillman St., Bldg. 9, New Bedford MA 02740
508-991-6251 — 508-979-1514 Fax — Felice.Monteiro@newbedford-ma.gov 12/16

Job Opportunities

(Posting COAs — please notify us when position is filled — Thank you)

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Arlington – COA Executive Director

Professional, supervisory, administrative, and clinical work developing and implementing programs of the Council on Aging; all other related work, as required. See Town of Arlington website:

http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Personnel/jobdescriptions/Executive%20Director%20COA

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MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Westport – Transportation Clerk PT

The Westport Council on Aging seeks qualified applicants for the position of Transportation Clerk for 16 hours per week. **Deadline 3pm Monday 30 January 2012.**

Full Job Description: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/jobs/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Westport – Social Day Care Director PT

The Westport Council on Aging seeks qualified applicants for the position of Director - Social Day Care Program - 25 hours per week. **Deadline 3pm Monday 30 January 2012.**

Full Job Description: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/jobs/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Norwood – Outreach Worker

The Norwood Council on Aging is seeking a qualified, energetic and creative candidate for the position of Outreach Worker.

Please see www.norwoodma.gov under Employment Opportunities for a detailed vacancy notice.

Job Posting and Requirements: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/jobs/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Orleans – Director, Council on Aging

The Town of Orleans is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of Council on Aging Director. This is a management position with full benefits.

Full Job Description: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/jobs/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Danvers – Social Service Coordinator

This is a 30 hour benefitted position. A valid driver's license and personal transportation is required. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications.

Full Job Description: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/jobs/index.php>

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— ★ WORTH REPEATING ★ —

[NB: Please re-send your submissions after 30 days]

Seniors, Workers say NO CUTS to Medicare, Social Security Watch. Share. Take action today!

Tens of thousands of AARP members, families and workers across the Bay State, and the nation, are speaking out against proposed cuts to Medicare and Social Security as part of a deal to pay the nation's bills. They're sending a loud and clear message to the bipartisan, congressional Super Committee, charged with reducing the federal deficit: No cuts to Medicare and Social Security! The Super Committee, of which Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry is a member, just failed to meet its deadline.

Watch this short video, filmed at last week's big rally in Boston, to hear Mark, Sue, Linda and others share their stories about the Medicare and Social Security benefits they worked for, and count on. The direct link to the video is: http://www.youtube.com/aarpma#p/u/0/0YCruc-9C_Y

Share it with your friends. Forward this email to at least 3 people. Ask them to watch the video, and then share it with at least 3 of their friends.

Take action today. Tell your Members of Congress, including Sen. Kerry and Sen. Brown, why Medicare and Social Security are important to you. **Call 1-888-722-8514 today.**

Call AARP's toll-free number and be connected to your members of Congress — 1-888-722-8514

For up-to-date news and more information, visit www.aarp.org/ma and www.facebook.com/aarpma (we hope you will "Like" us [Facebook] today!)

Flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/medicare/index.php>

Thank you! — AARP Massachusetts

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We are collecting info on any cuts...

SAVE OUR Senior Centers Task Force: Is actively tracking the impact the FY12 budget on senior centers and staffing. Please send updates and your concerns to Ruthann Dobek/Brookline — Ruthann_Dobek@town.brookline.ma.us and Jayne Colino/ Newton — jcolino@newtonma.gov **We also need a copy sent to Peter@mcoaonline.com**