

April 16, 2025

## AFPHS News



### News:

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#### **New Special Edition of *Generations Journal*, the journal of the American Society on Aging**

The **[Spring edition of the \*Generation Journal\*](#)** is a special issue focused on the age-friendly ecosystem. The Promise of an Age-Friendly Ecosystem was guest edited by TFAH staff members Megan Wolfe and Karon Phillips, who lead the AFPHS movement. It includes articles touching on the impact of cumulative inequities on older adult health, partnering to re-imagine an age-friendly future, and other thought-provoking topics by authors across the ecosystem.

#### **New AFPHS Podcast**

In the **[latest episode of Age-Friendly Public Health: The Podcast](#)**, Katie Adamson, Vice President for Health Partnerships and Policy at YMCA of the USA shares well-known and subtle ways YMCAs across the country partner with the public health sector to support healthy aging.

#### **Did You Know...?**

TFAH has developed a series of one-pagers that provide public health strategies to address social isolation, extreme heat, rural health, housing, transportation (and many other topics) in support of older adults. The **[one-pagers](#)** also provide recommendations for public health activities and partnerships that align with the tenets of the AFPHS 6Cs Framework.

### Events and Opportunities:

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#### **Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings**

During emergencies and disasters, the public health system plays a crucial role in the protection of people and communities. Trust for America's Health's annual **[Ready or Not report](#)** measures states' preparedness to respond to a spectrum of health emergencies based on nine key indicators and gives federal and state policymakers actionable data to improve emergency readiness.

The April AFPHS training will provide an overview of the 2025 Ready or Not report and include examples of state and local preparedness strategies that align with the AFPHS 6Cs Framework. The speaker for this session is Matt McKillip, Senior Health Policy Researcher and Analyst, Trust for America's Health.

You can register for one or all of the 2025 trainings [here](#).

Become an AFPHS Champion! The AFPHS monthly training series can build your expertise and healthy aging knowledge. Individuals who attend 6 or more AFPHS monthly trainings will be designated as AFPHS Champions. Over 170 people in 24 states across the country have been recognized as Champions to date. Visit the [AFPHS Recognition Program page](#) for more information.

**Grandmothers at the Helm: The Unique Leadership of Older Women in Times of Change** – *Thursday, April 17, 2025, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm ET.*

Older women have played a pivotal role in strengthening communities. Their lived experience, accumulated wisdom, and deep community ties position them as uniquely capable leaders. This seminar in the “Asset in Aging: Capabilities that Accrue with Longer Lives” series hosted by Columbia University will demonstrate the broader societal benefits of recognizing and investing in older women’s contributions. Register [here](#).

**Stuck in Place: How Housing Policies Shape Mobility and Economic Opportunity** – *Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET.*

Given the increasing demand for homes, policymakers at all levels of government are grappling with how to expand supply and support households struggling to afford housing. The Bipartisan Policy Center is hosting a panel discussion on how zoning and land-use reforms can expand housing supply; the policies needed to help families access areas of greater opportunity; and how federal, state, and local leaders can work together to unlock the housing market. Register [here](#).

**Building Community Care Hubs to Address Health-Related Social Needs: Lessons from New York and North Carolina Medicaid** – *Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 1:00 pm ET.*

The Center for Health Care Strategies is hosting a webinar where participants will learn about how state Medicaid programs’ community care hub models implement and design health-related social needs services to address community needs. Register [here](#).

**Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium** – *Thursday, May 1, 2025, 10:00 am ET.*

The National Council on Aging is hosting the eighth annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium. The attendees will hear from experts across the field about how to support the mental health and well-being of older adults. Register [here](#).

**The Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model: An Interactive Q&A Panel** – *Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 2:30 pm ET.*

The BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities is hosting a panel discussion and Q&A session about the GUIDE Model. This session is specifically tailored for people living with dementia; their family, friends, or other care partners; and healthcare professionals wishing to learn more about the resources and support possible in the GUIDE Model. Register [here](#).

**StARS Center’s Dementia Care Innovation Grants**

The StARS Center announced a grant funding opportunity starting in October 2025 for organizations interested in dementia care innovation projects. The grant will fund up to four projects that advance understanding of dementia care programs, improve accessibility and effectiveness of dementia care services, and promote data sharing across state dementia services. Find more information [here](#).

**New Funding Opportunity for Rural PACE**

The Health Resources and Services Administration announced a new Rural Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Planning and Development [grant opportunity](#). Grant recipients can use funding to develop a new PACE program or expand an existing PACE program in rural areas. Applications are due **April 17, 2025**.

## Resources:

### [Caregivers](#)

#### **Supporting Family Caregivers with Medicaid**

The National Alliance for Caregiving published a [policy brief](#) on The Role of Medicaid in Supporting Family Caregivers. The brief highlights Medicaid as a primary means of support for family caregivers and home- and community-based service provision and reviews how Medicaid policy affects caregivers.

#### **Impact of Cuts to Medicaid on Older Adults**

The Milbank Memorial Fund published a [blog post](#) titled “Aging at Risk: The Impact of

Medicaid Cuts on Older Adults.” The blog focuses on how potential reductions in federal spending on Medicaid would impact the caregivers who rely on Medicaid to keep older adults in their homes and communities as they age. The report highlights home- and community-based services, the direct care workforce, and Medicare access as the three benefits Medicaid cuts would most likely affect.

### **Map of Medicaid Waiver Support for Caregivers**

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) and The John A. Hartford Foundation developed a [map](#) of existing state Medicaid waivers that support the education, training, and support for family caregivers. The map and chart highlight key differences among the 26 states that provide Medicaid coverage for these benefits and show which states have not yet implemented similar waivers.

### **Resources for Family Caregivers**

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) created a [Resource Guide for Family Caregivers](#) based on existing resources that support the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers. The guide provides information for caregivers about resources that help them stay healthy, socially connected, and engaged with culturally-appropriate support.

### **Course on Providing Care to Trauma-Affected Individuals**

The Jewish Federations of North America Center on Aging, Trauma, and Holocaust Survivor Care launched a Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed (PCTI) Essentials for Aging Services [online course](#). The course provides comprehensive training for caregivers and aging service organizations involved in caring for trauma-affected individuals. The PCTI approach offers a holistic approach to caregiving that promotes the dignity and agency of care recipients.

### **Health Conditions**

#### **Infographic on the Burden of Chronic Disease**

The National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation published a [new infographic](#) on the growing burden of chronic diseases. The infographic showcases statistics about chronic disease prevalence, risk, cost, and disparities. The tool can be used to provide chronic disease education and advocacy.

#### **New Video on Shifting Language about Health Conditions**

The National Center to Reframe Aging released a new [video](#) on shifting language on health issues as part of its frame of mind series. The video addresses societal beliefs about health conditions as an individual burden as opposed to a public health concern. It also shows how to use language to shift perspectives on health services and supports for people across the lifespan.

### **Additional Resources**

#### **New Online Course on Elder Abuse**

ADvancing States iQ Online Learning Center, in partnership with the National Center on Elder Abuse, published an updated introductory course on elder abuse for individuals in the aging and disability fields. The course, [available on ADvancing States’ online learning system](#), will explain the impact of elder abuse and strategies to address it. Key topics include protective factors, consequences, and responses to elder abuse.

#### **Digital Nutrition Services**

The Center for Health Care Strategies published a [profile](#) on the Attane Health and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield’s partnership that focused on providing digital-driven nutrition services in Jefferson County, Kentucky. This pilot program supported the provision of home-delivered groceries and tele-nutrition coaching to 66 Medicaid enrollees in the state with diabetes who are experiencing food insecurity. The key results from this pilot included behavior change (e.g., eating healthier foods) and reduced food insecurity for the participants.

#### **Intensive Outpatient Services Coverage Changes**

The Center for Health Care Strategies published a new [brief](#) on recommendations for states on changes in coverage for intensive outpatient services. As of January 2024, Medicare provides coverage for intensive outpatient services which may impact Medicaid and state budgets, thus affecting dual-eligible beneficiaries and access. The brief provides recommendations for states interested in improving awareness about coverage changes, data sharing, and other implementation details.

#### **Emergency Preparedness in Nursing Homes**

In March of 2025, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a [report](#) that revealed a gap in nursing home oversight of emergency preparedness assessment. According to the report, one in four state agencies lack the expertise to determine if nursing homes are

prepared to respond to crises. In addition, the current oversight approach only checks to see if emergency plans exist, and does not assess whether or not the plans are workable. The OIG recommends that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services improve surveyor guidance and encourage more collaboration with local emergency response partners.

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