

Division of Aging and Adult Services

July 2021 Newsletter

Governor Spencer J. Cox Signs Declaration



Spencer J. Cox Governor Declaration

Whereas, older adults deserve to be treated with respect and dignity to enable them to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers and vital participating members of our communities;

Whereas, in 2006, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, in support of the United Nations International Plan of Action, proclaimed a day to recognize the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue;

Whereas, recognition of 2021 marks the 15th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, promoting a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults;

Whereas, The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) and Utah's Aging network, to include the Division of Aging and Adult Services, AARP Utah, Utah Commission on Aging, Alzheimer's Association Utah Chapter, Utah 211, and Utah's Association of Area Agencies on Aging, recognize the importance of taking action to raise awareness, prevent and address elder abuse;

Whereas, as our population lives longer, we are presented with an opportunity to think about our collective needs and future as a nation as our population lives longer;

Whereas, ageism and social isolation are major causes of elder abuse in the United States; and,

Whereas, preventing abuse of older adults through maintaining and improving social supports like senior centers, human services and transportation will allow everyone to continue to live as independently as possible and contribute to the life and vibrancy of our communities;

Now, Therefore, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the great state of Utah, do hereby declare June 15, 2021, as

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Utah

Spencer J. Cox
Governor



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Utah

The Division of Aging and Adult Services partnered with AARP Utah, Utah Commission on Aging, Utah 211 and the Alzheimer's Association Utah Chapter to sponsor a virtual conference focusing attention on Elder Abuse Awareness in Utah. Countdown videos were created by Robert Moolman, Heather Simonsen, Kyle Whittingham, Asha Parekh, Nels Holmgren and Jim Winder, and shared across a number of platforms to raise awareness about the event. Recordings of the keynote speaker, Paul Greenwood, and breakout sessions are available on YouTube. Click [here](#) to view, subscribe, and follow.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was started on June 15, 2006, as a way to increase knowledge about abuse, neglect and exploitation of elder adults and to create a call-to-action for the community. An estimated five million older adults are abused, neglected or exploited every year, leading to negative consequences and sometimes even premature death. Both individually and as a society, action should be taken to respond with compassion and effective solutions.

The conference was successful in raising awareness about elder abuse, but there is still much work to be done to prevent abuse and protect our elder adults. The causes of elder abuse are complex, and WEAAD reminds us that elder abuse is a public health and human rights issue as well as a cultural dilemma.

If you suspect that an older adult is being abused, neglected or exploited, make a report to Adult Protective Services or your local law enforcement agency. To report, call 1-800-371-7897 or visit daas.utah.gov.

Photos: Thank you to our Meals on Wheels drivers throughout the state for their work in raising awareness about WEAAD.



Did You Know?

On May 12, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched the Emergency Broadband Benefit. Through this benefit, eligible low-income households can receive a discount of up to \$50 per month to cover internet bills and discounts on some devices. Households on tribal lands can receive a discount up to \$75 per month. Applications for the program can be completed by visiting GetEmergencyBroadband.org, or by calling a participating provider directly. A list of participating providers can be found on the website. Applicants may also call 833-511-0311 to request a mail-in application. Service providers can find resources to advertise this benefit by visiting the [Emergency Broadband Benefit Outreach Toolkit](#).



Program Highlight: Alternatives Program

The Home and Community-Based Alternatives Program provides in-home services that help Utah's older adults remain in their homes and communities as they age to prevent premature, and often costly, placement in nursing and assisted living facilities.

The alternatives program is the most flexible of all in-home programs, which enables case managers to custom-design a service package that meets each client's unique needs. Individuals in the program also receive customized benefits, which enhance their quality of life, promote independence in their own home and improve the general well-being of Utah's adults.

One of the primary services offered through this program is case management. Every Area Agency on Aging (AAA) office in Utah has professional case managers who are trained in the issues of aging and familiar with local community resources. Utah's communities are varied and unique, and an understanding of local resources helps case managers provide excellent, individualized service.

AAA Recognition

Congratulations to two of the AAAs for their hard work in hosting successful conferences during May!

Five County Area Agency on Aging hosted the 19th Annual Seniors Conference, and Salt Lake County Aging and Adult Services hosted the Utah Elder Justice Conference.

Both of these virtual conferences were available at no cost to the public, were well-attended and provided a wealth of knowledge to our community.

Thank you!

Other typical services provided by this program include personal care, homemaking services, transportation, medication management, emergency response systems, equipment rental or purchase, respite care and various chore services. Clients' individual strengths and resources are incorporated and built into every service plan.

In Fiscal Year 2020, 909 individuals were served by this program, and there is an ever-growing waiting list. Individuals consistently express sincere gratitude for these services. Even as their independence decreases with age, these services allow them to stay in their own homes where they feel safe and comfortable.

Frontline case managers throughout the state made many selfless sacrifices over the last year. As COVID-19 raged throughout the world and Utah, the AAA case managers came up with innovative ideas to keep the participants on this program safe, and provide all the needed services to clients in unique and creative ways. The case managers' commitment to continue providing individualized service and friendship was truly inspiring. These efforts were felt and appreciated by many.

Clients must meet age, frailty and financial eligibility guidelines to receive services under this program.

To learn more about this program, call the AAA in your area and ask for more information about the Alternatives Program. Contact information for every AAA in Utah can be found at <https://daas.utah.gov/locations-new/>.



Community Partner Spotlight

Utah 211 provides people with ways to get and give help. By simply dialing 211, callers can connect to health and human resources they need and find meaningful volunteer opportunities. These free and confidential services can be navigated by phone call, text, email, web, chat or app, making it easy to access the services no matter the situation.

Utah 211 provides important services to older adults in Utah. Through partnerships with other providers, Utah 211 has expanded services to assist those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Two of these initiatives include the Utah 211 Ride United and Ride United Vaccine Access programs.

The Utah 211 Ride United Program is a partnership between United Way Worldwide, Lyft and Utah 211. Its purpose is to provide rides to Utahns who otherwise have no resources for one-time transportation needs. Clients contact Utah 211 to schedule rides to and from their medical, employment, food access, financial and education related appointments. These rides are available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you are a provider, please contact Eduardo Cerna, eduardo.cerna@uw.org, for more information.

The Ride United Vaccine Access Program is a partnership with United Way Worldwide, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah and Lyft. Utah 211 is scheduling free rides to and from COVID-19 vaccination appointments in the following nine counties: Box Elder, Davis, Salt Lake, Tooele, Uintah, Utah, Wasatch, Washington and Weber. Vaccine appointments must be scheduled and riders must comply with COVID-19 safety measures. Rides can be scheduled by dialing 211 Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

DAAS would like to extend our utmost appreciation to Utah 211, not only for the important service they provide to the state, but also their continued partnership on many DAAS initiatives. Utah 211 has served on the Elder Abuse Awareness Day Planning Committee, provided DAAS with information on the needs of vulnerable adults, and participated in the DAAS Steering Committee, which works to identify gaps in services and improve outcomes for older adults. These resources are of paramount importance to the well-being of our communities, and we are thankful for their continued service.



Upcoming Events

Free webinar: **Top Medicare and Senior Related Scams**, presented by the Federal Trade Commission and Utah Senior Medicare Patrol, will be held virtually at 10 a.m. July 14. Register at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zYYDA5aiT1ya1KziD4dlkw

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To report abuse,
neglect, or
exploitation of a
vulnerable adult:

Report by Telephone
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
1-800-371-7897

Report Online 24/7
daas.utah.gov