



FLORIDA COUNCIL ON AGING

# AGEWISE

Florida Council on Aging Membership Newsletter

Hi To All

As my term as President ends and we welcome new leadership to our FCOA Board of Trustees I want to express my gratitude and sincere appreciation to our membership for the energy, support, and enthusiasm I have received during my term. I have enjoyed collaborating closely with new people and learning from our members. Even with the challenges we faced due to Covid, we were able to continue our work and thrive as an organization.

September-  
October 2023

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AgeWise Newsletter  
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I was especially proud of our annual Conference in August. It was an incredible event, made possible by the hard work of our conference program committee, as well as other FCOA members and our partners FASP and Elder Affairs. We started the conference with an appearance and message from the Secretary of the Department of Elder Affairs, Michelle Branham. The conference also highlighted dynamic speakers and presenters on topics as diverse as artificial intelligence to the growing demand on family caregivers.

Additionally, Margaret Lynn Duggar & Associates, our sponsors, our exhibitors, and our volunteers provided resources and countless hours of support that added to making the conference special. It was truly the highlight of my tenure as your President. I believe FCOA is growing, becoming stronger, and will continue to be one of the most respected organizations working to advance seniors and senior issues in Florida.

I can say that definitively, because our new board will now be led by one of the most trusted, knowledgeable, and capable individuals in the aging field, Florida AARP President, Jeff Johnson. Jeff is a talented and effective senior advocate, as well as a skillful leader, and supporter of senior issues.

He has been an outstanding board member and President-Elect for FCOA, as well. I am confident he will continue to improve and enhance the good work of Florida Council on Aging. I know I am speaking for us all when I say we welcome his leadership, and we work with him to achieve his goals and vision for FCOA.

Please welcome our new board members and our new President!

And always remember....

We are better together!

Terri

Teresa Barton  
FCOA President 2021-2023



Jeff Johnson, FCOA President presenting outgoing FCOA President with a gift of appreciation at the August FCOA Board of Trustees Meeting.

## FCOA President Column



It is truly an honor to take on the role of President of the Florida Council on Aging for the next year. It has been my privilege to serve on FCOA's Board for several terms over the last decade, and I am always impressed by the passionate, intelligent, knowledgeable and diverse voices that come together to provide leadership to this organization.

There are two visions for what FCOA is, and they have both been around for the 20+ years that I've been affiliated with the organization.

The first vision is the one articulated often by FCOA Executive Director Margaret Lynn Duggar: ***The Florida Council On Aging aspires to be the one place where a broad range of organizations and leaders who care about aging can come together, build relationships, and learn from each other in order to find common ground in our work to make Florida a better place for all of us to age.*** In this regard, I think of the fact that my organization, AARP, and utility companies are often on opposite sides of legislative and regulatory issues, but we can come to FCOA with mutual respect as we focus on a common interest in aging. I think also of predecessors of mine like Susan Ponder-Stansel who have been exemplary FCOA contributors from outside the "traditional aging network."

But I also hear another perception of what FCOA is: ***It is "just for traditional service providers."*** I have heard this directly and indirectly from a variety of places, and maybe you have too. I am a BIG fan of the aging network, and AARP is a proud supporter of the Florida Association of Aging Services Providers (FASP). I am glad that FCOA has such a strong partner in FASP. But in order to be the "United Nations for aging" that Florida desperately needs, we can't be "only for service providers".

FCOA does quite a bit to live up to that first vision. The number of people and organizations at the conference from outside the aging network, and the depth and breadth of topics we cover at the conference, through Age-Wise, and through FCOA's virtual offerings throughout the year are good examples of the breadth of our organization. But we need to be aware that there is another perception of the organization and consider how we present FCOA. We need to share that we are a comprehensive organization that includes service providers, entrepreneurs, medical providers and developers, academics, lawyers, advocates, law enforcement, housing providers and everyone else whose impact affects older adults.

This leads me to two questions that will guide my time in this role:

The first: ***Which vision of FCOA are we supporting through the way we work together and the way we present ourselves?***

We know demographically that we are going through a generational shift change as members of the Boomer generation retire. At this point Gen Xers are not too far behind, so it is more critical than ever that FCOA be a welcoming place for future generations of leaders in aging, not only those who are stepping into executive roles now, but those who are just starting their careers.

One of the great strengths of FCOA is the powerful network of leaders in the world of aging. So, the second question I'll be asking is about our future. ***Will we be the last generation of FCOA members, or will we welcome the next one in? Will we be a river, or a pond?***

I can think of many local groups that have "aged in place", maintaining the same network of members in a very tight community to the detriment of welcoming new faces. In the end, they lose steam as their core group slows down or moves on. They forget that organizations can be rivers through which people come and go, or they can become ponds that don't change until they dry up.

I believe we are already working to answer these questions in very positive ways, and I am excited to be a part of making even more progress in helping FCOA fulfill its vision and secure its future. I welcome any of you who have suggestions about how we can better fulfill our vision and welcome future generations to contact me at [jpjohnson@aarp.org](mailto:jpjohnson@aarp.org) or speak with your local Board member.



# Thank You For Your Sponsorship of the 2023 Florida Conference on Aging

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## Here for You: Help for Our Customers

We understand that higher electric bills in 2023, especially combined with rising costs on so many other fronts, will be a significant hardship for many. At Duke Energy, we're committed to helping you through these challenging times, keeping your needs our priority. That is why we hope you will look into our many programs, tools and tips that can help you save energy and money, including:

### SUMMER ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

High temperatures can lead to higher energy usage and bills as people try to stay cool. But you can save money when the thermostat climbs with these energy-saving tips:

#### At home:

- Set your thermostat to the highest comfortable setting. The smaller the difference between the inside and outside temperatures, the lower your energy usage and bill will be.
- Avoid using your washer/dryer and dishwasher during the high-demand hours of 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. The most energy-efficient times to run these appliances are before noon and overnight. Check to see if your appliances have a delay or scheduling function to help target these time frames. Set your washer to high-spin mode for less water in the clothes and less time in the dryer – and hang dry when possible.
- Close blinds, drapes and curtains during the hottest part of the day. Keeping your blinds, drapes and curtains closed will help prevent the sun's rays from heating your house.
- Use a ceiling fan in occupied rooms to supplement your air conditioning. Make sure the fans are set to operate in a counterclockwise direction to circulate cool air in living spaces (hot air rises while cool air falls naturally). Only use ceiling fans in rooms that are occupied; fans cool people, not things.
- Consider changing or cleaning your air filters. A dirty air filter makes an HVAC system work harder, which uses more energy.
- Replace standard incandescent bulbs with light-emitting diodes (LED). LEDs are more efficient while giving off the same amount of light.
- Grill outdoors. Using your electric oven and stovetop creates a lot of indoor heat. Help save energy by firing up the grill outdoors or prepare meals that don't require cooking.
- Turn off any unnecessary appliances and lights, which add to your electricity demand.

#### At work:

- Plug your electronics into a power strip, which makes it easier to turn them off when they're not in use – electronics continue to use energy when plugged in, even if they are powered down.
- To keep coffee hot longer without wasting energy, turn off the coffeemaker and pour hot coffee into a thermos or insulated carafe.
- Save energy by unplugging any devices you don't use often and lowering the brightness on computer and other screens.

Find more tips at [duke-energy.com/Summer](https://duke-energy.com/Summer).

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

**Free Home Assessment:** Find ways to reduce your home's energy use, learn how to lower your bill and see if you qualify for rebates and free energy-saving products at [duke-energy.com/FreeHomeCheck](https://duke-energy.com/FreeHomeCheck).

**EnergyWise® Home:** Save on your electric bill by getting up to \$141 in annual bill credits while helping your community reduce energy use during periods of high demand. Find out if you are eligible at [duke-energy.com/EWSavings](https://duke-energy.com/EWSavings).

## CONVENIENT BILLING AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

We offer convenient billing and payment programs that can help you better manage your bill and budget. We can also connect you with different community resources that may be able to offer financial assistance.

**Budget Billing:** Even out your monthly bill payments. You get predictable monthly bills regardless of your energy use or the weather, so it's easier to stay on budget. Plus, there are two convenient payment plans to choose from. Learn more at [duke-energy.com/BudgetBilling](https://duke-energy.com/BudgetBilling).

**Installment Plans/Payment Plans:** Pay back balances over longer periods of time. Eligible customers can request flexible plans that give you more time to pay. Learn about the options at [duke-energy.com/MoreTime](https://duke-energy.com/MoreTime).

**Usage Alerts:** Get more control over your electricity use and spending. If you have a smart meter, a mobile phone or an email address on file, you'll automatically be enrolled to receive notifications showing how much electricity you're using and how much it may cost, in time to adjust. Learn more at [duke-energy.com/UsageAlerts](https://duke-energy.com/UsageAlerts).

**Pick Your Due Date:** With Pick Your Due Date, you can choose the date you want your energy bills to be due each month. Learn more at [duke-energy.com/PYDD](https://duke-energy.com/PYDD).

**Due Date Extension:** If you know ahead of time that you will miss your due date, this payment option may be for you. Extend your payment due date by up to 10 business days to avoid late fees. Learn more at [duke-energy.com/ExtendDueDate](https://duke-energy.com/ExtendDueDate).

**Disconnect Extensions:** This payment option gives residential and business customers up to two weeks to pay their past-due balance and avoid disconnection. Learn more at [duke-energy.com/Disconnect](https://duke-energy.com/Disconnect).

**Weatherization:** This program is designed to help income-qualified customers save energy and reduce expenses through the installation of energy conservation measures in their homes. The program is available to single-family homes and multifamily units, both owners and renters with owner approval. Eligibility of participation is determined by the weatherization office and an in-home assessment. Learn more at [duke-energy.com/Weatherization](https://duke-energy.com/Weatherization).

## ASSISTANCE AGENCIES

If you or someone you know is having trouble paying for housing or utility expenses, there are more options to receive help than ever before. New and existing assistance programs are currently available, all purposely designed to help those in need. Assistance agencies in your area may be able to help make payments to cover some or all of your past-due utility bill balance.

**For example:**

**211:** Dial 211, visit [211.org](https://211.org) online or **text your ZIP code to 898211** for information on where to get help. This free service helps connect customers to local community agencies supplying aid for a wide range of needs, including help with energy bills.

**Share the Light Fund®:** Duke Energy's Share the Light Fund helps those in need pay their energy bills. The fund is comprised of donations from employees and customers, of which the Duke Energy Foundation matches up to \$500,000. One hundred percent of collected funds is distributed locally through social service agencies, community action agencies or United Way organizations to help those in need. To find an agency in your county, visit [duke-energy.com/ShareTheLight](https://duke-energy.com/ShareTheLight).

**Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):** This income-based assistance program allows those earning below certain income thresholds to qualify for federal energy bill assistance money. The qualifying income thresholds are based on factors that include household income and the number of people living in your home. To learn how to qualify and apply for LIHEAP funds, call 866.674.6327 or visit [floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/community-services/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program](https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/community-services/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program).

**Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program (EHEAP):** The Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program assists low-income households, with at least one person age 60 or older, when the households are experiencing a home energy emergency. A home energy emergency may result from a delinquent utility bill, lack of fuel or wood, or the receipt of a shut-off notice. Visit [elderaffairs.org/programs-services/housing-options/eheap](https://elderaffairs.org/programs-services/housing-options/eheap) to see if you qualify.

**If you need assistance paying utility bills,  
there are programs that may be available to help.**

Learn more at [duke-energy.com/Help4You](https://duke-energy.com/Help4You)  
Or call us Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at 800.700.8744



## A New Medicare Proposal Would Cover Training for Family Caregivers

By Judith Graham

AUGUST 18, 2023

Even with extensive caregiving experience, Patti LaFleur was unprepared for the crisis that hit in April 2021, when her mother, Linda LaTurner, fell out of a chair and broke her hip.

LaTurner, 71, had been diagnosed with early-onset dementia seven years before. For two years, she'd been living with LaFleur, who managed insulin injections for her mother's Type 1 diabetes, helped her shower and dress, dealt with her incontinence, and made sure she was eating well.

In the hospital after her mother's hip replacement, LaFleur was told her mother would never walk again. When LaTurner came home, two emergency medical technicians brought her on a stretcher into the living room, put her on the bed LaFleur had set up, and wished LaFleur well.

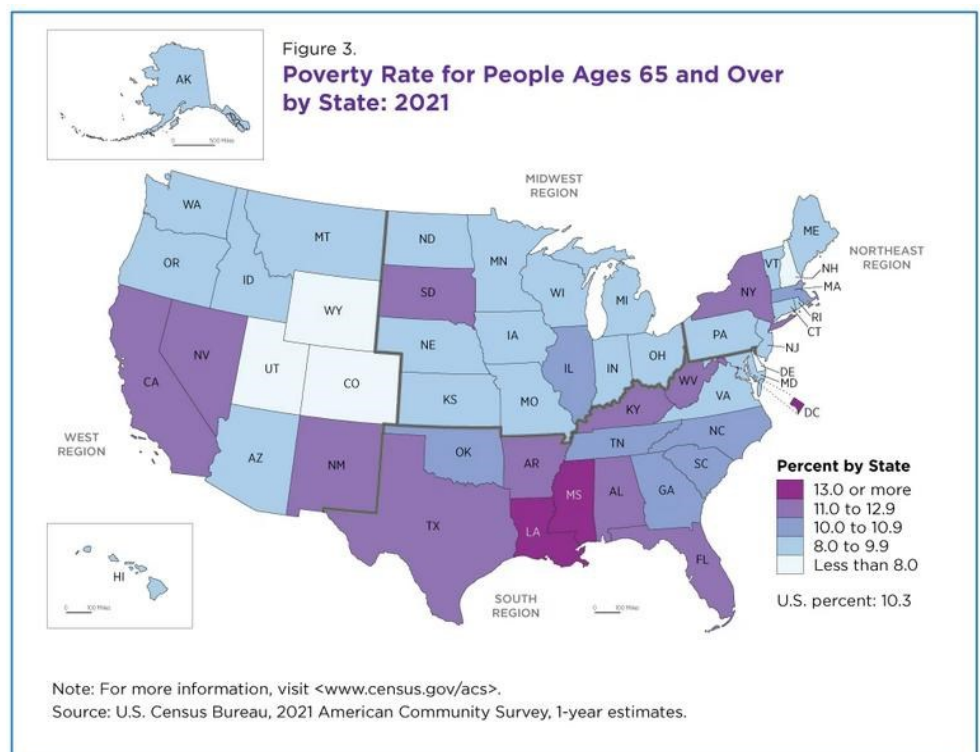
That was the extent of help LaFleur received upon her mother's discharge.

She didn't know how to change her mother's diapers or dress her since at that point LaTurner could barely move. She didn't know how to turn her mother, who was spending all day in bed, to avoid bedsores. Even after an occupational therapist visited several days later, LaFleur continued to face caretaking tasks she wasn't sure how to handle.

[READ MORE](#)

## Older Adult Poverty Reaches an Unacceptable 14.1%

New data from the U.S. Census Bureau show poverty has increased among Americans age 65 and older, from 10.7% in 2021 to 14.1% in 2022. This is frustrating when solutions are available. Programs like Social Security, food assistance, Extra Help, and Supplemental Security Income lift millions of older adults out of poverty every year. [READ MORE](#)





## Thank You For Exhibiting at the 2023 Florida Conference on Aging

<a href="#">AARP Florida</a>	<a href="#">ADT Health</a>	<a href="#">Aetna</a>	<a href="#">AGED, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Alzheimer's Association</a>
<a href="#">Alzheimer's Project, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">AmeriHealth Caritas</a>	<a href="#">Assisting Hands/JobGraze</a>	<a href="#">Blooming Health</a>	<a href="#">Brooks Rehabilitation</a>
<a href="#">CapTel Outreach</a>	<a href="#">CaptionMate</a>	<a href="#">CareVirtue</a>	<a href="#">CaseWorthy</a>	<a href="#">Chapters Healthcare</a>
<a href="#">Chef2Home</a>	<a href="#">Clarix Healthcare</a>	<a href="#">Compassion &amp; Choices</a>	<a href="#">Cornerstone Hospice</a>	<a href="#">CSI - Caregiver Services, Inc.</a>
<a href="#">Duke Energy</a>	<a href="#">ElderSource</a>	<a href="#">Evergreen Life Services/ HEAVENDROPT</a>	<a href="#">FAAST - Florida Alliance for Assistive Services &amp; Technology</a>	<a href="#">FindaRideFlorida.org</a>
<a href="#">Florida Blue Medicare</a>	<a href="#">Florida Community Care</a>	<a href="#">Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services</a>	<a href="#">Florida PACE Providers Association</a>	<a href="#">Florida Power &amp; Light</a>
<a href="#">Florida Statewide Registry for Aging Studies</a>	<a href="#">Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Florida Vision Technology</a>	<a href="#">GA Foods</a>	<a href="#">Golden Gourmet Meals</a>
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<a href="#">Mom's Meals</a>	<a href="#">MySeniorCenter</a>	<a href="#">Nutrition for Longevity</a>	<a href="#">PALCO</a>	<a href="#">Parkinson's Foundation</a>
<a href="#">Personal Response Corp.</a>	<a href="#">Phoenix Pro Management, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Public Partnerships</a>	<a href="#">RetireSafe</a>	<a href="#">Safe Mobility for Life</a>
<a href="#">School of Aging Studies, USF</a>	<a href="#">SCS Pooled Trust</a>	<a href="#">Simply Healthcare</a>	<a href="#">Southern Gerontological Society</a>	<a href="#">Stabilized Steps</a>
<a href="#">Sunshine Healthcare</a>	<a href="#">Sunshine Pharmacy &amp; Supplies</a>	<a href="#">Tranquility Lifestyle Solutions</a>	<a href="#">TRIO Community Meals</a>	<a href="#">U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission</a>
<a href="#">UnitedHealthcare Community Plan</a>	<a href="#">VITAS</a>	<a href="#">Walgreens</a>	<a href="#">Wellcare Health Plans</a>	<a href="#">WellMed</a>
<a href="#">WellSky Corporation</a>				



NATIONAL ENERGY & UTILITY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

# MAXIMIZE LIHEAP FUNDING IN 2024

## Florida by the Numbers<sup>1</sup>

<p><b>\$155,403,066</b> LIHEAP and CARES Act funds for Florida in 2021<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>6.18%</b> of the eligible population in Florida received LIHEAP in 2021</p>
<p><b>2,012,497</b> # of households eligible for LIHEAP in Florida<sup>3</sup></p>	<p><b>124,335</b> # of low-income households that received LIHEAP in Florida in 2021</p>

### Vulnerable Households Served by LIHEAP in 2021

**73.56%**  
of LIHEAP recipients in Florida have at least one vulnerable member:



elderly over 60  
42.99%



disabled  
34.51%



child under 6  
18.20%

**Federal home heating/cooling assistance saves Florida lives.  
NEUAC urges Congress to maximize LIHEAP funding for FY24.**

[www.neuac.org](http://www.neuac.org)

## Why Maximize LIHEAP Funding?

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a critical, life-saving program that targets and serves the most vulnerable households, including older Americans, individuals with disabilities, and families with young children. Many rely on fixed monthly incomes, meaning that their pay does not increase when the cost of heating and cooling their homes increases. LIHEAP recipients make heartbreaking choices every day between food, medicine, or utilities.

### **LIHEAP is not an entitlement.**

Unlike entitlement programs, LIHEAP is funded by the annual congressional appropriations process. While states set eligibility rates, federal statute limits household income to a maximum of 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline, or 60 percent of the state median income. For example, 150 percent of the FY23 poverty guideline for a family of three is \$34,545.<sup>4</sup> Most LIHEAP recipients earn much less: data show that 82 percent of households served by LIHEAP had an annual household income below \$20,000.<sup>5</sup>

### **The need for LIHEAP remains high.**

In 2021, the national poverty rate was 11.6 percent – 37.9 million people lived in poverty, and the rate increased among the elderly.<sup>6</sup> The Federal Reserve found that 32 percent of Americans would struggle to pay a \$400 emergency expense. That risk is even greater for low-income households; half of those with household income less than \$25,000 had, or were close to having, difficulty paying bills that month.<sup>7</sup> During the pandemic, 22% of utility customers reported reducing or putting off expenses for basic needs like medicine and food in order to pay their utility bills.<sup>8</sup>

### **LIHEAP prioritizes vulnerable households.**

More than 90 percent of LIHEAP recipient households have at least one vulnerable person – an adult aged 60 or older, a child aged 18 or under, or an individual with a disability.<sup>5</sup> The Census Bureau estimated that energy assistance lifted 27,000 children out of poverty in 2020.<sup>9</sup>

### **LIHEAP makes the difference.**

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau found that 38 percent of adults had high likelihood of inability to afford food, healthcare, housing, or utilities.<sup>10</sup> LIHEAP helps address short-term household energy emergencies and stabilizes families.

## Maximize LIHEAP Funding in FY24.

### Sources

1. FY2021 Data, HHS; Eligible households, households served and vulnerable statistics supplied from state reports and are preliminary for FY2021, pending final data validation.
2. Includes state and tribal regular LIHEAP Block Grant awards allocated for FY2021 and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) funds. It does not include American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) funds.
3. For all states, eligible households estimated here using 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline. States may use an alternative: <https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/tables/POP.htm>
4. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/policy-guidance/liheap-im-2022-03-federal-poverty-guidelines-optional-use-ffy-2022-and>
5. <https://neuac.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/liheapsurvey2018.pdf>
6. <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.html>
7. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/files/2021-report-economic-well-being-us-households-202205.pdf>
8. <https://theconversation.com/energy-is-a-basic-need-and-many-americans-are-struggling-to-afford-it-in-the-covid-19-recession-140416>
9. <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2021/demo/p60-275.pdf>
10. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/files/2020-report-economic-well-being-us-households-202105.pdf>

## Grant Opportunities

**Costco Wholesale's** primary charitable efforts specifically focus on programs supporting children, education, and health and human services in the communities where we do business. Costco accepts and reviews funding requests throughout the year on a rolling basis, and organizations are eligible to submit one application per fiscal year (September—August).

### **Funding Opportunity: Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program**

Grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to support projects improving food security in the community by developing innovative connections between for-profit and non-profit food organizations. Deadline is October 30, by 5:00 p.m. ET

### **ACL Announces New Funding to Improve Support for Family Caregivers Applications due Monday, December 11, 2023**

ACL is pleased to announce \$3 million in new funding over four years to further advance our support of the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers (the Strategy). ACL will award one cooperative agreement for a project of national scope intended to foster advancements in two programs authorized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) — the National Family Caregiver Support Program and the Native American Caregiver Support Program.

The awardee will undertake technical assistance and capacity building activities targeted to the aging, tribal, and kinship support networks in support of the implementation of Goal 4 of the Strategy: *strengthening financial and workplace security for family caregivers*. The grantee will join four organizations that recently received awards to support the implementation of the other goals of the Strategy. The goal of this initiative is to ensure family, kinship, and tribal caregivers are better recognized, supported, and included in programs funded by the OAA.

The initiative is in keeping with President Biden's Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers, signed on April 18, 2023. This executive order directs federal agencies to take more than 50 actions, making affordable, quality childcare more available to working families; expanding access to home and community-based services; growing and strengthening the direct care workforce; supporting family caregivers; and more — giving us a unique opportunity to transform our long-term care systems and mitigate the challenges that family caregivers face.

The **Environmental Education Grant Program** is seeking applications from eligible applicants to support locally focused environmental education projects that promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers, and community members. This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques that increase public awareness and knowledge about local environmental issues and provides participants in its programs the skills necessary to make informed decisions and to take responsible actions toward the environment . Learn More. Closing Date: November 8, 2023

# Aging Research, Resources & Reports

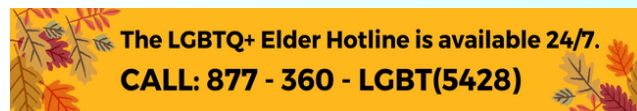
**Some Airports Strive to Make Flying More Inclusive for Those with Dementia**, by Terry Tang, Health News Florida. From Phoenix to Kansas City, airports have added special lanyards, a quiet room and even a simulation center where caretakers and those with dementia can learn about flying. But most large U.S. airports are behind the curve. [READ MORE](#).

**FACT SHEET: Protecting Seniors by Improving Safety and Quality of Care in the Nation's Nursing Homes** All people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and to have access to quality medical care. The President is committed to ensuring that all Americans, including older Americans and people with disabilities, live in a society that is accessible, inclusive, and equitable. To accomplish that goal, the Administration continues to be committed to home- and community-based services and ensuring that in no case should a health care facility be causing a patient harm. That's why he is announcing a set of reforms that will improve the safety and quality of nursing home care, hold nursing homes accountable for the care they provide, and make the quality of care and facility ownership more transparent so that potential residents and their loved ones can make informed decisions about care. [READ MORE](#).

**The Geriatrics and Extended Care Website: A One-Stop Resource** - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a [website designed for older Veterans and those with extended care needs](#) as well as their caregivers and families. The website's main topics include: Home and Community Services; Residential Settings and Nursing Homes; Making Decisions and Advance Care Planning; Mental Health, Memory Loss, and Brain Health; Paying for Long Term Care; Health, Fitness, and Rehabilitation; For Health Care Professionals; For Caregivers; and Other VA and non-VA Resources. There are many helpful videos, handouts, tools, and links, including one to find a social worker in your area.

The U.S. Census Bureau today released a new report showing that about 4 million U.S. households with an adult age 65 or older had difficulty living in or using some features of their home. The report, **Aging-Ready Homes in the United States—Perception Versus Reality of Aging-Accessibility Needs: 2019**, examines whether U.S. homes are prepared for an aging population.

**Ensuring Age-Friendly Public Health in Rural Communities: Challenges, Opportunities, and Model Programs** - The brief discusses the role public health professionals can play in promoting older adult health and well-being in rural communities



**Planning for Lifelong Care: Guiding Questions for Transgender & Non-Binary People to Plan for Dementia and Other Serious Illness** This guide provides tips and resources on planning and care for transgender and non-binary people.

**The Handbook of LGBTQIA-Inclusive Hospice and Palliative Care**, Kimberly D. Acquaviva, Columbia University Press

**Meeting the Health and Social Needs of LGBTQ+ Older Adults Through Medicaid** - This brief, developed by the Center for Health Care Strategies with support from the California Health Care Foundation, highlights key insights about the health and related social needs of LGBTQ+ older adults to inform state policymakers and other stakeholders. It details critical opportunities for using Medicaid to improve health and social care for the LGBTQ+ community, and examines unique opportunities to support aging LGBTQ+ individuals through CalAIM, California's Medicaid transformation initiative.

AARP's new **Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Scorecard** finds that more than three years after the COVID-19 pandemic began, care provided in the United States for older adults and people with disabilities is painfully inadequate. The report finds that major gaps persist in every state, especially related to support for family caregivers, the long-term care workforce, equity in nursing homes, and emergency preparedness.

**Nursing Homes Reported Wide-Ranging Challenges Preparing for Public Health Emergencies and Natural Disasters** (OEI-06-22-00100) - In June 2022, an estimated 77 percent of nursing homes located in areas at greater risk for natural disasters reported experiencing challenges with emergency preparedness activities. Administrators reported concerns across seven topic areas, with activities related to ensuring proper staffing during emergencies and transporting residents during evacuations being the most problematic. An estimated 62 percent of nursing homes reported at least one challenge regarding staffing, and an estimated 50 percent of facilities noted at least one challenge regarding transportation.

This virtual study involves caregiver and care-recipient dyads joining a Zoom call, during which they will watch short video clips demonstrating a social robot and participate separately in a questionnaire and interview. Caregivers and care recipients will each be compensated with a \$100 Amazon.com gift card upon completion of the study.

US-based adults aged 65+ with early-stage dementia and their family caregivers are eligible to participate. The first step is for interested caregivers to complete this brief survey: [https://qaz1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aVMX0BsFjeQZCfQ](https://qaz1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aVMX0BsFjeQZCfQ)

Folks are welcome to contact us at [agelab-robot@mit.edu](mailto:agelab-robot@mit.edu) with any questions or for more information about this study.



## Study Opportunity: Social Robots & Caregivers



The MIT AgeLab is actively recruiting **individuals aged 65+ with a diagnosis of dementia at an earlier stage and their family caregivers** to participate in a virtual study to evaluate a new robot developed by a third-party company.

Eligible caregiver / care recipient duos will be invited to join a Zoom call, during which they will be presented with a short video clip demonstrating a social robot before participating in an interview. Caregivers will also complete a separate questionnaire.

If you are a caregiver interested in participating in the study, please complete the **brief survey listed at the link below**. If you are eligible to participate, a researcher may contact you about next steps for the study.



**Access the survey:**  
**[agelab.mit.edu/social-robots-caregivers-study](https://agelab.mit.edu/social-robots-caregivers-study)**

Questions? Contact [agelab-robot@mit.edu](mailto:agelab-robot@mit.edu).

## Member News

Congratulations to **Zayne Smith, Director of Advocacy for AARP Florida** and recipient of an Above and Beyond Award. Sponsored by City & State Florida and The News Service of Florida, Zayne was recognized as one of the 41 exceptional women across the state of Florida in government and public service who are shaping key policies, driving transformative changes, and going above and beyond in serving the people of Florida.

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The following members are celebrating their 10 Year Anniversary with FCOA! Thank you for your membership and support.

Mary Kittleson, Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services Division  
Dawn Fitzgerald, Philips Lifeline  
Edeline Mondestin, Miami Dade County CAHS  
David Saltman, Florida International University  
James Huysman, WellMed Medical Management of Florida, Inc.  
Linda Solash-Reed,  
Sally Marvin, City of St. Petersburg  
Melissa Rakauskas, Walgreens  
Ken Thomas, AARP Florida  
Harry Felsenthal, Call Harry Enterprises

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The FCOA website has added a new feature! You will now be able to post and search for employment and volunteer opportunities on the FCOA website. We look forward to being able to share openings and opportunities from around Florida with all of our members.

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### **November is Member Appreciation Month at FCOA!**

We will be calling all members to thank you for you membership and wish you a safe and healthy holiday season.

The **FCOA Virtual Annual Membership Meeting** is November 9th at 11:00 AM ET. [Click here](#) to register. Registrants will be sent the link to participate prior to the event.

*Save the Date*

FLORIDA COUNCIL ON  
**AGING**

**Virtual Annual Membership Meeting**  
Thursday, November 9, 2023, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

**Guest Speakers:**  
Robert Beck, PinPoint Results, Overview of the 2024 Legislative Session  
Zayne Smith, AARP Florida, Advocacy Training

## Welcome New Members—August & September 2023

Maryanna Antoldi, AARP FL, St. Petersburg, FL  
Natalia Babenko, USF, Tampa, FL  
Kathy Bitting, Meals On Wheels Plus of Manatee County, Bradenton, FL  
Lesa Boettcher, Foundation for a Healthier West Orange, Winter Garden, FL  
Cara Brunk, Elder Options, Gainesville, FL  
Allison Chavez, AARP Florida, St. Petersburg, FL  
Jennifer Corbett, GT Independence, Sturgis, MN  
Evelyn Corrales-Randle, Community Care Plan, Sunrise, FL  
Rick DelaHaya, AARP Florida, St. Petersburg, FL  
Christian Elliott, CareVirtue, Palm Springs, CA  
Debora Emerick, Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach, FL  
Judit Endrodi, , North Miami Beach, FL  
Ivonne Fernandez, AARP FL, St. Petersburg, FL  
Anna Marie Fiallos, Pinellas County Consumer Protection, Clearwater, FL  
Ivonne Garcia, Collier County, Naples, FL  
Camilo Gomez, Orlando Cloisters, Orlando, FL  
Latorria Grier, DCF/APS, Miami, FL  
Stephanie Guido, Meals On Wheels Plus of Manatee County, Bradenton, FL  
Tye Hausheer, AARP FL, St. Petersburg, FL  
Tania Hernandez, DCF/APS, Miami, FL  
Jessica Herrera, Casa Santa Marta, Sarasota, FL  
Shauna Horn, InnovAge, Tampa, FL  
Stefanie Ink-Edwards, Community Cooperative, Inc. Meals on Wheels, Fort Myers, FL  
Cheryl Jefferson, AARP FL, St. Petersburg, FL  
Marc Kaprow, Simply Healthcare Plans, Miami, FL  
Laurie Kimball, Charlotte County Human Services, Port Charlotte, FL  
Paula Koehler, Florida Department of Health in Seminole County, Sanford, FL  
Georgia Kornblatt, Kinship, New York, NY  
Colleen Lewis, Florida Department of Health in Seminole County, Sanford, FL  
Kia Marshall, DCF/APS, Miami, FL  
Christa Martin, Aging True, Jacksonville, FL  
Yisell Martin, DCF/APS, Miami, FL  
Yvette Martinez, AARP FL, St. Petersburg, FL  
Stephanie McCutcheon, City of Deerfield Beach, Deerfield Beach, FL  
Julian McKoy Davis, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica  
Melody Miles, DCF/APS, Quincy, FL  
Danielle, Mordaunt, Collier County, Naples, FL  
Mary O'Flynn, Catholic Charities, Palmetto, FL  
Samantha Padin, Villa Assumpta, Jensen Beach, FL  
Jeanette, Parham  
Luke Queen  
Grisel Raldirez, Blue Cross Blue Shield Florida, Lake Mary, FL  
Joseph Roebuck  
Hillary Rouse, Life Molecular Imaging, Boston, MA  
Nikki Rutledge, Elder Options, Gainesville, FL  
Sandra Samame, St. Thomas University Office of the Public Guardian, Davie, FL  
Melissa Sanabria-Rodriguez, DCF/APS, Miami, FL  
Enid Santiago, Florida Department of Health in Seminole County, Sanford, FL  
Michelle Santos, Sunshine Health, Pembroke Pines, FL  
Loudrige Simon, City of Deerfield Beach, Deerfield Beach, FL  
Clinton Smith, Marion County Sheriff Office, Ocala, FL  
Davia Smith, Queens B'nai B'rith House, Flushing, NY  
Romona Sutton, James A. Haley VA, Tampa, FL  
Tracy Swanson, Foundation for a Healthier West Orange, Winter Garden, FL  
William Thompson, Charlotte County Human Services, Port Charlotte, FL  
Julie Trujillo, City of Winter Springs, Winter Springs, FL  
Raylin Ubeda, DCF, Miami, FL  
Jessica VanderWerf, Tampa, FL  
Omega Wesley, Elder Options, Gainesville, FL  
Valerie Wickboldt, Avail Strategies, Tallahassee, FL  
Paul Winfrey, Hallandale Beach, FL  
Kelvin Woon, Enterprise Singapore, New York, NY  
Hariom Yadav, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

## **FCOA Board of Trustees 2023-2024—[CLICK to view](#)**

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