



Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

Volunteer Engagement

n4a is working to enhance the engagement of volunteers in the National Aging Network, to the benefit of the volunteers, the Network and the older adults served.

Engaging Volunteers in the Aging Network: A National Resource Center

n4a, with funding and support from the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) is working with several partners to develop a national resource center that establishes AoA and the Nation Aging Network as leaders in volunteer engagement, and expands the capacity of the Network to engage more volunteers, especially Boomers.

Activities

In the first year of this three-year project, we:

- Conducted an environmental scan through which Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Title VI Native American aging programs described their volunteers and the challenges encountered in making the most of the experience;
- Held in-depth discussions with AAAs and Title VI programs to add context and depth to the information collected, and to begin to consider solutions; and
- Helped to plan a National Thought Leaders Meeting—a symposium of leaders in the fields of aging, volunteer engagement, academia and foundations—to gather ideas that will create an Action Plan for the Center.

**Celebrate
Older Americans Month!
May 2011**

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Our Partners

- U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA)
- National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD)
- AARP and AARP Foundation
- Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI)
- University of Michigan
- Council on Certification in Volunteer Administration

Volunteer Notes:

The number of older adults 65 plus who volunteer has risen from 7.7 million in 2002 to 9.1 million in 2009.

Older volunteers engage in a variety of activities, such as providing home-delivered meals, companionship, transportation, educational and wellness programs, information on benefits, protection from fraud and serving as board members.

Volunteering helps older adults stay active and connected to their community, and is beneficial for both the volunteers and the organizations in which they serve.

Find a volunteer opportunity in your community. Contact the Eldercare Locator at www.eldercare.gov or 1.800.677.1116.

n4a administers the MetLife Foundation Older Volunteers Enrich America Awards Program. [See award winners.](#)