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National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

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**n4a Honors Innovative Programs that Promote
Successful Aging in America**

2018 Aging Innovations and Achievement Awards Announced

Washington—Today, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) honored 45 innovative programs that have successfully helped older adults in communities around the country continue living in their homes and communities for as long as possible. The programs were winners of the 2018 *n4a Aging Innovations and Achievement Awards*, which were distributed at n4a's 43rd Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The annual awards program, supported by WellCare Health Plans, recognizes Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Title VI Native American aging programs that have implemented successful initiatives to support older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers.

“With the health care landscape changing at a rapid pace, our members continue to meet the needs of America’s rapidly growing older adult population by finding new ways to position themselves in the long-term and health care marketplaces while strengthening the services they already offer,” said n4a’s Chief Executive Officer Sandy Markwood. “Our members work tirelessly, with little fanfare in their communities, and this program enables us to shine a well-deserved spotlight on their critical work to support older adults’ health, safety, independence and dignity,” said Markwood.

Danny Maxson, WellCare’s Director, CommUnity Innovation, Center for CommUnity Impact was on hand to help present the awards. With regard to the awards, Pamme Taylor, WellCare’s Vice President, Center for CommUnity Impact, said “WellCare is proud to support n4a’s *Aging Innovations and Achievement Awards*, which recognizes the vital work of Area Agencies on Aging to serve older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers with innovative, successful programs designed to fill gaps in services and meet critical needs in communities across the country. We salute this year’s winners for sharing their secrets for success with their peers, helping grow the AAA network’s capacity and prepare for the incredible demographic changes ahead.”

n4a presented 29 *Aging Achievement Awards* and 16 *Aging Innovations Awards* to programs in a variety of areas, including care transitions, elder abuse, nutrition, healthy aging, Livable Communities and transportation. **Descriptions of all 45 award-winning programs can be found in n4a's [awards book](#).** In addition, the following top four highest-scoring *Innovations* winners received cash awards:

- **First place:** The Sustainability Through Medicare Billing for the Living Well DSMP program, Prince George's County Area Agency on Aging, Camp Springs, MD
Description: The program offers workshops that incorporate the needs, goals and life experiences of individuals with diabetes and their caregivers. To ensure a sustainable funding source, the Prince George's County AAA underwent the accreditation process through the American Association of Diabetes Educators, which enables the AAA to seek reimbursement from Medicare.

- **Second place:** Stepping Up Your Nutrition: A Malnutrition Risk Workshop, Maryland Living Well Center of Excellence, Maintaining Active Citizens (MAC), Inc., Salisbury, MD
Description: An innovative and interactive workshop designed as a “session zero” before falls prevention or disease self-management programs to help older adults remain independent and prevent malnutrition and falls risks.

- **Third place:** Lifelong Housing Project program, Senior and Disability Services of Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Central Point, OR
Description: The program makes it possible for older adults in Southern Oregon to live in their own homes and communities for the rest of their lives by increasing the supply of and demand for housing that meets their needs. The project offers a checklist of features for remodeled and new homes, provides targeted education to homeowners and professionals, and offers a certification program to identify accessible homes when they are being sold.

- **Fourth place:** Dementia Care Coordination Program, Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA), Charlottesville, VA.
The Dementia Care Coordination Program is an innovative integrated and coordinated care system for individuals living with dementia, their families and caregivers created by JABA in association with the University of Virginia's Memory and Aging Care Clinic and Virginia's Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. The goal of the program was to develop a replicable best practice for dementia care coordination.