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National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

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CONTACT: Dallas Jamison, Director, Communications, n4a
P 202.872.0888 or C 720.333.1494 / djamison@n4a.org

Improving Health & Well-Being of Older Americans & People with Disabilities Focus of New Program

Washington, DC—The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging ([n4a](#)), in partnership with the Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU)/National Center for Aging and Disability, American Society on Aging (ASA), Partners in Care Foundation and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley/Healthy Living Center of Excellence, is launching the [National Aging and Disability Business Center](#), to build and strengthen partnerships between aging and disability community-based organizations (CBOs) and the nation’s health care system to improve the health and well-being of older adults and people with disabilities.

The three-year, multi-million-dollar initiative will provide the Aging and Disability Networks with vital training, technical assistance and resources to develop the business acumen needed to contract with health plans and health delivery systems to expand access to evidence-based health promotion programs and a range of home and community-based supports, including medical transportation, home-delivered meals, medication management and personal care, for older adults and people with disabilities.

According to n4a CEO Sandy Markwood, “This effort will change the culture and business relationship between the social services and health care sectors by providing new opportunities to bring both sectors together to support the health and well-being of older people and people with disabilities.

“Bridging health care and home and community-based services is crucial to fill gaps in service coordination that can mean the difference between unnecessary institutionalization and the ability to remain in your home,” said Senior Program Officer Nora OBrien-Suric of The John A. Hartford Foundation, which has provided grant funding for the Business Center.

The Business Center will provide important training and technical assistance opportunities, including a series of online seminars, the first of which is scheduled for

[June 29](#). As part of this effort, [nominations](#) are also being accepted for the prestigious *John A. Hartford Foundation Business Innovation Award*, which will showcase transformative partnerships between CBOs and health care providers.

The National Aging & Disability Business Center is funded by: The John A. Hartford Foundation, the Administration for Community Living, The SCAN Foundation, the Gary and Mary West Foundation, the Marin Community Foundation and the Colorado Health Foundation.

About n4a

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is a 501c(3) membership association representing America's national network of 622 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and providing a voice in the nation's capital for the 256 Title VI Native American aging programs. The mission of n4a is to build the capacity of its members so they can better help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

About The John A. Hartford Foundation

Founded in 1929 by John and George Hartford of the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A & P), The John A. Hartford Foundation, based in New York City, is a private, nonpartisan philanthropy dedicated to improving the care of older adults. Every eight seconds, someone in America turns 65. The largest-ever generation of older adults is living and working longer, redefining later life, and enriching our communities and society. Comprehensive, coordinated, and continuous care that keeps older adults as healthy as possible is essential to sustaining these valuable contributions. The John A. Hartford Foundation believes that investments in aging experts and innovations can transform how care is delivered, lowering costs and dramatically improving the health of older adults. Additional information about the Foundation and its programs is available at www.jhartfound.org

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1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Suite 1200

Washington, DC 20036

www.n4a.org

202.872.0888

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