

AZ LINKS NEWSLETTER

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Cold and Wet 2016 Arrives!

Hopefully you left your sweaters on after the holidays this year, as it has been unseasonably cold and wet as the New Year rolled in. But 2016 promises to be a HOT year as we strive to use strategic partnerships and coordinated programs to make services more accessible to Arizonans. Be sure to watch for exciting events and conferences coming up, and please let your partners in the community know about the new extended office hours being implemented in several DES offices.

David Best - Arizona ADRC Project Director

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2016 Aging Summit Aging in Arizona



advocacy | action | answers on aging

Submitted by *Laura Falender, Program Development Specialist, WACOG Area Agency on Aging*

The Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A) is hosting a statewide summit, **“Aging in Arizona,” in Flagstaff on May 19-20, 2016.** Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), consumers, and community-based service and health providers will convene to share resources and brainstorm new methods to best serve Arizona’s growing senior population. The conference will feature expert speakers and include break-out sessions

focused on topics including caregiver support, health and wellness, and culturally competent services.

The AZ4A is a statewide network of seven regional agencies that address the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities, as well as their families and caregivers. The AZ4A supports Arizona’s AAAs with advocacy, training, information and resources.

For more information and to register online go to www.regonline.com/az4aagingsummit. Register by April 1, 2016 to take advantage of discounted rates. You can also call the Area Agency on Aging/Northern Arizona Council of Governments at 877-521-3500 for questions and information. The conference will be held at the High Country Conference Center in Flagstaff, Arizona. Special room rates will be available. Sponsorships are also available; contact Kimberley Hoidal at khoidal@pcoa.org or 520-305-3401 for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENT

DES Announces Opening of Flagstaff Multi-Service Center

DES consolidating five offices into one

*From DES News Release dated December 24, 2015 by
Media Contact, Todd Stone*

The Department of Economic Security is pleased to announce the Grand Opening of the new **Flagstaff Multi-Service Center**. The new facility is located at **1701 North 4th Street, Flagstaff**.

“This new facility will allow the Department to bring multiple programs and services together under one roof,” said Director Tim Jeffries. “Clients will now be able to go to one location instead of five.”

Starting Monday, December 28, 2015, the Department began transitioning staff and resources from the old offices to the new building. Staff will continue to be present at the current locations to continue providing assistance to clients until all equipment in those buildings has been moved. Clients will be directed to the new facility once the old location has been relocated.

The following DES offices will be closing and moving to the new location:

220 North Leroux Street
2323 North Walgreens Street
397 Malapais Lane
2717 North 4th Street
2705 North 4th Street

“Our colleagues are excited about being able to come together to better serve the Flagstaff community,” said Jeffries.

ABILITY360

Submitted by Amina Donna Kruck, Vice President Advocacy at Ability360

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL) changed its name on October 1, 2015. They are now doing business under its new name, **Ability360**. **Ability360** will still operate as a nonprofit, 501c(3) charitable organization as before, under the same Board of Directors and management, and will remain at its current address. The email domain is @ability360.org and the website address is www.ability360.org. All staff emails are now @ability360.org. **Ability360** is the proud operator of Ability360 Center and Ability360 Sports & Fitness Center (formerly called the Disability Empowerment Center/DEC and SpoFit).

February 12, 2016 5Th Annual African American Conference on Disabilities

Submitted by Tammy Pankey, ILS Specialist, DES/DAAS

The African American Conference on Disabilities will be held at the Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 East Cotton Center Boulevard, Phoenix, Arizona, 85040. Tentative workshops include topics on special education law, autism, positive behavior supports, employment law, mental health, assistive technology, Alzheimer’s, restraint and seclusion, voting rights, legal ethics, and abuse and neglect. Continuing Legal Education and Continuing Education Units will be available. For more information and for information on sponsorship and vendor opportunities, contact: **Renaldo Fowler, Arizona Center for Disability Law, 602-274-6287** or **David Carey, Ability360, 602-443-0723**.

Updates from the Social Security Administration

Submitted by Jack Burns, Public Affairs Specialist in Arizona, Social Security Administration

What can I do if my Medicare prescription drug plan says it won't pay for a drug that my doctor prescribed for me?

Answer:

If your Medicare prescription drug plan decides that it won't pay for a prescription drug, it must tell you in writing why the drug isn't covered in a letter called a "Notice of Denial of Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage." Read the notice carefully because it will explain how to ask for an appeal. Your prescribing doctor can ask your Medicare drug plan for an expedited redetermination (first level appeal) for you, if the doctor tells the plan that waiting for a standard appeal decision may seriously harm your health. For more information, visit www.medicare.gov.

Will my eligibility for the Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs be reviewed and, if so, how often?

Answer:

If you get the *Extra Help*, Social Security may contact you to review your status. This reassessment will ensure you remain eligible for *Extra Help* and you are receiving all the benefits you deserve. Annually, usually at the end of August, we may send you a form to complete: *Social Security Administration Review of Your Eligibility for Extra Help*. You will have 30 days to complete and return this form. Any necessary adjustments to the *Extra Help* will be effective in January of the following year. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp for more information.

I prefer reading by audio book. Does Social Security have audio publications?

Answer:

Yes, we have many helpful publications you can listen to. You can find them at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs. Some of the publications available include *What You Can Do Online*, *How Social Security Can Help You When a Family Member Dies*, *Apply Online for Social Security Benefits*, and *Your Social Security Card and Number*. You can listen now at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

I own a small business. How can I verify employees' Social Security numbers?

Answer:

Employers can use our Social Security Number Verification Service to verify the names and Social Security numbers of current and former employees for wage reporting purposes. For more information, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/employer/ssnv.htm.

Extended Office Hours Benefit DES Clients Statewide

From DES News Release dated November 10, 2015 by Media Contact, Tasya Peterson

In line with Director Jeffries' vision of *People First, People Always*, the Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility (DBME) has extended hours for 15 offices throughout the state where clients can apply for benefits, coverage and services at a time most convenient for them. The Department of Economic Security (DES) is committed to providing exceptional service to the more than two million Arizonans it assists on a consistent basis. Whether clients are seeking Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps), or applying for eligibility into the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) for medical assistance, extending the office hours is providing the flexibility individuals and families need to access assistance.

Listed below are the locations for offices with extended hours:

COUNTY	ADDRESS	HOURS
MARICOPA	4323 West Olive, Glendale AZ 85302	6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
MARICOPA	1824 East McKinley, Phoenix AZ 85006	6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
MARICOPA	4502 West Indian School, Phoenix AZ 85031	6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
MARICOPA	3150 East Union Hills, Phoenix AZ 85050	6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
MARICOPA	6010 North 57 th Drive, Glendale AZ 85301	6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
MARICOPA	2288 West Guadalupe Way, Gilbert AZ 85233	7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
MARICOPA	120 West 1 st Avenue, Mesa AZ 85203	7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
MOHAVE	301 Pine Street, Kingman AZ 86401	7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
MOHAVE	2601 Highway 95, Bullhead City AZ 86442	7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
PIMA	3912 West Ina Road, Tucson AZ 85711	6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
PIMA	195 West Irvington Road, Tucson AZ 85714	6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
PIMA	1455 South Alvernon Way, Tucson AZ 85711	7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
PINAL	318 N. Florence Street, Casa Grande AZ 85122	7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
YUMA	1185 Redondo Center Drive, Yuma AZ 85363	7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
YUMA	663 North 1 st Avenue, San Luis AZ 85349	7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Senior Community Service Employment Program

*Submitted by Darrell Reagan, Mature Worker Program
Coordinator, DES/DAAS*

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) fosters useful **part-time training opportunities** (community service assignments) with non-profit or public/government agencies (host agencies) for unemployed low-income persons who are 55 years of age or older who have poor employment prospects. At the conclusion of training, program participants are assisted in pursuing and securing part time and/or full time employment opportunities. Program participants train an average of 20 hours a week, and are paid the highest of Federal or State minimum wage. Training wages are paid by grant funds. To be eligible you must be 55 years of age or older; 125% or below of federal poverty guidelines; you must reside in the state of Arizona upon enrollment and you must be unemployed upon enrollment and eligible to work.

There are no enrollment fees for SCSEP. For more information, call 602-542-6335. To apply for services, contact the organization in the applicant's respective county.

Maricopa County: Area Agency on Aging, Region One,
Inc. **602-241-6186**

Pima County: Pima County One Stop Career Center
520-243-6736

Apache, Coconino, Navajo and Yavapai Counties:
Northern Arizona Council of Governments
928-537-6402 ext. 2

Mohave County: Achieve Human Services
928-854-3232 or 928-246-9672

Pinal and Gila Counties: Pinal/Gila Council for Senior
Citizens
520-424-2829

What's New at New Horizons Disability Empowerment Center

*Submitted by David Seigler, Executive Director of New
Horizons Disability Center*

New Horizons Disability Empowerment Center (NHDEC) is embarking on an amazing adventure and we have room for a couple more people! We are creating northern Arizona's only Disability Empowerment CAMPUS! We are partnering with other non-profits that serve a disabled population. We will share resources and collaborate on projects. Together we will accomplish more than we ever could apart. We are creating a sports and fitness center with adaptive weight equipment and a disabled veterans service center, as well as expanding our programs. Our excitement is only matched by our NEED. It takes a whole lot of people working together to get this job done. We need resources such as building supplies, computer equipment, and so much more! In January, we will be kicking off a campaign designed to increase our capacity to serve more people in more ways. We will turn your generosity into miracles.

Please take a moment and consider the importance of such a project. If you have the inclination to be a part of this historic project, please drop us a note and include your email address and phone number, so we can alert you to our next meeting and discuss what role you see yourself playing. Or, if you prefer, you can send us a note of encouragement.

To see articles related to the NHDEC, click on the links below:

Prescott Daily Courier, dated 11/26/15: "One Stop Shop planned for northern Arizona disability services"
<http://dcourier.com/main.asp?Search=1&ArticleID=152322&SectionID=74&SubSectionID=114&S=1>

Prescott Valley Tribune, dated 9/23/15: "New Horizons Disability Empowerment Center Plans Big Move"
<http://pvtrib.com/main.asp?Search=1&ArticleID=63841&SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&S=1>



New Tools and Tips for Caregivers about Managing Finances

*Submitted by Tammy Pankey, ILS Specialist, DES/DAAS
information from the NASUAD Friday Updates*

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has released several resources to help caregivers who manage the finances for a person in their care. Managing someone else's money can be stressful and overwhelming, especially when there is no guidance or resources. CFPB has disseminated their [Managing Someone Else's Money Guide](#) across the United States to provide caregivers with a general overview of this task. The new resources are designed to provide more specific guidance as the responsibilities for managing someone else's finances vary between states. Additionally, there are tips for experts and professionals to create state specific guides. [Click here](#) to view the resources.



\$9.4 Billion

That is the estimated annual value of unpaid caregiving provided by 804,000 Arizona residents for their older relatives and friends. This equals over 729 million hours. For more information see the full AARP Public Policy Institute report at www.aarp.org/invaluable.

Newsletter Submissions

Dear AZ Links Partners,

We are always interested in hearing about programs and services available throughout the state. Highlighting staff and volunteers that make things happen is of great interest as well. Any announcements, staff changes, events, and information are welcome. Photos and brief notices can also be included. Please send newsletter items to: TPankey@azdes.gov.

This is your newsletter – let us know what you would like to see included.

Next newsletter: April 2016

Deadline for submissions: March 15, 2016

Past issues of the AZ Links Newsletter are available on our website at www.azlinks.gov.

New Website for Older Americans

Submitted by Tammy Pankey, ILS Specialist, DES/DAAS

A new website, www.aging.gov, was launched by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. It is designed as a one stop resource for government wide information on helping older adults live independent lives. The web site is linked to a variety of Federal resources. It provides information on topics that include healthy aging, retirement planning, elder justice, long term care, Social Security, and Medicare. You can also find information on identifying financial scams and protecting against identity theft.