

10 Things that Happened at the White House Conference on Aging

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1. **A Call for Caregiver Support Systems:** Panelists stressed the importance of establishing support systems for the nation's 50 million professional and family caregivers, whose numbers will double by the year 2050.
2. **CMS Proposed Rule:** CMS proposed *Reform of Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities*, which would affect more than 15,000 nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities. A element of the proposal is new standards for coordinating facility-to-facility patient transfers in order to improve quality of life, enhance person-centered care and services for residents in nursing homes, and improve resident safety.
3. **HHS Secretary Announces Funding for Workforce:** Sylvia Burwell, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced \$35.7 million for a new Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program, preparing the health care workforce to respond to the needs associated with advancing age.
4. **Dementia Friendly America:** A coalition of private sector organizations announced the [Dementia Friendly America](#) initiative, which was created to foster communities that are equipped to support people with dementia and their families. There are currently plans to build 15 new pilot sites across the country.
5. **Aging.gov:** The White House announced Aging.gov, a new [one-stop resource](#) providing a spectrum of federal information and resources to older Americans, their families, and caregivers.
6. **President to Push for Workplace Retirement Savings Program:** About 1/3 of the workforce lacks access to a workplace retirement plan. President Obama announced that he will push to [provide access for 30 million Americans to workplace-based retirement savings](#) by requiring employers not currently offering a retirement plan to automatically enroll their workers in an IRA.
7. **Surgeon General Advocates for Culture of Prevention:** Vice Admiral Vivek Murthy, the Surgeon General of the United States, called for a "culture of prevention in America," saying, "The nation has a high rate of obesity; almost half of adults have some chronic condition. The solution is a combination of healthy nutrition, physical activity and mental health care."
8. **SNAP to Fund Meals on Wheels:** U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase accessibility to critical nutrition for homebound, older Americans and people with disabilities by enabling Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to be used for services that purchase and deliver food to these households, such as Meals on Wheels.
9. **Action on Elder Abuse Protection:** With the alarming [number of elder abuse victims](#) in mind, the U.S. Department of Justice will fund a multi-year project to evaluate how to avoid and respond to elder abuse. Also, the Justice Department will train prosecutors around the country on how to effectively curb elder abuse and financial exploitation.
10. **LeadingAge Hackfest:** Lastly, we were excited to see [WHCOA's Fact Sheet](#) list LeadingAge as an aging services technology leader. At this year's [HackFest](#), participants will be able to use the Hewlett-Packard (HP) 3D immersive Sprout computing platform as well as federal open data to help create technology-driven tools that help older adults and their families.