

PRESS NOTICE

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\$1.8 MILLION AWARDED FOR SENIOR PROGRAMS IN VENTURA COUNTY

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging is pleased to announce the award of over \$1.8 million dollars in grants to several local organizations to provide services during fiscal year 2007-08. Half of the grant money will be used to fund senior nutrition programs, 38 percent will be spent on other programs that directly serve Ventura County's older adults, and 12 percent will be spent on programs to help informal family caregivers who meet eligibility criteria. The primary funding source for these grants is the federal Older Americans Act, and the Older Californians Act provides the rest of the funds. Grant or cash awards cannot be made to individuals.

For fiscal year 2007-08, organizations that have been awarded Older Americans Act funds to provide specific services for seniors are as follows: **ACTION Foundation**, \$30,000, to provide minor home modifications for seniors throughout Ventura County; **Camarillo Health Care District**, \$40,000, to develop and provide a new adult day care program for seniors with special needs including early stage dementia, Parkinson's disease and stroke; **Caregivers: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly**, \$30,000, to develop and provide friendly visiting and telephone reassurance for seniors in Camarillo and Port Hueneme; **Catholic Charities OASIS**, \$30,000, to provide case management services for functionally impaired seniors; **Grey Law of Ventura County, Inc.**, \$51,795, to provide legal counseling about non criminal matters such as public benefits, landlord-tenant disputes, issues related to long-term care such as durable power of attorney, elder abuse, and consumer fraud; **Long Term Care Services of Ventura County, Inc.**, \$122,828, to ensure the rights and entitlements of older persons in skilled and residential care facilities plus adult day health programs; **City of Moorpark**, \$40,000, to provide the "Strike Out Stroke" program that includes carotid artery and peripheral artery blockage health screenings in Moorpark, Oxnard, Santa Paula, and a

"We haven't forgotten the meaning of respect your elders."

city to be announced later; **City of Oxnard**, \$40,000, for the "Bone Builders" osteoporosis fitness and education program; **SER-Jobs for Progress** to operate the local Senior Community Service Employment Program that provides employment training for low-income individuals aged 55 and older; **Shop Ahoy Elderpride, Inc.**, \$50,000, to provide shopping assistance for functionally impaired seniors residing in Camarillo, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Simi Valley and Ventura; **Ventura County Fire Protection District**, \$19,000, to provide educational presentations to groups of seniors about fall prevention and fire safety; and, the **Ventura County Transportation Commission**, \$66,500, to transport seniors to and from senior centers so they can participate in the congregate meal program and other activities. State funds have been awarded to **Conejo Valley Senior Concerns**, \$76,007, for the only Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center in Ventura County; and to **FOOD Share**, \$22,952, to provide supplemental bags of foods to low-income seniors.

To assist informal unpaid family caregivers, Title III E Older Americans Act funds have been awarded to these organizations: **Alzheimer's Association, California Central Coast Chapter, Inc.**, to help eligible caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or dementia related issues, \$40,000 for in-home respite, and \$20,000 for material aid products such as adult diapers and hygiene products; **Gold Coast CareGivers**, \$40,000, to provide in-home respite for eligible caregivers throughout Ventura County; **Home Remedies**, \$20,000, to provide minor home modifications and security devices for eligible caregivers who care for a person living in Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Newbury Park, Simi Valley or Thousand Oaks; **Sting Rae Productions**, \$20,000, to provide home modifications and security devices for eligible caregivers who care for a person living in Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula or Ventura; **Kids & Families Together**, \$20,000, to provide family counseling for seniors aged 55 and older who are raising a child aged 18 or younger; **Long Term Care Services of Ventura County, Inc.**, \$19,983, to provide counseling for caregivers who are considering placement of a loved one in a residential care or skilled nursing facility; **Senior Concerns**, \$30,000, to provide case management services for eligible caregivers.

Federally funded Title III C Senior Nutrition Program grants have been awarded as follows:

- ◆ For the operation of both congregate meal and home-delivered meal programs: **Camarillo Health Care District**, \$52,099, **City of Fillmore**, \$15,665; **City of Moorpark**, \$15,100; **City of Oxnard**, which operates three congregate meal sites, \$58,205; **City of Port Hueneme** for \$12,556; **City of Simi Valley**, \$35,842; **City of Ventura**, \$47,264;
- ◆ For the operation of congregate meal sites only: **City of Santa Paula** for \$10,846, and to **City of Thousand Oaks** for \$15,664;
- ◆ To provide congregate lunches in Piru, and congregate dinners at Rancho Sespe: **San Salvador Mission**, \$29,560;
- ◆ To purchase food plus operate the congregate meal and home-delivered meal programs, which serve the Ojai Valley: **HELP of Ojai**, \$105,632; and
- ◆ Contracts to provide food for all the congregate and home-delivered meal programs (excluding HELP of Ojai): **ConAgra Culinary Products** for \$287,993 and **Jordano's** for \$213,659.

In general, Ventura County residents aged 60 years and older are eligible to receive the above listed grant-funded services, which are free with the exception of one program. Donations to service providers to help offset the cost of services are always welcome. A few grants have income or lower age requirements, and one program is allowed to charge for services on a sliding scale. To be eligible for Title III Family Caregiver programs, the informal family caregiver must meet one of the following criteria:

- ◆ Is age 60 or older caring for an adult aged 60 or older or for a disabled child aged 18 or older;
- ◆ Is age 18 or older caring for a person aged 60 or older;
- ◆ Is age 55 or older and providing full time care for a child aged 18 or younger. The child must reside with the older adult.

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging is the largest single funding source of programs and services for older adults and their caregivers in Ventura County. Formed in 1980, under the Older Americans Act, this County agency works closely with state, federal and local agencies and organizations to advocate for and support programs for older adults and their caregivers. More information about the above programs can be obtained at aaa.countyofventura.org, or by phoning toll-free in Ventura County, 1-800-510-2020 or by calling (805) 477-7329.

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