

The Aging Network

Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

Serving Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike,
Ross, Scioto and Vinton Counties in Ohio

SUMMER 2021



In This Issue

Summer Crisis
Program
Page 2

Volunteer Ombudsman
Recruitment
Page 3

Telephone Caregiver
Support Group
Page 3

Medicare Resources
Page 4

Sign-Up for Our E-Mail News!!

Go to www.aaa7.org,
click on the red box at
the top of the page and
follow the instructions.

Stay in touch
with the AAA7!

AAA7 Works with Ohio National Guard on Vaccine Clinics

The Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) was proud to work with the Ohio National Guard as part of the Regional Response Assistance Program (R3AP) to deliver vaccines directly into affordable senior housing facilities in several counties across the district this past Spring.



The R3AP assembles teams of experts located in each of eight Emergency Preparedness Regions designated by the Ohio Department of Health. These experts use a multidisciplinary approach to monitor data and identify facilities in need of support. The R3AP works with local health teams to mobilize and deploy personnel to provide key services, such as vaccines, to senior housing units.

The AAA7, along with the Ohio National Guard, Ohio Department of Aging, and Ohio Department of Health, worked with local partners on the establishment of the on-site clinics. The clinics helped ease the burden for many seniors interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine who have had trouble navigating the registration process and arranging transportation.

Local health departments and staff at Sherman Thompson Towers in Ironton and Tiffin Towers in Chillicothe also assisted with setting up local clinics.

In addition, the AAA7 also assisted at vaccine clinics at senior apartment complexes in Adams, Brown and Highland Counties. Through the clinics, interested residents were offered the opportunity to have their COVID-19

vaccine conveniently onsite, in addition to receiving education and resources for local community services that could benefit their independent living.

The AAA7 continues to work with local Health Departments to meet the needs of homebound individuals who are interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccine but are not able to go to a physical location for a



(continued on Page 2)

Summer Crisis Program

Eligible households can receive assistance with utility bills, central air conditioning repairs, and air conditioning unit and/or fan purchases through the Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program which runs from July 1st through September 30th.

Ohioans with a household income at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines and that have a member of the household who is at least 60 years old, has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last twelve months, or can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health, are eligible. Additional eligibility factors include households who have a disconnect notice, have been shut off, or are trying to establish new electric services.

The Summer Crisis Program is administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency. Thanks to a grant received by them, the Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc., is able to make this program available locally to seniors and those with disabilities through a number of energy provider partners included in its 10-county District. They include:

Adams County – Adams/Brown Economic Opportunities, Inc.; Brown County – Adams/Brown Economic Opportunities, Inc.; Gallia County – Gallia-Meigs CAA, Inc.; Highland County – Highland County Community Action Organization; Jackson County – Jackson/Vinton Community Action, Inc.; Lawrence County – Ironton-Lawrence County Area Community Action Organization; Pike County – Community Action Committee of Pike County; Ross County – Ross County Community Action Committee, Inc.; Scioto County – Community Action Commission of Scioto County; and Vinton County – Jackson/Vinton Community Action, Inc.

If interested in the application process, an appointment must be made with your local energy provider partner (listed previously). Additional information is required for the application including copies of your most recent utility bills, a list of all household members, proof of citizenship or legal residency for all household members, and proof of medical condition verified by a licensed physician or registered nurse practitioner. Applicants also need to include proof of income. Depending on your income type, additional forms may be required. Your local energy provider partner can help answer any questions regarding what items are needed and to answer any questions regarding the process or assistance.

For more information, log on to https://development.ohio.gov/is/is_heapsummer.htm



Vaccine Clinics...continued from Page 1

community clinic. If you are or know of a homebound individual who has not yet had the vaccine but is interested in receiving one, please call the AAA7 at 1-800-582-7277 and ask for the Resource Center.

Nina R. Keller, Executive Director of the AAA7, commented, "Area Agencies on Aging have been an integral part of the COVID-19 response in Ohio including supporting vaccination access and targeted clinics. Working with the Ohio National Guard has been a great benefit to older adults and their caregivers in the AAA7 Region. We appreciate all the effort and coordination to give older adults and their caregivers more opportunity to receive the vaccine."

The AAA7 continues to provide information about vaccine providers in the ten-county region at www.aaa7.org or call 1-800-582-7277 and ask for the Resource Center.



Recruiting: Volunteer Ombudsmen

We have a unique opportunity at the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) for those who are interested in serving as a volunteer advocate for nursing home residents. This opportunity is made available through our Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, which is committed to protecting the rights of long-term care consumers. The Ombudsman Program provides this support for nursing home residents by helping them resolve problems and advocating for their rights, with the overall goal of enhancing the quality of life and care for all long-term care consumers in nursing homes or other home and community-based settings. Currently, this volunteer opportunity is taking place over the phone until volunteers return back to in-person visits.



Volunteer Ombudsman Associates are an invaluable part of the Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and provide an essential voice for consumers of long-term care services through regular visits to their assigned nursing home. Volunteer Ombudsman Associates provide residents with direct access to Ombudsman services; educate residents, families, friends and service providers about resident rights; advocate for person-centered care provided with dignity and respect; and help to resolve complaints as needed.

Because Volunteer Ombudsman Associates provide such an important support, they receive special training and on-going, professional support from the AAA7. In addition, Volunteer Ombudsman Associates have the opportunity to plan their own schedules, are permitted to visit any day of the week, and are recognized during an annual event.

If you are a well-motivated individual and interested in the well-being and protection of residents receiving long-term care services, we welcome your interest in learning more about becoming a Volunteer Ombudsman Associate with the Area Agency on Aging District 7. Please call the AAA7 at 1-800-582-7277 or e-mail info@aaa7.org to learn more about this unique opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of others.

You can learn even more through "Coffee Break", a livestream that is featured twice a month on the AAA7's Facebook Page. Through this social media outreach, the AAA7 shares more about volunteer opportunities through the Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and Agency details and information to educate the community. Find the AAA7 on Facebook to learn more.

Wellness Wednesdays

with the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7)

**Join us on Wednesdays
at 10:00 am LIVE on the
AAA7 Facebook page**

*(Or watch recorded versions
on the AAA7 Facebook page
or www.aaa7.org)*



Telephone Caregiver Support Group

**Third Thursday of Every Month
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm**

Call 1-800-582-7277 or e-mail
info@aaa7.org to register.



**Our Resource Center is OPEN and available to answer your questions
about home and community-based resources in your community!**

1-800-582-7277 - info@aaa7.org



Medicare Resources

The AAA7 can assist the community with questions, provide information regarding Medicare Part D sign-up activities, and/or help find a Medicare supplemental insurance.

Since the pandemic started, the AAA7 has featured “Medicare Monday” information each week on the AAA7 Facebook page and through AAA7’s community e-mail list. This education provides a special tip regarding Medicare and information that beneficiaries or the community may find helpful. Most recently, the Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol offered to help sponsor this initiative and the AAA7 is most grateful for their encouragement and support.

Through the Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol, education is provided to the public about Medicare fraud and scams. This helpful information can assist seniors with preventing, detecting and reporting healthcare fraud, errors and abuse. Through the AAA7’s “Medicare Monday” feature, information about Medicare fraud and scams is also provided to help raise awareness.

To stay on top of the newest “Medicare Monday” education, find the AAA7 on Facebook or sign-up for the AAA7’s community e-mails at www.aaa7.org. If you need further assistance, you can reach out to the AAA7 Community Outreach Department at 1-800-582-7277. You can ask for extension 250 if you have questions about Medicare. You can also e-mail to info@aaa7.org.

For further information about Medicare scams and frauds and to stay on top of alerts, reach out to the Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol through ProSeniors at 1-800-488-6070, option 7, or log on to www.proseniors.org/ohio-smp/



Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

PO Box 154 • 160 Dorsey Drive • Rio Grande, OH 45674-0154

Toll-Free Number: (800) 582-7277 • TTY: 711 (Relay Ohio)

Website: www.aaa7.org • E-Mail: info@aaa7.org • Find Us on Facebook!

Your local Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. serves the following counties in Ohio: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton. Services are rendered on a non-discriminatory basis. Those interested in learning more about the services provided through the Area Agency on Aging District 7 can call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277. Here, individuals can talk directly with a specially-trained Resource Specialist who will assist them with information surrounding the programs and services that are available to best serve their needs.