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nhcoa.org
Webinar

WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF HISPANIC OLDER ADULTS, THEIR FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS.

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Is the leading national organization working to improve the lives of Hispanic older adults, their families, and their caregivers. NHCOA’s activities have reflected its philosophy of empowering Hispanic older adults to advocate for the resources and services that are their right.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C. for more than 50 years NHCOA has been a strong voice dedicated to promoting, educating, and advocating for:

- research, policy, and practice in the areas of economic security, health, and housing.

NHCOA has acted swiftly to address the COVID-19 epidemic and provide additional resources to ensure the safety of older adults, as this disease is proving to adversely affect Americans ages 60 and older and people with underlying health issues.
Older Adults and COVID-19

- People 60 years of age and older and those with underlying health conditions (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, and lung disease, etc.), are most vulnerable to getting sick or even dying from COVID-19.

- It is also becoming increasingly clear, based on evolving data, that COVID-19 is having a more devastating impact on Blacks, Latinos and American Indians across the nation, further highlighting existing health inequities that are borne out of systematic/institutional racism.

- As states and cities begin releasing Covid-19 outcomes by race, the data is showing that Blacks, Latinos and American Indians are facing higher risks when it comes to the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

  - Connecticut, Blacks represent about 12% of the population, but 17% of COVID-19 positive cases and 16% of COVID-19 attributable deaths. Hispanics make up 16.5% of Connecticut’s population but 24% of the COVID-19 positive population.

  - New Orleans, Milwaukee, New York Detroit, Kansas City, and Chicago have all experienced dramatic racial disparities in coronavirus impacts.
Older Adults and COVID-19

Health disparities and health inequities existed prior to this pandemic. Experts explain that racial inequities in COVID-19 cases and deaths exist for several reasons, including that:

- Communities of color are more likely to live in densely populated areas where the virus can spread easily,
- They are more likely to work the low-wage service jobs that require close contact with many people and have been exempted from stay-at-home orders,
- They are more likely to have chronic diseases and other conditions that can exacerbate COVID-19, and
- Communities of color often face conscious or subconscious discrimination in medical treatment (shown by research), meaning if hospitalized with COVID-19 symptoms, racial minorities may also be less likely to receive effective treatment.
Recommendations for protecting diverse older adults during this pandemic

- Provide educational information (flyers, letters, infographics, etc.) about COVID-19 in a cultural and linguistically appropriate manner.
- Prioritizing testing for all older adults
- Follow the instructions and recommendations from public health officials of the respective state/county.
- Partner with NGOs that specialize in serving diverse populations to coordinate nutritional services and social support.
- Diverse Elders Coalition
- Family caregivers are essential in the health and care of older adults.
  - Family caregivers want to help and protect their loved ones from any risk of getting sick. It’s important for caregivers to be informed and supported during this time.
NHCOA’s work in informing and educating our community about COVID-19

- The trust from the community is important along with delivering the information from reliable sources and trusted messengers.

- NHCOA is developing and disseminating community resources in three languages, Spanish, English and Portuguese. For more information visit: www.nhcoa.org
  
  - We are sharing these resources with community-based organizations nationwide and globally.
  
  - These materials include posters and informational fliers about COVID-19 and how to keep oneself safe.

- Additionally, NHCOA is creating social media posts that community organizations can tailor to their communities and share with their constituents.
NHCOA’s work in informing and educating our community about COVID-19

- NHCOA is hosting a series of tele-townhalls in English and Spanish by updating our communities on COVID-19.
- Our first tele-townhall in English will be on:
  - April 22, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. (EST)

Link to Register: bit.ly/2xoxPpe