



CONTACTS: Scott Parkin, National Council on Aging, 202-479-6975
Emily Denney, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, 302-885-3451

MY MEDICARE MATTERS™ AWARDS \$900,000 IN GRANTS TO NINE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FOR INITIATIVES TO REACH LOW-INCOME SENIORS

Chicago, Illinois—March 8, 2007— With nearly 4 million of the country's poorest people with Medicare yet to apply for the Extra Help or Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) that can help pay for Medicare prescription drug coverage, nine community-based organizations will participate in a demonstration program designed to help identify effective and efficient strategies for reaching those most in need. The nine grant recipients were announced today at the 2007 Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging – National Council on Aging, which is taking place at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers in Chicago. The grants were awarded by *My Medicare Matters*™, the community-based education initiative sponsored by the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and Access to Benefits Coalition (ABC) with support from AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP.

The following organizations were selected to receive up to \$100,000 each to help fund initiatives designed to identify, educate and help eligible beneficiaries in their communities to apply for the LIS and other prescription savings programs:

- AgeOptions, Oak Park, Illinois
- Legal Services for the Elderly, Augusta, Maine
- Detroit Area Agency on Aging, Detroit, Michigan
- Community Health Law Project, South Orange, New Jersey
- Gateway to Care, Houston, Texas
- Latino Education Project, Inc., Corpus Christi, Texas
- Alamo Area Council of Governments, Alamo and Bexar County Area Agencies on Aging,
San Antonio, Texas
- Arlington County Area Agency on Aging, Arlington, Virginia
- Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, Madison, Wisconsin

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“The pool of applicants was outstanding,” said Wendy Zenker, executive director, My Medicare Matters™ and vice president of Mobilization, NCOA. “We are pleased with the innovative and thoughtful ideas that were outlined in these proposals to help low-income seniors and we are excited to work with these organizations as they put their plans into action.”

“CMS wants to make sure everyone makes the most out of their Medicare benefits and so we partner with an extensive network of grassroots organizations, including My Medicare Matters,” said Leslie Norwalk, Acting Administrator. “That’s why we’re pleased that My Medicare Matters is taking the lead in reaching out to LIS eligible beneficiaries and helping them secure the affordable coverage they need and deserve.”

The proposals selected incorporate a range of approaches including: using community or lay health workers to reach out to low-income Medicare beneficiaries and help them to apply for the LIS; paying agencies for successful LIS enrollments or for referrals leading to successful enrollments; and strategically creating new partnerships with organizations that target people of limited means such as community clinics and public health departments. The grantees will implement their programs through December 2007 and a report summarizing their outcomes will be released during the First Quarter of 2008.

This project is one of several initiatives whose goal is to support community-based outreach to low-income beneficiaries being undertaken by My Medicare Matters this year.

“The community organizations that have been identified through My Medicare Matters represent the best opportunities to locate the most vulnerable population eligible for Medicare services,” said Roger Hyde, Vice President, Managed Markets, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP. “AstraZeneca has supported My Medicare Matters from its inception as part of our ongoing commitment to helping people afford the medications they need.”

About My Medicare Matters

My Medicare Matters is a community-based education and outreach initiative whose goal is to help people with Medicare and their families better understand the Medicare prescription drug coverage so that they can assess their personal situation, understand their choices, compare plan options and make decisions they believe are right for their health and financial situation. My Medicare Matters is sponsored

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by the National Council on Aging and Access to Benefits Coalition with support from AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP.

About NCOA

Founded in 1950, the National Council on Aging's mission is to improve the lives of older Americans. NCOA programs help older people remain healthy and independent, find jobs, increase access to benefits programs, and discover meaningful ways to continue contributing to society. A charitable organization with a national network of more than 14,000 organizations and leaders, NCOA is based in Washington, DC. For more information about NCOA, please visit www.NCOA.org.

About AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca is a major international healthcare business engaged in the research, development, manufacture and marketing of prescription pharmaceuticals and the supply of healthcare services. It is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies with healthcare sales of \$26.47 billion and leading positions in sales of gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, neuroscience, respiratory, oncology and infection products. In the United States, AstraZeneca is a \$12.44 billion healthcare business with more than 12,000 employees. AstraZeneca is listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Global) as well as the FTSE4Good Index.

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