



FOR RELEASE
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Department of Aging and Adult Services Receives Two Prestigious Aging Innovation Awards from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

The San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) announces that two of its programs recently received recognition from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) with Aging Innovation and Achievement Awards. These prestigious awards recognize Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American aging programs that develop and implement cutting-edge approaches to support older adults, people with disabilities and their family caregivers. DAAS received an Innovation Award for "Enhancing Work Efficiency: Using Technology to Get Reliable Program Outcomes Data" through the SF Connected Program. DAAS also received an Achievement Award for Ethnic and Cultural Diversity for the "Culturally Appropriate Nutrition Program for the Samoan Seniors in San Francisco."

"With nationally recognized aging programs such as Enhancing Work Efficiency: Using Technology to Get Reliable Program Outcomes Data and Culturally Appropriate Nutrition Program for the Samoan Seniors in San Francisco, we are keeping San Francisco an affordable place for our diverse senior communities," said Mayor Edwin M. Lee. "We will continue assisting our aging residents through innovative programs to ensure they live healthy and successful lives in our world-class City."

Enhancing Work Efficiency: Using Technology to Get Reliable Program Outcomes Data: SF Connected provides free computer training in multiple languages to more than 1,000 seniors and adults with disabilities in 55 San Francisco senior/community centers. The administration of online surveys to participants and use of computer tracking software allowed DAAS to obtain accurate data for measuring program outcomes. Use of an online survey tool led to an increased response rate on the survey, which is administered in five languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Vietnamese). In addition, computer software is now used to track participants' online activities at community centers in order to gauge how they are educating themselves about health promotion and economic security issues. Data collected from the software tracking computer usage showed that 11,312 activities were related to economic or health improvement information. This information helped answer funders' questions about computer usage and confirmed that the program helped participants gain information on health improvement and economic security. This program is easily replicated because the tools used for the survey are all available online. The software used for tracking usage can be purchased; technical assistance is available for a small fee.

Culturally Appropriate Nutrition Program for the Samoan Seniors in San Francisco: For several years the Samoan Community Development Center (SCDC) provided American style meals to Samoan seniors, but attendance was low because the meals did not meet their cultural needs. San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) worked closely with SCDC to identify a restaurant that agreed to cook Samoan-style meals according to DAAS menu requirements. Participants in the SCDC Senior Center program increased by 39 percent in 2012-2013 and by 20 percent in 2013-2014. As a result, the program has expanded from two to three days per week and consumer satisfaction is very high. DAAS has shared the program model, resources and best practices with the American Samoa Territorial Administration on Aging which has since replicated the model.

Anne Hinton, Executive Director of San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services, responds, *"It is enormously gratifying to find an innovative solution to a problem, especially when it involves older adults and their nutrition needs. And we are grateful to N4A for seeing the value of our work."*

*"We are happy to receive an Innovation Award and an Achievement Award this year, says **Denise Cheung, Director of the San Francisco Office on Aging.** "We all know that there are many wonderful programs/projects run by our fellow AAA members. The greatest satisfaction is not getting the award, of course, but to see how our programs benefit our consumers. N4a has provided us with this opportunity to expand beyond our comfort zone. We hope to continue to learn, innovate and to share."*

For a description of the award winning programs, click here:

[All winners are showcased in an n4a publication.](#)

About DAAS:

The Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) is the Area Agency on Aging for the City and County of San Francisco. DAAS is specifically charged with planning, coordinating and advocating for community-based services for older adults and adults with disabilities, as well as their families. The organization's goal is to maximize self-sufficiency, safety, health and independence of San Francisco's aging adults so they can remain living in their communities as long as possible and maintain the highest quality of life. DAAS coordinates an integrated, comprehensive range of social, mental health and long-term care services that foster independence and self-reliance. Additionally, DAAS protects the rights and assets of those who are no longer able to care or advocate for themselves and the rights and assets of the deceased.

<http://www.sfhsa.org/DAAS.htm>

About n4a

The mission of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (**n4a**) is to build the capacity of its members so that they can better help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible. We work with our members to achieve the collective vision of building a society that values and supports people as they age. **n4a** is the leading voice on aging issues for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and a champion for Title VI Native American aging programs. Through advocacy, training and technical assistance initiatives, we support the national network of 618 AAAs and 246 Title VI programs.

<http://www.n4a.org>

About SF Connected:

SF Connected is a City and County of San Francisco initiative providing free computer tutoring and support to seniors and adults with disabilities. A partnership between DAAS, Department of Technology and 26 community-based service organizations SF Connect partners collaborate to provide computer access, training, and support for seniors and adults with disabilities. The program seeks to increase broadband adoption by teaching computer and internet skills and demonstrating the value of broadband based technologies, such as social media and video communication. The program focuses on the City's seniors and adults with disabilities because they can most benefit from expanded access.

<http://sfconnected.org/>

About The Samoan Community Development Center:

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for Samoans and Pacific Islanders through self-help, economic self-sufficiency, community solidarity and the preservation of Samoan and Pacific Islander cultures, customs, and traditions.

<http://www.samoacenters.org/www/html/about/goals.html>