

NGA Policy Academy on Civic Engagement
Participating States in 2007: Initiatives to Promote Older Adult Volunteerism

During February and March, 2009, Kathryn Perticone, MSW student intern at the New York State Office for the Aging, undertook a brief survey of four first-year NGA Policy Academy states that were identified by NGA Policy Academy national officer, Linda Hoffman, as the key states conducting activities specifically to promote older adult volunteerism as a result of their NGA Policy Academy work.

The purposes of the contact with first-year participating states was to learn about effective practices that emerged through the NGA Policy Academy, lasting successes, and any barriers the state may be facing in implementing anticipated initiatives. Below are the three questions asked of each of the participating states, and a summary of their responses. Links to additional reference materials are identified in the chart.

Participating State Response	Q1: Have any new effective volunteer programs or practices resulted from your participation in the NGA Policy Academy?	Q2: Are there any specific volunteer related initiatives that your state is proud of regarding older adults? Please describe.	Q3: What barriers has your state encountered in establishing new volunteer programs and practices regarding older adults? What steps has your state taken to overcome such barriers?
<p>Florida June Noel Florida Department of Elder Affairs Ph. 850-414-2089 E-mail: noelj@elderaffairs.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - About to issue an Exec. Order about their overall project - Order directs creation of Volunteer Programs and Liaisons within/for all state agencies.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A team is developing 10 Quick Steps for state agencies to bring up there state agency volunteer programs** - Currently Beta testing a new website to assist older adults with job seeking for both paid and unpaid work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed a policy and procedures publication for volunteerism within programs sponsored or contracted through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs**
<p>Colorado Jeanette Hensley Aging and Adult Services Colorado Department of Human Services Ph. 303-866-2636 E-mail: Jeanette.Hensley@state.co.us</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed a partnership with 3 different agencies to work on volunteerism, life-long learning and meaningful employment (civic engagement) - Developed and implemented a website that connected 3 agencies in to 1 website to allow and older adult to search all 3 areas in 1 place - Overall- did not develop 1 specific program but help to connect people with opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with foundations- Rose Community Foundation has taken lead in bringing together civic engagement opportunities through “Boomers Leading Change” initiative (website) - Currently working with Rose Community Foundation to establish grants to expand website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulty maintain website due to time and budget constraints <p>Overcoming Barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner with organizations - Recommends Encore Careers in NYS - Work with others and share ideas- there is not enough money for everyone- combine programs - Civic engagement needs to be grass-roots, not government driven but working with government

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<p>New Mexico Hazel Mella, MA Governor Richardson's Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Ph. 505-841-4582 E-mail: Hazel.Mella@state.nm.us</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faith-based communities have surfaced as major contributors - Currently working with senior centers and tribal communities on awareness campaigns for topics such as “food insecurity” and “providing adequate nutrition to seniors” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intergenerational Food Program, 37 sites, 5600 children fed, 250 seniors engaged (Roadrunner Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry funded to improve access to food in rural and underserved communities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of funding - Lack of outreach to tribal and rural communities - Seniors do not ask for help and volunteers have a hard time trying to help them <p>Overcoming Barriers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NM’s Aging and Long-Term Service Division is working with Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and “Engage New Mexico” - to leverage resources and defray costs - Bringing stakeholders to the table from targeted populations, business community, tribal elders, AAAs and senior centers to dialogue about issues - Educating volunteers- train the trainers groups
<p>Maine Diana Scully Office of Elder Services Ph. 207 287-9200 Email: diana.scully@maine.org</p>	<p>Have not received information at this point.</p>		

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*Executive Order is attached

**Nicole Hargraves, State Volunteer Coordinator for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, is in process of providing "10 Steps" and Policy and Procedure Publication