



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Denise G. Nelesen (858) 505-6474

INNOVATIVE HHSA AGING PROGRAMS RECEIVE TOP NATIONAL HONOR *Aging & Independence Services Wins Several Recognitions*

Ground-breaking and innovative programs for seniors have earned the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency's Aging & Independence Services (AIS) the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging's first "Leadership as Innovators in Aging Programs Award."

The award honors one Area Agency on Aging that "cultivates a creative and flexible atmosphere to foster groundbreaking programs" for older adults, according to the organization.

"This award recognizes the commitment our County places on improving the lives of our residents, especially seniors," said Pam Slater-Price, Chairwoman of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

AIS also received two of nine national Innovation Awards for Team San Diego and the Workforce Academy for Youth (WAY) program. Team San Diego is a training program for improving the delivery of health and social services to aging and disabled populations, especially those with chronic conditions; and WAY is an intergenerational program that utilizes the strengths of older volunteers as Life Skills Coaches in mentoring youth ages 17-21 who 'age out' of the foster care system.

In addition, AIS received two Achievement Awards for their "Fall Prevention Tool Kit and Resource Guide," and for a "Yoga for Caregivers" DVD.

To contact AIS, call (800) 510-2020 or visit www.networkofcare.org/aging.

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COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 208 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2472