

Family Caregivers Invited to Participate in Focus Group



Nearly one household in four is touched by family caregiving, with one or more members dedicating time and/or money to the care of a dependent relative. Although the experience can be rewarding, it can also take a toll on the caregiver's financial, physical and emotional health. These challenges are often compounded when family members are caring for persons with dementia or memory loss.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments' Area Agency on Aging wishes to hear from family members who are caring for loved ones with dementia, in order to better understand their training and resource needs. A series of focus groups will be conducted during the month of December, and local caregivers are invited to participate. Focus group participants will receive \$40 gift cards, and respite service will be available for caregivers who cannot leave their loved ones unattended. To arrange respite call 1-800-272-3921 at least 10 days prior to the focus group.

Focus groups will be held on the following dates:

- Monday, December 3, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., at Parker County Committee on Aging, 1225 Holland Lake Road, Weatherford
- Wednesday, December 5, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., at Mineral Wells Senior Center, 102 Northwest 6th Avenue, Mineral Wells
- Monday, December 10, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., at Azle Community Library, 333 Main Street, Azle
- Tuesday, December 11, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., at United Cooperative Services, 3309 North Main Street, Cleburne
- Thursday, December 13, from 10:00 to 11:30, at the Decatur Visitors Center, 106 South Trinity Street, Decatur

Pre-registration is required to ensure adequate supply of gift cards and refreshments. For more information or to register, contact Doni Green of the North Central Texas Area Agency on Aging at 817-695-9193 or dgreen@nctcog.org.

Focus groups are supported by the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center, with grant funding through the Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA).



Incentives Could Assist with Purchase of EVs

Are you thinking about purchasing an electric vehicle to save on gasoline? It may be more affordable than you think.

Did you know that you could get up to \$13,500 for purchasing an Electric Vehicle? Right now the federal government is offering up to \$7,500 dollars for the purchase of a new qualified plug-in electric vehicle (PEV). Additionally, Texas residents are eligible to receive up to \$2,500 for a qualified EV.

And if you live in the North Texas area, the AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program provides individuals who meet program requirements, a voucher for up to \$3,500 toward an EV up to three model years old.

Find more information regarding these incentives at www.dfwcleancities.org/evnt.

Texas LoanSTAR Program Provides Energy Help

The Texas LoanSTAR (Saving Taxes and Resources) Revolving Loan Program provides low-interest loans to assist Texas public institutions by financing their energy-related, cost-reduction retrofit projects.

Loan recipients may be cities, counties, school districts, State agencies, public institutions of higher education and tax-supported public hospital districts.

Renewable energy efficiency projects are strongly encouraged to apply for funding through this new program. These can include the installation of rooftop solar water and space heating systems, geothermal heat pumps, and small wind and solar-thermal systems.

The deadline for submitting applications is August 30, 2019. For more information, visit www.nctcog.org/aqfunding. Through last year, the program had provided more than 290 loans worth more than \$457 million, according to the comptroller's website.

The program has helped recipients save more than \$571 million in energy costs.

Clean Fleets North Texas 2018 Call for Projects – Funding Still Available!

The North Central Texas Council of Governments has approximately \$395,000 in grant funding remaining for the replacement of heavy-duty diesel vehicles or equipment. Local governments and private companies that contract with local governments are eligible to apply. Eligible vehicles or equipment must operate in the 10-county ozone nonattainment area, which includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant and Wise Counties. Grant funding will pay for 25, 35, or 45 percent of the new vehicle or equipment cost, depending on the emissions rate of the new engine. For more information, go to www.nctcog.org/aqfunding or email aqgrants@nctcog.org.

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Executive Board

Kevin Strength, President
Mayor, City of Waxahachie

J. D. Clark, Vice President
County Judge, Wise County

Ray Smith
Secretary-Treasurer
Mayor, Town of Prosper

Tom Lombard, Past President
Councilmember
City of North Richland Hills

Kelly Allen Gray
Councilmember, City of Fort Worth

Clay Jenkins
County Judge, Dallas County

Lee Kleinman
Councilmember, City of Dallas

Curtistene McCowan
Mayor, City of DeSoto

Bobbie Mitchell
Commissioner, Denton County

Nick Sanders
Mayor, Town of Trophy Club

Keith Self
County Judge, Collin County

David Sweet
County Judge, Rockwall County

Paul Voelker
Mayor, City of Richardson

Kathryn Wilemon
Councilmember, City of Arlington

B. Glen Whitley
County Judge, Tarrant County

Rick Stopfer
Mayor, City of Irving

Tito Rodriguez
Councilmember, City of North
Richland Hills

Ron Simmons
Ex Officio Member
Texas State Representative

STAFF

Mike Eastland
Executive Director

Monte Mercer
Deputy Executive Director

Tim Barbee, Director
Research & Information Services

Doni Green, Director
Area Agency on Aging

Edith Marvin, Director
Environment and Development

Michael Morris
Director Transportation

David Setzer, Director
WorkForce Development

Molly McFadden, Director
Emergency Preparedness

Christy Williams, Director
911

Lucille Johnson
Editor