



Department of Health & Social Services
The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska Senior Housing Summit addresses statewide needs

Community members and policymakers prepare for Baby Boomers' golden years

Alaska's senior population is one of the fastest growing in the nation. Policymakers, real estate developers, seniors and community stakeholders will discuss the pressing need for more affordable and appropriate senior housing at the Alaska Senior Housing Summit, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 12, in the Wilda Marston Theater, Loussac Library, Anchorage. All are invited to attend.

"We want people to be able to age in place with dignity as close to their home community as possible, staying healthy and independent for as long as possible," said Denise Daniello, executive director of the Alaska Commission on Aging.

Summit topics include sustainable senior housing, building strategies, support services and long-term care facilities. Speakers include representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, senior centers, architects and Alaska Pioneer Homes.

"Seniors are valued members of our communities," said Jeff Jessee, chief executive officer of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. "Appropriate affordable housing is a crucial foundation for people of all ages to be able to contribute to their communities."

The U.S. 65-and-older population grew far faster than the overall population between 2000 and 2010 — 15 percent compared to 10 percent. Alaska's 65-and-older population grew more than any other state's since the last U.S. Census, from 35,699 in 2000 to 54,938 in 2010, up 54 percent. Alaska's 85-and-older group grew by 79 percent, compared to 30 percent nationally.

"Alaska Housing Finance Corporation is the single largest provider of senior housing in Alaska and we welcome the summit and its focus. With a growing population of seniors, access to affordable housing is a critical issue that requires the attention of many stakeholders," said Dan Fauske, AHFC executive director and CEO.

For more information, visit <http://www.alaskaaging.org/> or read the agenda online, http://www.alaskaaging.org/assets/Agenda_12122012.pdf.

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