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## MISSOULA aging SERVICES

—— WE'RE PROUD of OUR YEARS ——

# Offering Classes and Educational Events: Getting Started

Jordan Lyons, MPA Resource Specialist Supervisor

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# Missoula Aging Services' mission

Missoula Aging Services promotes the independence, dignity and health of older adults and those who care for them.

## About me

#### Jordan Lyons, MPA

- Resource Specialist Supervisor
- Formerly Education Coordinator and Resource Specialist

I have helped organize events on these topics:

- Estate Planning
- Long-Term Care Planning
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- Reverse Annuity Mortgages
- SHIP
- Social Security



## Defining Education

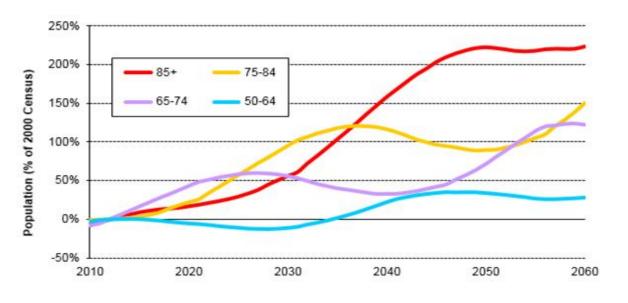
Activities that improve participants' knowledge or skills.

Many types of activities, including:

- Events
- Media
- One-on-one assistance

#### Why Educational Events?

Projected Growth in the Older Population in Montana as a Percentage of 2012 Population, by Age Group, 2010-2060



	Year 2012	Year 2060	% of 2012 population calculation: (yr 2060 pop / yr 2012 pop)	% Increase in population relative to 2012 calculation: (yr 2060 pop – yr 2012 pop) / yr.2012 pop
Age 85+	22,715	73,483	3.23	223%
Age 75-84	47,111	117,668	2.50	150%
Age 65-74	84,550	188,189	2.23	123%
Age 50-64	216,827	278,585	1.28	28%

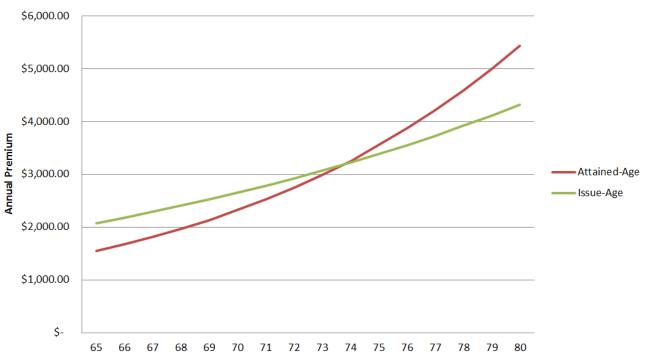
#### Scale



Reach 10, 50, or 100 people in approximately the same amount of time as an appointment

## Quality

Attained-Age vs. Issue-Age Medigap Policies: BCBS Plan F



Develop a great way to convey information.

## Promotion



Time-specific events create more interest than on-going services.

Find people you don't reach with calls, walk-ins, and appointments.



### Financial Sustainability

Admission into an event, especially if participants get materials, is a value proposition people can easily understand and are willing to pay.

Other financial opportunities: grants, payment from employers

### How to Conduct Education Events

Identify your agency's objectives:

- Scale up
- Improve quality of services
- Promote services
- Reach diverse populations
- Improve financial sustainability

You may face trade-offs, so prioritize.

## Identify Community Needs

#### **Internal Sources:**

- Strategic plan
- Database
- Staff input

#### **External Sources:**

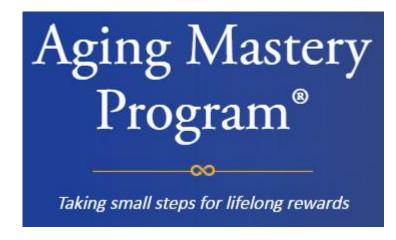
- Focus groups/advisory council
- Media
- Community surveys:
  - BRFSS
  - Community Health Assessment

## Identify existing education programs

- Assisted living facilities
- Colleges
- Congregate Meals/Senior Centers
- Employers
- Health department
- Home care providers
- Hospitals
- Independent Living Centers
- Libraries
- School District
- Support Groups

## Find resources

# Powerful Tools for Caregivers

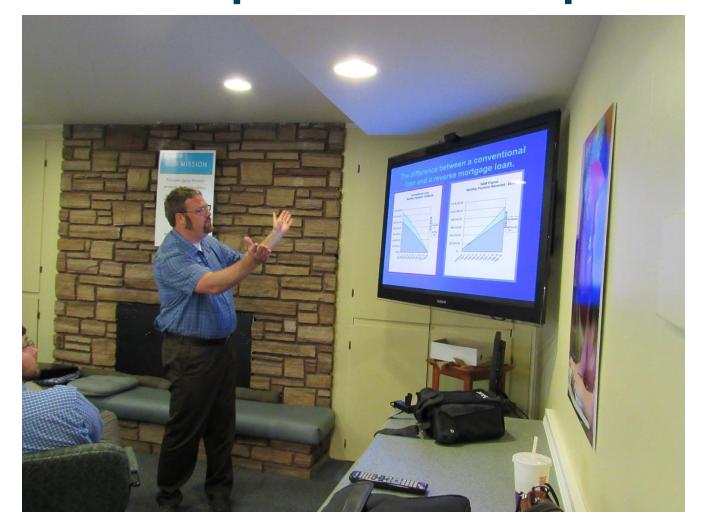






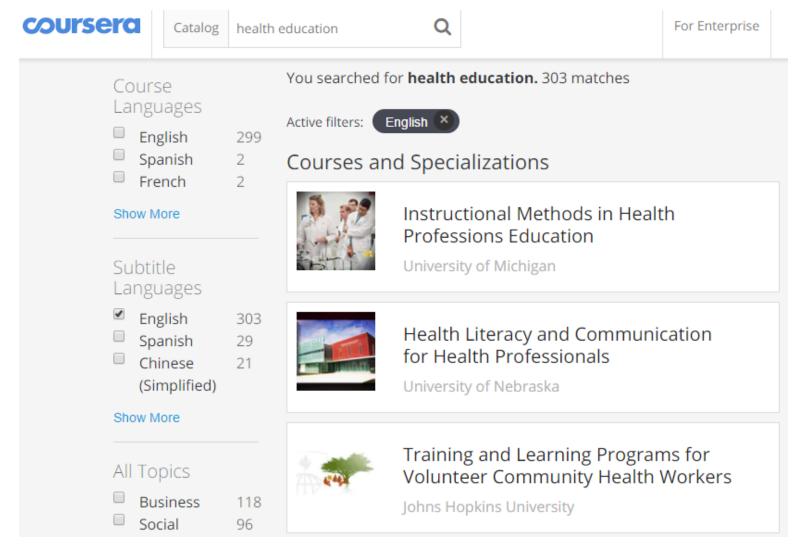


## Find experts and presenters





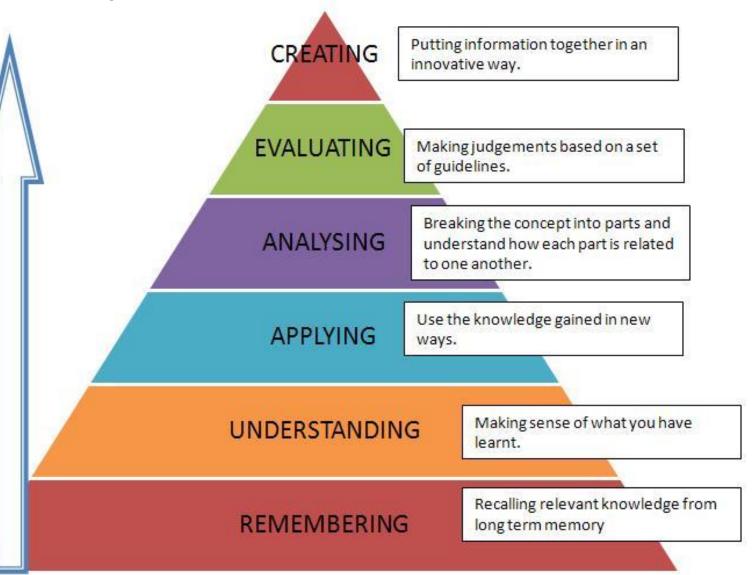
#### Learn about adult education



#### Bloom's Taxonomy

Medicare Workshop, Social Security Q&A

Evidence-based classes: Stepping On, Powerful Tools for Caregivers



Flickr user: nist6dh

## Interactive, Innovative Events



- Not all "classes"
- Not all PowerPoint
- Don't use too many bullet points
- Really.

#### Adding Interactivity



- Computer lab
- Live polling
- Breakout sessions
- Q&A style
- Homework
- Humor

#### Use a variety of venues

Every venue is comfortable for some people, but not others.

- Universities
- Schools
- Churches
- Community Centers

## Get credit with funders



- FFP
- PAM
- SMP
- MLTSS?
- Others?

Have participants sign up, even if your event is free. Use #eventtech

## Eventbrite







### To Charge or Not to Charge?

...That is the question.

You may not be able to charge:

- What do funding sources allow?
- What do your volunteers want?
- What does your space allow?

## Charging admission

- Anecdotally, people who pay are more likely to show up
- You must provide greater value than 1-on-1 appointments
- You can still give away a lot of tickets
  - Door prizes
  - Drawings
  - Sweepstakes
  - 2-for-1

#### Free or reduced-cost entry

- To pursue your agency's mission
- Scholarships, sliding fee scale, or suggested donation can help people with lower incomes.

#### Scholarships

Don't let your effort exceed the value of the scholarship:

- Minimize paperwork
- Get value from scholarship recipients:
  - In-kind, volunteering at event
  - Testimonial, photo, video

#### Suggested donation

Suggested donation can mean fewer donations, but more money donated overall.

"The Case for Free Admission" by Casey N. Cep http://www.newyorker.com/business/currency/thecase-for-free-admission

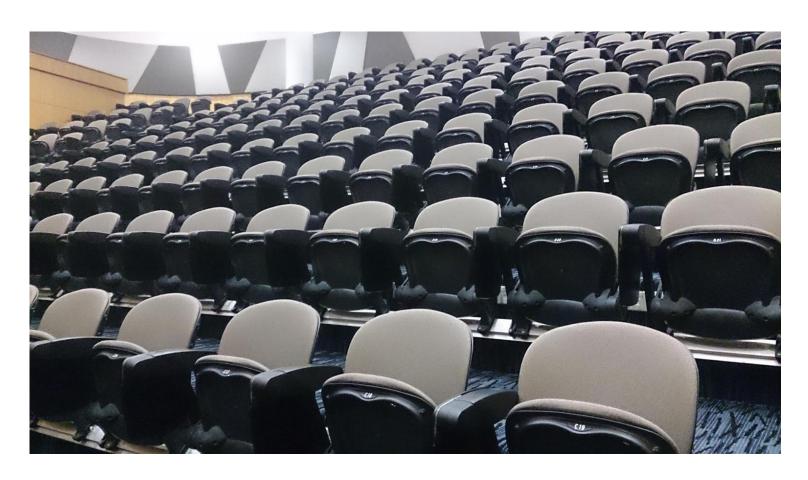
#### **Evaluate events:**

- Use Google Forms, SurveyMonkey, SurveyGizmo, even an Excel spreadsheet.
- Ask participants:
  - What they liked
  - What they learned (quiz)
  - What they will do

## Make a video or audio recording of your event to use on your website, or for quality improvement.



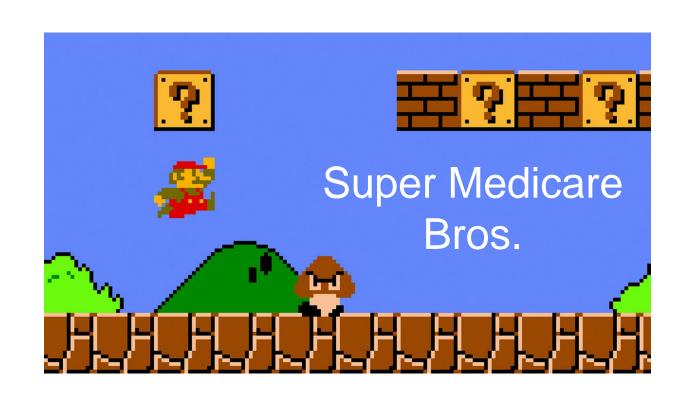
## Don't be afraid of a few empty seats



*Image: Wikimedia Commons* 

## The future of education programs

- Online classes
- Videos
- Apps
- Games?



## Have fun!



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## Keep in touch

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