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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 1, 2007
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**NEVADA DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES RECIPIENT
OF THREE GRANTS TOTALING \$430,000
Nevada one of only seven states awarded senior legal services grant**

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden and Nevada Division for Aging Services (DAS) Administrator Carol Sala announced today that Nevada senior citizens will benefit from the infusion of \$430,000 in grant funding that will enhance Alzheimer's disease services, legal services for seniors, and improve Internet technology used by DAS for outreach and support.

"These grants will serve as a welcome boost in our efforts to achieve our basic mission of keeping Nevada seniors living independently in their homes," Sala said.

A \$300,000 Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging will provide Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers with respite care, caregiver training, and diagnostic services for those facing dementia-related issues. Respite care provides those caring for Alzheimer's patients to take time off from their round-the-clock responsibilities. The grant also funds caregiver training for families and professionals, which focuses on how to better understand and compassionately manage the behavior of patients with dementia and Alzheimer's. In addition, the grant will support diagnostic services throughout the state, including reaching seniors living in Nevada's remote frontier counties, who can undergo diagnostic procedures through telemedicine if travel to Las Vegas or Reno is too difficult.

Nevada is one of seven states awarded a Model Approaches to Legal Services grant by the U.S. Administration on Aging. The grant is for \$100,000 for the first year, with the possibility of an additional \$100,000 per year for two more years. The grant will be used to better determine the legal needs of people over the age of 60, to institute a legal services telephone hotline for senior citizens in rural Nevada, and to maximize the legal services available to seniors using current providers. DAS will partner with Nevada Legal Services on the project.

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A third grant of \$30,000 from the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) for Management Information System Enhancements will support statewide linkage to an interactive, shared database for 13 DAS funded programs that provide service information and referrals for seniors and their caregivers. The database contains a full spectrum of information about services for seniors, caregivers, and Alzheimer's patients. Among the system's attributes is its ability to screen readers for visual impairment and to display maps to referral locations.

The Division for Aging Services has offices in Carson City, Reno, Elko, and Las Vegas. Its mission is to develop, coordinate, and deliver a comprehensive support service system in order for Nevada's senior citizens to lead independent, meaningful, and dignified lives. For more information, go to <http://aging.state.nv.us/index.htm>.

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