



# Aging Services of Minnesota

LEADING CHANGE ■ CHANGING LIVES

## Portico HealthNet/Help for the Uninsured in Your Workforce

June 1, 2009

With access to health insurance a major issue for a growing number of persons employed in older adult services settings, there is a statewide resource which Aging Services members may want to incorporate into their employee assistance programs.

Portico Healthnet, a nonprofit health and human services organization originally founded by hospitals operating in the east metro area of the Twin Cities, offers free, state-wide telephone assistance to help individuals find out if they are eligible for, and make applications to, programs such as MinnesotaCare or Medical Assistance. This unique information and referral service also has bi-lingual staff (Spanish, Hmong, Somali) offering step-by-step assistance to adults and their families.

While there is an eligibility threshold for these programs tied to household income, many of our hourly workers could be eligible for safety net programs that they are currently not accessing.

In addition to technical assistance in accessing statewide programs, Portico also has its own small safety net insurance program for those who may not qualify for a program like Minnesota Care. This particular insurance program is only available in the Twin Cities at this time, but for a small monthly premium (\$30 - \$40 per month) individuals who qualify can access primary care services and prescription coverage.

Two areas of the Twin Cities currently have slots open for qualifying individuals who are either 1) living in south Minneapolis within a one-mile radius of Abbott Northwestern Hospital or 2) individuals who live in the Stillwater school district and/or are already using Lakeview Hospital in Stillwater for health care services.

*For additional information about Portico Healthnet:*

Visit [www.porticohealthnet.org](http://www.porticohealthnet.org) or contact their Senior Communication Specialist, Bill Gray at 651-03-5109 for brochures for your employees.

*For Further Information:*

Contact Portico Healthnet at 651- 603-5100.