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**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**



PRESS RELEASE

17TH Annual Conference for Regional Education on Aging, Caregiving & Healthcare (REACH) Next Week

December 9 – 10, 2008 at Harvey Convention Center

Tyler, TX, December 3, 2008: Approximately 500 East Texans who work with the elderly will receive training next week at the 17th Annual Regional Education on Aging, Caregiving & Healthcare (REACH) Conference at Harvey Convention Center in Tyler on December 9-10 from 8:00 am to 4:30pm. The Conference is hosted each year by the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) which is administered by the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG).

The function of the REACH Conference is to promote awareness of special needs and problems of the Aging population, provide training for those who work with the elderly, share information about the latest advances in health care and services, and improve awareness and networking opportunities among health and human service agencies.

The Conference provides attendees a choice of 34 workshops over the two-day event, access to 28 exhibit booths, and accreditation and/or continuing education hours relative to the attendees' field of work. Accreditation/continuing education hours are offered for the following: Ethics, Social Work, Licensed Nursing Facility Administrators, Activity Directors, and Licensed Professional Counselors.

REACH is partially funded by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. It is organized by a planning committee made up of thirteen State and Local agencies.

The REACH Conference brochure and agenda may be viewed online by visiting http://www.etcog.org/Aging_files/2008%20REACH%20Brochure.pdf. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Area Agency on Aging at ETCOG at (903)984-8641, extension 101 or 107.

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About East Texas Area Agency on Aging

The Area Agency on Aging of East Texas is designated by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services to coordinate services for persons in East Texas who are 60 or older, with particular attention to low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas. The Area Agency on Aging is a program of ETCOG serving its 14 county region.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.

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