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**ACAPcommunity’s Guiding Principles[[1]](#footnote-1)**

ACAPcommunity was founded with eleven Guiding Principles that continue to provide the framework for all ACAP chapters and activities today:

1. The primary goal of all ACAPcommunity written and audio-visual curricular materials, social media resources, and educational platforms is to provide evidence-based information, resources, support, and community for adult-child caregivers of aging parents and other aging family members.
2. ACAPcommunity’s primary target audience is adult-child caregivers who serve a variety of roles in caring for and advocating for their aging parents and/or other aging family members.
3. ACAPcommunity chapters offer educational programs within the context of the validated 6-module core curriculum and conduct needs assessments to ensure that programs reflect local needs, priorities, and resources.
4. ACAPcommunity programs are offered at a regularly scheduled time and on a day of the week that is convenient for adult-child caregivers.
5. ACAPcommunity monthly programs are offered at no-cost to adult-child and other caregiver participants.
6. ACAPcommunity programs are offered in a “homey” and handicapped-accessible environment with safe, convenient, and well-lit parking. Chapters are encouraged to collaborate with other local agencies and organizations to provide supports requested by participants such as interpreters, assistive listening devices, and large-print materials.
7. ACAPcommunity monthly programs are suggested to be approximately 90-minutes in length and include 15 minutes for welcome and introductions, 45 minutes for educational presentations, and 30 minutes for a question-and-answer period with the presenter. After-program interaction and fellowship among participants, as well as further dialogue with facilitators, are encouraged.
8. ACAPcommunity programs are facilitated by local experts. Using the core curriculum, as the foundation, chapters are encouraged to choose speakers who are well-informed, well-recognized in their discipline or industry, and evaluated as excellent by ACAPcommunity program participants. Using the core curriculum as a foundation, speakers are encouraged to individualize programs to address specific local needs, priorities, and resources.
9. When appropriate, chapters are encouraged to choose adult-child caregivers and other family caregivers who are experts in issues of aging, adult-child caregiving and/or other family dynamics are encouraged to facilitate programs.
10. Consistent with ACAPcommunity’s mission and principles, business and industry may be invited to sponsor and/or present programs. However, sales of products or services are prohibited as is unrequested follow-up of attendees by the sponsor or presenter. ACAPcommunity programs are not to be used as a commercial, advertisement, or attempt to persuade participants to purchase, choose, or perform any service or product described in the program.
11. Communication with and contact information of ACAPcommunity participants are confidential and not to be shared with others. Communications with and information about ACAPcommunity attendees are for ACAPcommunity-related purposes only.

1. © ACAPcommunity, October 2014, updated June 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)