Suggested Projects: White House Innovation Fellows
 # 13 - Senior Home Safety Data and Medicare-Paid Home Evaluations

Here is an idea that a team could develop. Agreements for Medicare reimbursement, tax benefits, etc. would be part of the package that could be negotiated if the App is based on federal data and on-site certifications:

Re Safety Data: A worthwhile national project is to liberate and integrate federal data on home safety and accidents of the elderly. It's a major cause of injuries and adds medical expenses. The project would make it easier to create Senior Safety Apps for individuals and create business opportunities for consulting engineers, who can survey homes for people 65 and above and offer professional advice about upgrades.

My .local power company does this for energy audits. I understand that the North Carolina Department of Public Health also has contracts with consulting engineers to provide a safety audit automatically to 65+ people in NC. Lighting, handrails, outdoor steps, stovetop safety cutoffs, upgrading electric outlets near water (kitchens and bathrooms) with fast-stop circuit breakers, grab bars in bathrooms, securing carpets and throw rugs, look ahead investments (e.g., ADA standards).

The project also ought to use federal data to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of these investments (re health costs) to justify the new (prevention) Medicare cost sharing, the tax write-offs, the private insurance credits, etc. that would be appropriate and help to pay for recommended improvements.

Lloyd S. Etheredge
June 11, 2012