

The National Indian Council on Aging, Inc.

WHO WE ARE

The National Indian Council on Aging, Inc. (NICOA) is a non-profit advocacy and service organization created in 1976 by members of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association. Our leaders recognized a need for a national organization that would advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Elders.

OUR MISSION

The mission of NICOA is to advocate for improved comprehensive health, social services, and economic wellbeing for AI/AN Elders.

GOVERNANCE

NICOA is governed by a 13-member board of directors comprised of AI/AN Elders aged 55 and older. The board members represent each of NICOA's 12 regions and includes a representative from the National Association of Title VI Grantees.

NICOA board members also serve on Elder committees of the National Congress of American Indians and National Indian Health Board.

NICOA MEMBERSHIP

NICOA voting membership consists of Elders aged 55 and older, who are enrolled members of a federally recognized Tribe.

Voting members have an opportunity to make an impact by:

- Electing new board members
- Submitting aging-focused resolutions for approval at the general council meetings
- Developing a two-year NICOA aging policy platform to guide our actions until the next



convening of the NICOA's American Indian Elders Conference

Non-voting associate members are AI/ANs under the age of 55, or non-Indians of all ages.

Organization members are non-voting members of any stakeholder organization or Tribal Nation.

Non-voting members are the stakeholders that ensure services reach Native Elders, and their advocacy amplifies the voices of our Elders.

NICOA OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance communications and cooperation with community service providers and other aging organizations that represent and advocate for AI/AN Elders.
2. Provide information and technical assistance for AI/AN communities to improve health care, social services, and economic wellbeing for AI/AN Elders.
3. Network with appropriate agencies to maximize resources and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery systems for Elders.
4. Provide information, reports, and expert testimony requested by Tribal Nations and the US Congress.
5. Provide a clearinghouse for information on issues affecting AI/AN Elders.

ADVOCACY

NICOA hosts an American Indian Elders Conference every two years to educate attendees about the need for aging services across Indian Country. Expert speakers inform Elders about the services and resources available to AI/AN Elders at the Tribal, state, and national levels. NICOA educates Tribal Nations, policymakers, service providers, and members of the Aging Network.

SERVICES

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is authorized by Title V of the Older Americans Act and administered through the Department of Labor. Since 1989, NICOA has been one of several national nonprofit grantees contracted to provide SCSEP.

NICOA's SCSEP helps eligible Elders, 55 and older, build real-world skills through a subsidized, temporary, part-time job training program. Although NICOA operates through an American Indian set-aside grant from the Department of Labor, we provide services to anyone in our service area who is eligible for the program.

NICOA's Technical Assistance and Resource Center (TARC) provides education on the unique needs of Native Elders and caregivers. Two of our resources include best practices for collaboration with Tribal Nations and a Toolkit on Understanding Disabilities in AI/AN Communities.

Tribal Long Term Services and Supports

National Resource Center (TLTSSNRC), also known as the LTSS Compass can be found here: <https://nicoaltsscompass.org>. LTSS is part of a continuum of care for Elders and people with disabilities that address the needs of the whole person. It recognizes the interdependence of an Elder's life journey, including physical, mental, social, and spiritual wellbeing.

NICOA's LTSS Compass helps individuals and Tribal leaders understand what LTSS is and how LTSS benefits the community and promotes independence, health, and quality of life for Elders and people with disabilities.

JOIN NICOA

Do you want to improve aging services for AI/AN Elders? If so, become an advocate and learn more about supporting AI/AN Elders. NICOA is the premier organization on AI/AN aging, and we invite you to become a member. Visit our website at:

<http://www.nicoa.org/membership>

Your involvement and support bring attention, education, and improved services to Elders and people with disabilities across Indian Country. Every Elder deserves access to the services and resources necessary to age independently, with dignity, and in their chosen community.

Contact NICOA to learn more:

www.nicoa.org | 505-292-2001

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