

# **TRIBAL ISSUES TO ADDRESS**

## **Implementation Strategies for WHCoA Resolutions to address Tribes and provision of services to their Elders**

### **Overall Resolution Implementation Strategy:**

Each resolution that emerges from the voting in the top 50 should include language that specifically mentions Tribes and Tribal organizations in its implementation strategies. Specific language recognizing Tribes and Tribal organizations honors the federal government's trust responsibility to the First Americans as recognized through treaty, statute and case law. This inclusion also ensures that the Elders have access to services and programs in their communities provided directly from the federal government instead of relying on pass through monies from states which rarely reach the reservations and community organizations. Where appropriate, language should also focus on consultation with Tribes prior to policies that affect them being proposed or enacted.

### **Strategies to Offer for Specific Issue Areas:**

#### **Planning Along the Lifespan**

Maintain integrity of Social Security program without privatization. Social Security is the most stable and often the only form of income for Elders across Indian Country.

Respect Indian trust income in the calculation of SSI.

Preserve the integrity of dependents' benefits for surviving spouses and children within Social Security.

Increase information and outreach to all 562 Tribal nations and Native Hawaiians on disability.

#### **The Workplace of the Future**

Maintain dual purpose of Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) under Title V of OAA which provides employment training to low

income seniors across the country and focuses 80% on community service and 20% on job placement. The program's dual structure of operating through state units on aging and national organizations should be maintained. (Cross cutting issue)

## **Our Community**

### **Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA)**

Require the Area Agencies on Aging under Title III to work closely with the Tribes and Tribal consortia in Title VI to provide services to Native Elders.

Require the President and the U.S. Congress to provide adequate funding to pay for all of the costs for delivery of nutrition and supportive services to Native Elders.

Establish base level funding of \$8 million for the National Indian organization which operates the Senior Community Service Employment Program under Title V of OAA and retain exclusion from state planning.

Maintain dual purpose of Senior Community Service Employment Program under Title V of OAA which provides employment training to low income seniors across the country and focuses 80% on community service and 20% on job placement. The program's dual structure of operating through state units on aging and national organizations should be maintained. (Cross cutting issue)

Increase appropriations for Title VI of OAA, which provides funding for nutrition and other supportive services like transportation for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Elders, from \$26.4 million to \$100 million by 25% increments annually.

Request \$1 million in first-time funding for Title VII, Part B of OAA to provide elder abuse awareness and protection grants in Indian Country.

Reestablish the occurrence of the Indian White House Conference on Aging as previously provided in the Older Americans Act to honor required government to government consultation between federal government and Tribes in provision of services for Indian Elders prior to the next WHCoA in 2015.

Increase funding to \$10 million for the Native American Caregiver Support Program under Title VI, Part C of the OAA to provide additional training and resources.

Maintain funding under Title IV, Part A in the OAA for national resource centers and technical assistance centers to research and examine the health and social

services that American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Elders require.

Provide \$1.3 million under Title IV in the OAA for training and technical assistance to Title VI Directors located in Tribal communities who operate the senior centers.

Elevate the Director of the Office of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs to the Deputy Secretary level in the Administration on Aging.

### **Veterans**

Require Department of Veterans Affairs to provide systematic outreach and information to Indian veterans to ensure access to services they are entitled to receive. American Indians have consistently served in foreign wars in higher numbers than any other group of Americans for their percentage of the population (less than 1% of the U.S. population).

Require close coordination between Indian Health Service and Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure health care needs of AI/AN veterans are being met.

### **Housing and Transportation**

Increase funding for Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) to improve plumbing and sanitation conditions for Native Elders.

Include specific language in transportation initiatives that allows resources to flow directly to Tribes to create and/or improve transportation infrastructure on reservations for Native Elders to access health care, services and programs.

### **Elder Abuse/Elder Justice**

Request \$1 million in first-time funding for Title VII, Part B in the Older Americans Act to provide elder abuse awareness and protection grants in Indian Country.

### **Limited English Proficient Elders**

Require that federal and state programs coordinate with Tribes to ensure AI/AN Elders have access to information on health and social services programs and services in their own language.

## **Health and Long Term Living**

Increase funding for Indian Health Service, which provides the health care for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders, to address prevention efforts and not just acute care.

Reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which authorizes the appropriations for health care services to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Require other agencies with the Department of Health and Human Services to work closely with their sister agency, the Indian Health Service, to develop a collaborative model for health promotion and disease prevention.

Allow Tribes more flexibility through state Medicaid programs by providing 100% FMAP for services offered through Tribal home health agencies and by cost reporting through Medicaid Administrative Match to improve health outcome and cost of care efficiencies for AI/AN Elders.

Develop a national long term care policy that includes Tribes in the provision of services and coordinated care.

Increase funding for Native American Caregiver Support Program under Title VI of OAA to provide additional training and resources.

Require close coordination between Indian Health Service and Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure health care needs of AI/AN veterans are being met.

## **Civic Engagement and Social Engagement**

Maintain dual purpose of Senior Community Service Employment Program under Title V of OAA which provides employment training to low income seniors across the country and focuses 80% on community service and 20% on job placement. The program's dual structure of operating through state units on aging and national organizations should be maintained. (Cross cutting issue)

## **Technology and Innovation in an Emerging Senior/Boomer Marketplace**

Include Tribes and Tribal organizations in programs that seek to bridge the digital divide that keeps low income, frontier and isolated populations from accessing technology and innovative products to better their quality of life.