

WHAT

- The organizations that comprise the Diverse Elders Coalition propose \$450 million in funding over eight (8) years to support equitable access to Older Americans Act programs and services for older adults who are from racially and ethnically diverse, American Indian and Alaska Native, and/or LGBT+ communities.
- **For support for LGBT+ older adults, we propose \$50 million (all over 8 years):**
 - \$7M to SAGE’s ACL-funded National Resource Center for LGBT Aging (NRC-LGBT) to provide increased LGBT+ access to ACL’s Eldercare Locator
 - \$8M to NRC-LGBT to provide targeted case management
 - \$15M to NRC-LGBT to enhance capacity to provide technical assistance and training to aging network and volunteer caregivers
 - \$10M to NRC-LGBT for cyber education to close digital divide
 - \$10M to NRC-LGBT for virtual programming initiative
- **For support for Hispanic older adults, we propose \$120 million (all over 8 years):**
 - \$25M for Hispanic cultural responsiveness training for OAA- and CMS-funded networks
 - \$20M for cyber education to close digital divide
 - \$20M for virtual programming initiative
 - \$20M for job training
 - \$25M to address health inequities
 - \$10M for national partnership with American farmers to address hunger/food insecurity
- **For support for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) older adults, we propose \$50 million (all over 8 years):**
 - \$10M to fund Title VII-B of the OAA to establish elder protection programs at the tribal level
 - \$15M to increase funding for tribal caregivers so elder can “Age in Place”
 - \$5M to increase funding for SCSEP Set-aside to provide job training
 - \$10M to increase funding for National Minority and Special Populations to serve AI/AN populations
 - \$10M to include Tribal Colleges and Universities in set-aside training and education funds
- **For support for AAPI older adults, we propose \$56 million (all over 8 years):**
 - \$16M to National Resource Center for AAPI Aging (NRC-AAPI) for national information and referral assistance system
 - \$16M to NRC-AAPI for cultural competency training and capacity-building initiative for OAA- and CMS-funded networks
 - \$2M to NRC-AAPI for cyber education to close digital divide
 - \$2M to NRC-AAPI for virtual programming initiative
 - \$16M for workforce development through SCSEP Set-Aside
 - \$2M to NRC-AAPI for research with AAPI communities as they age
 - \$2M to NRC-AAPI for elder abuse initiative
- **For support for Southeast Asian American (SEAA) older adult communities, we propose \$14 million over 8 years to:**
 - Provide technical assistance and SEAA cultural competency training for CMS-funded networks
 - Educate SEAA elders to close digital divide and navigate existing resources
 - Conduct research to understand SEAA community needs, gaps, and opportunities to inform a new care ecology for elders

- Support workforce development for existing/new care providers to offer culturally/linguistically responsive care
- **For support for Black older adults, we propose \$120 million over 8 years for:**
 - Outreach to internet providers and policymakers to work in partnership with NCBA to establish special, low-rate structures for low-income seniors
 - Small grants to subsidize purchase of laptop or desktop computers for low-income seniors
 - Grants to senior centers, community centers, etc. in underserved communities to outfit and staff computer labs with “seniors only” hours
 - Education services with hands-on training in navigating the internet and basic programs
 - Virtual technical services and other assistance for seniors with questions/concerns about internet protocols/activities
 - Publication/distribution of plain-language, culturally appropriate user-friendly guides and videos on internet usage
 - Continuing education through regular updates to seniors about new websites, new applications, and other technological changes to maintain/upgrade computer skills
- **To benefit all older adults in racially and ethnically diverse, AI/AN, and LGBT+ communities, we propose \$40 million over 8 years to:**
 - Expand support for caregivers working within diverse elder communities by expanding caregiver support program piloted by Diverse Elders Coalition

WHY:

- As of 2018, 23% of older Americans were members of racially and ethnically diverse communities; by 2040 that number will increase to 34%. 5% of older Americans are LGBT+, with more and more LGBT+ older adults emerging from “the closet” every day. Older adults from racially and ethnically diverse, American Indian and Alaska Native, and/or LGBT+ communities face severe equity gaps and challenges in accessing OAA services and programs. These equity gaps can be closed with targeted strategic investments as proposed. This is essential so that *all* older Americans can equitably access services and care.

HOW:

- To be effective as investments to close severe equity gaps, funds to expand access to OAA services among older adults who are racially and ethnically diverse, American Indian and Alaska Native, and/or LGBT+ must be awarded to organizations with deep roots and experience working with said older adults and the communities from which they come.
- To the extent possible, the proposed funds should be allocated as enhancements to the National Resource Center for LGBT Aging (for funding to support older adults who are LGBT+) and the ACL-funded National Resource Centers sponsored by the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging and National Indian Council on Aging (for funding to support older adults who are AAPI, or American Indian or Alaska Natives, respectively).
- To the extent possible, funding for support for Black older adults, Hispanic older adults and Southeast Asian American older adults should be allocated to the National Caucus & Center on Black Aging, National Hispanic Council on Aging, and Southeast Asian Resource Action Center, respectively.
- The Diverse Elders Coalition consists of the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA), National Caucus & Center on Black Aging (NCBA), National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA), National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA), SAGE, and the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC).