American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Program

BACKGROUND

Under Title VI of the Older Americans Act, the Administration on Aging (AoA) awards grants directly to Tribes, Tribal organizations and Native Hawaiian organizations for a wide range of home- and community-based services and supports that have enabled older adults to remain in their homes and active in their communities.

Grants are provided to promote the delivery of home and community-based supportive services, to include nutrition, transportation and caregiver services. These programs are responsive to the cultural diversity of Native American communities and represent an important part of the communities' comprehensive long term services and supports.

Most sites provide hot congregate meals four to five times a week. Home-delivered meals are available for elders who are in poorer health, are more functionally impaired, are more apt to be homebound and in need of transportation services, or in need of in-home supportive services.

Title VI programs are important sources for social interaction and supportive services to include health promotion and wellness programs. These programs are essential to help address the higher rates of Native elders experiencing greater incidences of diabetes, obesity and nutritional risk.

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS

AoA currently funds three Native American Resource Centers (Centers). The primary goal of the Centers is to enhance knowledge about older Native Americans and thereby increase and improve the delivery of services to them. Each Center addresses at least two areas of primary concern which include: health issues, long term care (including in-home care), elder abuse, mental health, and other problems and issues facing Native communities.

Since 1994, AoA has funded the National Resource Center on Native American Aging at the University of North Dakota. This Center helps identify patterns of access and barriers limiting access to home and community based services through evidence based research and interactions with Tribal in conducting needs assessments for program development. More information about the Center is available on the Web at: http://www.nrcnaa.org/

Since 2003, AoA has funded the National Resource Center on American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Elders at the University of Alaska – Anchorage. This Center focuses on issues affecting Native Alaska elders, particularly in the areas of elder abuse and health care needs. They also collaborate with the Joint Alaska Native Elders Health Advisory Committee on projects related to culturally appropriate services for Native Alaska elders.

More information about the Center is available on the Web at: http://elders.uaa.alaska.edu/.

The third Center has been funded since 2006. The Ha Kupuna Center for Native Hawaiian Elders is located at the University of Hawaii. This Center focuses on Native Hawaiian elders and is partnering with the State of Hawaii Executive Office on Aging, the two Native Hawaiian Title VI programs, and the Native Hawaiian Health Care System on all islands to better assist their communities to develop programs to meet the needs of Native Hawaiian elders. More information about this Center is available on the Web at: http://manoa.hawaii.edu/hakupuna/.

AoA also funds the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NIEJI). NIEJI has an established Resource Center on elder abuse to assist tribes in addressing indigenous elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This Center provides research, education, and training for the identification and prevention of elder abuse in Indigenous communities. This Center serves these communities in an effort to improve the elders quality of life. More information about this Center is available on the Web at: http://www.nieji.org/

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on Title VI programs, please visit http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/Native_Americans/index.asp

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