



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging
Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution #2014-02

TITLE: Gerontology and Geriatric Research to Benefit American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) Elders & Tribes

WHEREAS, we the members of the National Indian Council on Aging, Inc. (NICOA) of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the issues and needs of American Indian and Alaska Native Elders, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety, and welfare of our Elders, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, NICOA was established in 1976 by Tribal Leaders to advocate for improved comprehensive health, social services, and economic wellbeing for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Elders. NICOA submits to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) this resolution passed by its members at their biennial meeting on September 5, 2014; and

WHEREAS, health care providers and the general public do not have access to adequate gerontology and geriatric data and information. There is a lack of relevant, immediate, applicable community based and inter-disciplinary data. This lack of information contributes to AI/AN health disparities, maltreatment, exclusion, gaps, and other gerontological health issues, and;

WHEREAS, research is needed to promote systematic investigation, development, testing, and evaluation centered on health issues central to the Native community in order to create a continual dialogue between investigators, health care providers, and the Native communities in general; and

WHEREAS, the lack of research and evidence based data and information specific to AI/AN Elders decreases opportunities for tribes to seek alternative funding placing the AI/AN entities at a disadvantage for accessing potential resources to support aging services. Health care data and information help to enhance opportunities to secure funding resources for a variety of care services by tracking death rates and such chronic illness and acute disease. The evidence based findings and interviews will contribute to health based equity and promote healthier lifestyles and establish common ethical and research practices such as community based participatory research (CBPR) that gains the trust of the AI/AN community by observing cultural values; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NICOA Elders do hereby request that the U.S Department of Health and Human Services increase opportunities and direct funding for gerontology and geriatric research to AI/AN entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health increase research for and by AI/AN organizations with direct set aside funding from an increased Congressional appropriation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is policy of NICOA until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above resolution was passed before a duly called meeting of the National Indian Council on Aging membership on 5, September 2014, in Phoenix, AZ, at which a quorum was present.

Chairman