



# NICOA

## National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

### NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

#### Resolution # 2014-06

#### **TITLE: NICOA Elders Request Comparable Equity between Title III State Services and Title VI Tribal Services**

**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, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of 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 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**, the Administration on Aging (AoA) grants are awarded under Title VI to American Indian tribal organizations, Alaskan Native organizations, and non-profit groups representing Native Hawaiians. Grants are used to fund supportive and nutrition services for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Elders. Grants are awarded to more than 250 tribal organizations and 2 Native Hawaiian organizations. In addition, family caregiver grants have been awarded to 218 Title VI organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Older Americans Act states in Title VI that "it is the purpose of this Title to promote the delivery of supportive services, including nutrition services, to AI/ANs and Native Hawaiians that are comparable to services provided under Title III. However, the provision of "comparable services", has not been achieved due to insufficient funds for this Title; and

**WHEREAS**, NICOA acknowledges the tremendous efforts of Title VI Directors and the creative approaches they develop to cope with budget shortfalls. Approximately two thirds of the grants to AI/AN tribes or consortia of tribes are for less than \$100,000. This funding level is expected to provide services for a minimum of 50 Elders for an entire year. Those tribes receiving more than or at least \$100,000 serve between 200-300 Elders. Many tribes are not able to meet the five day per week meal requirement because of insufficient funding and are serving congregate meals only two or three days per week; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NICOA Elders request that the Administration on Aging (AoA) increase appropriation of funding for Title VI of the Older Americans Act based on the number of eligible AI/ANs in each of the designated service areas. According to the AoA, the number of AI/AN people age 65 and older is projected to increase by nearly 75% between 2010 and 2020; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NICOA Elders request for increased training for Title VI service providers that include new and innovative ways to improve Indian Elder access to social services. Funding for training should be separate from funds used to provide direct services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be the 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