

The National Indian Council on Aging, Inc. **Fact Sheet**



Members of NICOA 1978

WHO WE ARE

The National Indian Council on Aging, Inc. (NICOA) is a non-profit advocacy and service organization created in 1976 by members of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association. Our leaders recognized a need for a national organization that would advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Elders.

OUR MISSION

The mission of NICOA is to advocate for improved comprehensive health, social services and economic wellbeing for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders.

GOVERNANCE

NICOA is governed by a 13-member board of directors comprised of American Indian and Alaska Native Elders age 55 and older. The board members represent each of the 12 NICOA regions, and includes a representative from the National Association of Title VI Grantees.

NICOA MEMBERSHIP

NICOA voting membership consists of Elders age 55 and older, who are enrolled members of a federally recognized Tribe.

Voting members have an opportunity to make an impact by electing new board members at term, submitting aging focused resolutions for approval at the general council meeting, developing a two-year NICOA aging policy platform to guide our actions until the next convening of the NICOA Conference on Aging.

Non-voting associate members are AI/ANs under the age of 55, or non-Indians of all ages. Organization members are non-voting members of any stakeholder organization or Tribal Nations.

Non-voting members are the stakeholders that help to support and ensure that services reach Native Elders. Your strength in advocacy supports the Voices of our Elders.

NICOA OBJECTIVES

- 1) Enhance communications and cooperation with community service providers and other aging organizations that represent and advocate for AI/AN Elders.
- 2) Provide information and technical assistance for AI/AN communities to improve health care, social services and economic wellbeing for AI/AN Elders.

- 3) Network with appropriate agencies to maximize resources, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery systems for Elders.
- 4) Provide information, reports and expert testimony requested by Tribal Nations and the US Congress.
- 5) Provide a clearinghouse for information on issues affecting AI/AN Elders.

ADVOCACY

NICOA coordinates Aging Conferences every two years. This 3 ½ day forum is all about Native Elders. This convening enables voting member Elders to speak on aging related issues. This forum helps educate policy makers, service providers, the Aging Network, and stakeholders about aging service needs across Indian Country. The voting members of NICOA also invite prominent and expert speakers that help Elders learn about tribal, state and national services and resources available to Elders across Indian Country.

SERVICES

NICOA is one of several national nonprofit agencies serving as a grantee to provide the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). SCSEP is a part-time, temporary job training program for eligible Elders 55 and older. Subsidizing job training and building real world skills are the keys to NICOA SCSEP success in Indian Country since 1989. This program is authorized by the Older Americans Act and administered through the Department of Labor. Although NICOA operates through an American Indian set-aside grant from the Department of Labor, we provide services to anyone in our service area who is eligible for the program.

NICOA is grant funded to serve as a National Consortium on aging resources for elder equity. The Consortium was established by the

Administration for Community Living (ACL) in 2012. It is composed of five national minority and LGBT aging organization partners representing five major racial, LGBT, and ethnic minority older populations. The Consortium serves as an interconnected resource center for the Aging Network.

PARTNERS

NICOA is a member of the Diverse Elders Coalition; partnering with four other national aging organizations - National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA), National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA), Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE), and Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) - to advocate for policies and programs that improve aging in our communities as racially and ethnically diverse people. NICOA works in partnership with National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to ensure that the voices and concerns of Elders are represented and supported at the national level. The NICOA board Chairman serves as the Chairman of the NCAI Elder Committee.

JOIN NICOA

Do you care about helping to improve aging services to AI/AN Elders? Then please join NICOA! NICOA is the premier organization calling attention to the needs of our Elders. We need you as an advocate.

Your involvement and support brings attention, education, and improved services to Elders across the country. Every Elder should have the opportunity to age in place and should have services and resources available to them in every community across Indian Country and in urban areas.

Contact us for more information on NICOA and how to become a member.

Website: NICOA.org

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