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**Second  
National Roundtable  
on  
Native American Elders**

**Sponsored  
by the  
U.S. Administration on Aging**

**August 5-6, 1993  
Washington, D.C.**





## OPENING REMARKS

### SECOND NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES

AUGUST 5-6, 1993

Fernando Torres-Gil  
Assistant Secretary on Aging  
Department of Health and Human Services

In my newly created position as Assistant Secretary on Aging, I see myself as the foremost, visible and effective advocate on behalf of older persons and their issues. As their advocate, I intend to ensure that the needs and concerns of older people are taken into account whenever decisions are being made at the Federal level that could affect them. I believe in a type of "in your face" advocacy--be everywhere, constantly and relentlessly advocating on behalf of the nation's elders. Additionally, I have a great relationship with Secretary Shalala - with direct and frequent contact. The Secretary and I are focusing on making AoA a significant participant in all areas affecting older persons.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary and AoA are playing an integral role in shaping policies and decisions affecting the elderly in Healthcare and Welfare Reform. Additionally, we have a special focus on designing new service delivery systems that are streamlined, customer-oriented, efficient, effective and "user-friendly".

In short, I view my responsibilities as being intra-and inter-departmental. I know many Federal participants at this Roundtable are active in the Federal Interagency Task Force on Older Indians which is chaired by Yvonne Jackson. I am particularly interested in what this Task Force is doing and what you will recommend to enhance coordination and access to services at the local level: we must learn to become much better advocates within our departments and agencies.

Within that context, meetings such as these are critical in order to develop and promote a National Aging Agenda that makes a difference in the lives of the elderly.

The First Roundtable, held in January of this year, laid out many of the basic issues that need to be addressed to better serve the Elders in the diverse Indian, Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian communities. In essence, you outlined some of the many critical issues that need to be addressed in order to have an infrastructure for addressing the community-based needs of the Elders within Indian communities. It is vital that State and Area Agencies recognize their responsibility to provide services in Indian communities to the elders living there. You know - as do I - that consistent and effective coordination between Titles III and VI will require leadership and effort on your part as well as from Title III.

It is equally vital that the Title VI program be supported and promoted as an essential part of the national Aging Network. This Title was passed to assure Indian Elders the option of services in their own communities - comprehensive, long term community based systems of



services that are reflective of cultural and language differences. This must be our goal for Title VI as well as for Title III.

The first Roundtable was significant in delineating those issues, you as leaders and experts from different Indian communities, regarded as decisive within Indian communities. This Roundtable is even more important in terms of providing recommendations for priorities and directions.

WHAT I AM INTERESTED IN ARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO -

Streamline, restructure and reform Federal programs affecting elders;

Change or strengthen what we have in the communities to make these programs more effective, operate more efficiently and encourage access and utilization by the consumer; and

Incorporate or build into our programs incentives to make them work more collaboratively with one another and with the communities.

I CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT ALL YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED--BUT I CAN COMMIT MYSELF TO USING YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO GUIDE ME AS ADVOCATE OF YOUR INTERESTS THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.



Fernando Torres-Gil



## ROUNDTABLE PURPOSE AND FOCUS

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## ROUNDTABLE PURPOSE AND FOCUS

In an ongoing effort to ensure effective planning, administration and support to American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian elders, the Administration on Aging (AoA) brought together representatives from national Indian aging organizations, Title VI grantees, Indian Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), urban Indian organizations, State recognized Tribes, and various agencies within the Federal government.

The dual purpose of this meeting was to follow up on the issues identified at the First National Roundtable on Native American Elders, held on January 8, 1993 and to develop action plans for implementing the recommendations made there.

The first Roundtable discussed future directions in confronting certain program and administrative issues and examined effectual and creative responses to these issues confronting older Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians. The second Roundtable expanded on the work of the first. Numerous recommendations were made at the first Roundtable. A few of them have already been implemented.

During the second Roundtable, the recommendations were prioritized and action plans were developed for those identified as top priority.

Three broad issues framed the roundtable discussions. They were:

**Issue One:** What changes in the Older Americans Act (OAA) and in the administration of the Native American program would enhance Native American elders' access to services provided to them?

**Issue Two:** What are the issues in meeting the health care needs, including community based long term care, of Native American elders?

**Issue Three:** What are the issues Native American elders face in accessing services provided by State-administered Federal programs and programs funded by the Federal government to the Tribe?

This report integrates the priority recommendations made at the first Roundtable with the action plans developed at the second Roundtable. The recommendations and action plans are presented in the context of the issues which they address.



ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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## ISSUE ONE

# WHAT CHANGES IN THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT (OAA) AND IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM WOULD ENHANCE NATIVE AMERICAN ELDERS' ACCESS TO SERVICES PROVIDED TO THEM?

## BACKGROUND

The intent of Title VI of the OAA is to:

- Provide services for Indian elders that are comparable to Title III services
- Allow flexibility in program administration and design to accommodate differing cultural values, diverse levels of resources, and specific Tribal needs.

Participants in the Roundtables identified several elements of the OAA that hinder effective access to services by Native Americans. The paragraphs that follow discuss these constraining elements.

The OAA established the eligibility of Tribal organizations as units of government for designation and funding as Planning and Service Areas (PSAs). However, in the past 20 years, only 10 Indian PSAs and Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have been designated. Many Tribes have expressed interest in an AAA designation, but are inhibited by the requirement to be designated by and funded through the State in which they are located.

The OAA mandated reimbursement to State agencies for the delivery of services to AAAs during major disasters. The law is

silent with regard to the eligibility of Tribal organizations for disaster assistance directly from the Federal government. This omission forces Tribes to compete at the State level for Federal funds during extremely hard times.

Further complicating interaction with State programs is the statutory requirement for States to use age 60 as the eligibility age for services under Title III. Tribes, on the other hand, may establish a different eligibility age for services under Title VI. This creates confusion in the coordination of Title VI and Title III services.

Title V of the OAA, administered by the Department of Labor (DOL), promotes part-time employment opportunities for low-income older persons. In spite of high unemployment in Indian country, Tribes receive few of the Title V positions nationwide.

The decentralization of the Administration on Aging (AoA) has resulted in increased program responsibility at the regional level. In making this change, no formal lines of authority and accountability were established for the Associate Commissioner, Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs (OAIANNHP), and the Regional Program

Directors for carrying out the numerous mandates in Titles II, IV, VI, and VII.

Additionally, Title VI funds are available only to Tribal organizations representing Federally recognized Tribes. State recognized Tribes and Indian urban organizations must receive services from programs funded under Title III. Funding under Title III for Indian organizations is difficult to obtain and uncertain to be maintained. For example, Title III requires the tailoring of services to the low income and the minority elderly population, including Native Americans. This is not, however, being done, particularly not in urban areas. It should be noted that urban and off-reservation Native Americans represent more than 50 percent of the Native American population.

The 1992 Amendments to OAA authorized a Native American component of the new Title VII program - Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities. However, no funds were appropriated.

To correct these constraints to effective implementation of the OAA and its amendments for Native Americans, the Roundtable participants identified the need for a Native American Advisory Board and increased accountability of the Regional Offices for the Native American program. In addition, they developed several recommendations and associated action plans. The following pages present those recommendations.

## RECOMMENDATION 1.1

**Urge Congress to fully fund Title VI of the Older Americans Act at the authorized level of \$30 million, and the Native American section of Title VII at the authorized level of \$5 million.**

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### ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA

**Actions:**

1. Continue in-house support with ongoing documentation of needs.
2. Instruct Title VI grantees to document unmet needs and underserved populations explicitly and extensively and to maintain such documentation.
3. Instruct Regional Offices to carefully document unmet needs and underserved populations on monitoring guides and when conducting training, technical assistance and other activities.
4. Analyze monitoring guides for information supporting unmet needs and underserved populations and disseminate the information and analysis in-house.
5. Use resource centers to conduct short-term applied research on alternative approaches to meet gaps in service.

**When:** Begin now; ongoing follow-up

**Who:** National and Local Indian Organizations

**Actions:**

1. Sponsor field hearings.
2. Develop national strategy to promote full funding, using letter campaigns, videos, and workshops.
3. Urge Tribal leaders to talk to key Congressional leaders.
4. Lobby to have White House Indian desk fully staffed.

**When:** Begin now; ongoing follow-up

## RECOMMENDATION 1.2

**Enable the Assistant Secretary on Aging, Administration on Aging, to directly designate Indian Area Agencies on Aging.**

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA

**Actions:**

1. Identify concerns of State and Area Agencies on Aging about the designation process.
2. Develop issue and decision papers on the pros and cons of direct designation, including the funding mechanisms.
3. Investigate the feasibility of direct funding by developing statistical models, possibly through the resource centers. (Base analysis largely on the AAAs now operating under Indian administration.)

**When:** Begin now; ongoing

### **RECOMMENDATION 1.3**

**Make disaster assistance, provided under the Older Americans Act through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), available to Tribes through direct funding.**

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### **ACTION PLAN**

**Who:** AoA in coordination with BIA and FEMA

**Actions:**

1. Explore the most effective way(s) to make funds available directly to Indian Tribes, including amendments to OAA and development of a policy to make Tribal organizations eligible for direct disaster relief funds.
2. Investigate the availability of administrative procedures for and obstacles to direct funding under FEMA and BIA legislation.

**When:** Now

## RECOMMENDATION 1.4

Promote better coordination between Title III and Title VI of the Older Americans Act, as amended.

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### ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA -- Office of State and Community Programs; Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian Programs (OAIANNHP); Regional Offices

**Actions:**

The Office of State and Community Programs, AoA, shall monitor the activities of State Agencies on Aging (SSAs) for compliance with Sec. 306(19)(A) of OAA, reporting findings to OAIANNHP. AoA, shall monitor Title VI grantees activities to comply with Sec. 614 (a)(12) and 624(a)(3) of the OAA and report findings to the Office of State and Community Programs at AoA.

**When:** FY 1994

**Who:** SAAs, AAAs; Title VI Grantees

**Actions:**

SAAs shall, at least 30 days prior to any public hearing, distribute area plans to the appropriate Title VI grantees and invite them to the hearings.

**When:** FY 1994

## RECOMMENDATION 1.5

Local Area Agencies on Aging (Title III) recognize the Tribally designated age for eligibility purposes.

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA

**Actions:**

Work with the resource centers to conduct a secondary analysis of census data and of other available data on aging in Indian communities. AoA will also look at the impact which the Tribally set age eligibility criteria would have on Title III and will develop an issue paper.

**When:** Ongoing

**Who:** National Indian Organizations

**Actions:**

Assist in supplying information and data.

**When:** Ongoing

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## RECOMMENDATION 1.6

The Administration on Aging should assist Older Americans Act Title VI programs in preparing for and receiving Older Americans Act Title VII appropriations (i.e. Allotments for Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities).

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA, National Association Title VI Grantees, National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA)

**Actions:**

1. AoA will determine the most effective and efficient way to disseminate the model Elder Abuse Tribal Code (previously developed under an AoA grant) for Tribal replication and take the appropriate steps to implement dissemination.
2. AoA should issue a letter in support of distributing the code to all Title VI Tribal organizations and as many other Federal and State recognized Tribes as possible.
3. Tribes should develop their own elder abuse codes.
4. National Association Title VI Grantees, NICOA and other Indian organizations should:
  - . Launch a national effort to support adaptation/adoption of the model code and its implementation
  - . Lobby for funding of \$5 million for the Native American component of Title VII.

**When:** FY 1993 and FY 1994

## **RECOMMENDATION 1.7**

**The Administration on Aging should enhance the discretionary grants program for American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian organizations, both within the Administration on Aging and with other Federal agencies.**

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## **ACTION PLAN**

**Who:** AoA -- OAIANNHP

***Actions:***

1. Develop issue/strategy papers on expanding eligibility to Title VI and Tribal organizations in all discretionary funding under the OAA to enable them to become comparable to the Title III programs.
2. Take the lead in intra-departmental education to ensure maximum eligibility in all future discretionary grant announcements.
3. Promote training and technical assistance in grant writing skills.

**When:** FY 1994 and beyond

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## RECOMMENDATION 1.8

**Expand the Older Americans Act, Title V, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), in order to increase employment in American Indian communities.**

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### ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA, Department of Labor (DOL)

**Actions:**

AoA will support the expansion of SCSEP into more American Indian communities and will explore, in collaboration with DOL, how best to do this.

**When:** FY 1993 and FY 1994

**Who:** National, State and local Indian Organizations

**Actions:**

Support the expansion of SCSEP into more American Indian communities nationwide by advocating and supporting additional funding through the appropriations process.

**When:** FY 1993 and FY 1994

## RECOMMENDATION 1.9

The Administration on Aging should look at the feasibility of serving non-Federally recognized Tribes and Tribal groups (i.e. State recognized Tribes and urban organizations).

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA, State Commissioners on Indian Affairs

**Actions:**

Develop linkages with State Tribes and State Commissioners on Indian Affairs, gather information on State Tribes and conduct short term research on the feasibility and impact of funding. The research will look at funding procedures (i.e. through a set-aside under Title III or under separate parts under Title VI), and minimum funding levels.

**When:** Ongoing

**Who:** National and State Indian Organizations

**Actions:**

Provide AoA with relevant information, contacts and resources.

**When:** Ongoing

## RECOMMENDATION 1.10

**The Assistant Secretary for Aging, Administration on Aging, would provide continued funding through the discretionary grants to the State Indian Councils on Aging to continue the coordination efforts among State Agencies on Aging, Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI programs.**

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA, National Association Title VI Grantees, State Indian Councils on Aging

**Actions:**

1. AoA will study the feasibility of directly funding the State Indian offices to promote coordination between Title VI and Title III of the OAA and to strengthen AoA's ties with State recognized Tribes and urban Indian organizations.
2. AoA will study the feasibility of providing discretionary funds to national Indian aging organizations for 3-5 years for them to work with, promote and strengthen State Indian offices with the goals to enhance inter-title coordination, and strengthen AoA's ties to State recognized Tribes and Indian urban organizations.

**When:** Yearly

## ISSUE TWO:

### WHAT ARE THE ISSUES IN MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY BASED LONG TERM CARE, OF NATIVE AMERICAN ELDERS?

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#### BACKGROUND

The older Native American population is increasingly at risk for poor health. In an effort to improve access to health care by elders, Indian Health Services (IHS) formed a workgroup on aging. The workgroup included representatives from both the Administration on Aging (AoA) and Tribes. The group analyzed resources available in the Federal, State, and Tribal environments and made recommendations for providing multi-disciplinary services for older Native Americans through the year 2000. One of the recommendations made by the workgroup on aging was to establish an IHS elder health program with appropriate staffing and authority.

Roundtable participants concluded that:

- The national healthcare reform plan, as well as the IHS health care plan, must include suggestions on how to meet the health care needs, including long term care, of Native American elders.
- National Indian organizations need to be made aware of the unique health care needs of elders if these organizations are to be effective advocates for the elderly in the national health care reform debates and hearings.

- IHS, as the primary provider of health care to Native American elders, should remove the current barriers elders face in accessing services and should implement a plan that includes the continuum of health care services, including long term care.
- One major barrier to access which must be removed is the use of Years of Productive Life Lost (YPLL) as a determining factor for the allocation of health care funds. The concept of YPLL implies that the older you are, the less you can contribute to society. Although IHS states that the YPLL policy affects only two percent of their health care budget, this can add up to millions of dollars.

In order to improve access to services and to better meet the healthcare needs of Native American elders, the Roundtable participants developed the recommendations and associated action plans presented on the following pages.

## RECOMMENDATION 2.1

Community-based representatives of American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian elderly should inform Congressional committees dealing with aging and health care reform issues about the health related needs of Native American elders, in particular, the issues of:

- . Access to Indian Health Services (IHS) facilities and services (for example, through extended days and hours)
  - . Special problems of access for urban Indian elderly and the elderly of State recognized Tribes
  - . The need for community-based and long term care by nurse practitioners funded and supported by the Division of Nursing, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
  - . The need to replace the Years of Productive Life Lost (YPLL) program planning factor, which deters program planning for older Indians and may be in violation of elder's rights, with a policy that ensures equal access to services by all.
- 

## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** National Association Title VI  
Grantees; National Indian Council  
on Aging (NICOA)

**Actions:**

National aging organizations will develop plans to train American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian elderly to become advocates on their own behalf.

**When:** FY 1994

## RECOMMENDATION 2.2

The Associate Commissioner, Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian Programs (OAIANNHP), should brief the Assistant Secretary on Aging and the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), on issues concerning community-based long term care for older American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians.

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AOA, Associate Commissioner,  
OAIANNHP; IHS; Office for  
Minority Health

**Actions:**

AoA will prepare the briefing in conjunction with the Health Subcommittee of the Federal Interagency Task Force on Older Indians.

**When:** FY 1994



## ISSUE THREE:

### WHAT ARE THE ISSUES NATIVE AMERICAN ELDERS FACE IN ACCESSING SERVICES PROVIDED BY STATE-ADMINISTERED FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE TRIBE?

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#### BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>

The Medicaid program (Title XIX, Social Security Act) is administered nationally by the Health Care Financing Agency (HCFA) and at the State level by State Medicaid agencies. It provides medical assistance to low income persons.

Medicaid is partially paid with Federal funds and partially with State funds. Each State designs its own Medicaid program and sets eligibility and coverage standards within broad Federal guidelines. Although at least three States have designated Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) as third party billers for Medicare reimbursement, no Indian Tribes have been so designated.

The Title XX program, funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA), provides block grants to States for social services aimed at assisting families and individuals in maintaining self-sufficiency and independence. State agencies, such as State Units on Aging (SUAs), may administer a portion of Title XX funds. Some Tribes would prefer receiving grants directly from the SSA rather than from a State agency.

The Foster Grandparents Program, a grants program funded by ACTION to the

States, has been successful for many Tribes. This type of inter-generational program helps preserve Tribal culture and benefits the entire Tribe. However, funding is difficult for some Tribes to obtain.

Section 16 (b) (2) of the Federal Transit Act (FTA)<sup>1</sup> provides grants to States for transportation services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Although transportation services are limited or non-existent in most Native American communities, it is difficult for Tribal organizations to access Federal programs to assist them with their transportation needs.

Specific problems encountered by Tribes with the Section 16 (b) (2) program include:

- Excessive amount of time is required to acquire vehicles through the State
- Poor quality of vehicles received causes extended out-of-service periods and high repair costs

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<sup>1</sup> Formerly the Urban Mass Transportation Act

- Long distances traveled in rural areas limit the units of service that can be provided and often make it difficult or impossible to meet the units of service requirements imposed by the States
- Funding formulas do not reflect the high operating costs in rural and isolated areas.

Various Federal housing programs provide funding directly to the Tribal organizations. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) administers the Housing Improvement Program (HIP), a grant program for repairing or enlarging existing houses, building new homes, and providing financial assistance in making down-payments for home purchases. In addition to BIA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Farmers Home Administration (FHA) both offer funds for home repair.

The application process for these programs is perceived as lengthy and complicated. Once an application is accepted, a homeowner is limited in future applications. The applicant may have to wait several years before being able to apply again. This process makes it difficult for the elderly to make repairs to their homes during this waiting period.

Adult protective services are limited or non-existent on many Reservations, leaving the elderly vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Although some Tribes have developed codes for elder abuse, there is a general need for increased adult protective services.

Native American elders are underserved by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a block

grant program administered by the Office of Community Services, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The program provides funds for energy assistance to tribes that are State and/or Federally recognized. In FY 1992, only 115 Tribes and Tribal organizations received grants.

Tribal organizations and individual Tribal elders frequently experience difficulties in obtaining funding for programs and accessing services provided by State administered Federal programs. Many of the problems center around sovereignty issues, cultural differences, and bureaucratic stumbling blocks. Programs to which access for Native American elders has to be improved include:

- Title XIX (Medicaid) and Title XX of the Social Security Act
- Foster Grandparents Program administered by ACTION
- Sections 16 and 18 of the Federal Transit Act, Department of Transportation (DOT).

In addition, Native American elderly need better access to programs for housing, home repairs, adult protective services and energy assistance.

Roundtable participants formulated recommendations and action plans to improve access to and service from the programs discussed. The following pages present those recommendations and action plans for implementing them.

## RECOMMENDATION 3.1

The Administration on Aging (AoA) should request the Social Security Administration (SSA) to help develop a training program for all Tribal program staff who work with elders to facilitate their application process (Older Americans Services Disability Index (OASDI)).<sup>2</sup>

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA, Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian Programs (OAIANNHP), and regional Title VI staff; SSA (Commissioner & staff); American Association of Retired Persons (AARP); National Institute of Mental Health

**Actions:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. AoA and SSA will develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to review the concerns of the Native Americans regarding access to OASDI and the Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI).</p> <p>2. AoA and SSA will collaboratively develop a curriculum to train Title VI personnel on SSA program policy and procedures.</p> | <p>3. AoA, OAIANNHP, staff will arrange for the training of Title VI directors, utilizing SSA staff as instructors, in "train the trainer" workshops.</p> <p><b>When:</b> Action 1 - Immediately upon confirmation of SSA Commissioner<br/>Action 2 - 1st half of FY 1994<br/>Action 3 - 2nd half of FY 1994 through FY 1995</p> |
|---|--|

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<sup>2</sup> Refers to Title II of the Social Security Act: Old-age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefit.

## **RECOMMENDATION 3.2**

**The Social Security Administration should actively recruit Native American personnel to policy making positions and to staff field offices.**

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## **ACTION PLAN**

**Who:** SSA

**Actions:**

1. As positions open within SSA, recruitment efforts will be developed that target Native American communities.
2. SSA will work with Tribal organizations and other Native American communities to maintain strong outreach and recruitment efforts and to develop a pool of potential personnel.
3. AoA will encourage the SSA Commissioner to aggressively initiate action to recruit Native American candidates for policy making positions within headquarters.

**When:** FY 1994

### RECOMMENDATION 3.3

**Assess the barriers Native American elders face in accessing State Medicaid programs and advocate at both the State and Federal levels to overcome these barriers.**

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### ACTION PLAN

**Who: Lead agency -- SSA**

**Assisting organizations -- National  
Indian Council On Aging (NICOA),  
Title VI Grantees, National  
Institute on Mental Health**

**Actions:**

1. SSA should further develop culturally sensitive materials tailored to Native American communities and distribute them through Native American organizations.
2. SSA will work with NICOA and other Native American aging organizations and groups to develop culturally sensitive outreach and information materials tailored to the diverse Native American communities.
3. SSA will test the materials developed in geographically appropriate field offices and with assistance from the Older Americans Act Title VI programs.
4. Once the materials have been refined by SSA, SSA will distribute them nationwide for use in all field offices.

**When:** Action 1 - FY 1994, first half of year  
Action 2 - FY 1994, second half of year  
Action 3 - FY 1995  
Action 4 - FY 1995-1996

## RECOMMENDATION 3.4

The Commissioner of the Social Security Administration should advise field offices to work with local Native American communities to identify culturally sensitive issues which affect program access and eligibility. SSA should also develop on-going training programs for field staff in this area.

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** Lead agency -- SSA

Assisting organizations --  
National Indian Council on Aging  
(NICOA); National Association Title  
VI Grantees, National Congress of  
American Indians (NCAI)

**Actions:**

1. SSA and the Office of Personnel will work with local Native American communities to identify specific cultural issues of local concern, such as the recognition of Indian marriages, proof of age questions, and property ownership issues.
2. Once the appropriate issues have been identified, SSA personnel will develop and test training material for field staff in five appropriate field offices, with assistance from the Native American community.
3. As changes are incorporated and/or made in the legislation, training will be implemented in all field offices.

**When:** Action 1 - FY 1994  
Action 2 - FY 1994  
Action 3 - FY 1995

## RECOMMENDATION 3.5

The Administration on Aging, in concert with the Indian Health Service (IHS), will work with the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to encourage the designation of Tribal Organizations and Indian Area Agencies on Aging as third party billers for Medicaid.

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA, IHS, HCFA, Medicaid Bureau

**Actions:**

1. AoA will develop materials on Indian AAAs as third party Medicaid billers for HCFA. HCFA will be able to use the sample material in its effort to recognize additional Indian AAAs and Tribal organizations as third party billers.
2. HCFA will provide training to Tribal organizations on how to develop third party billing programs within their States.

**When:** FY 1994

### **RECOMMENDATION 3.6**

**The Health Care Financing Administration should increase the participation of Indian elderly in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) and the Special Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB) programs.**

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### **ACTION PLAN**

**Who:** HCFA

**Actions:**

The HCFA should intensify its outreach to increase Indian elderly participation in the QMB and SLMB programs.

**When:** FY 1994

### **RECOMMENDATION 3.7**

**The Administration on Aging will assess the current situation with regard to Title XX services to older Native Americans.**

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### **ACTION PLAN**

**Who:** AoA

**Actions:**

1. Conduct a study of Native American elders' access to Title XX services.
2. Based on the study, develop a position paper for the Assistant Secretary for Aging to discuss with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
3. Advocate proposed changes to overcome the barriers in the services at the State and Federal levels.

**When:** FY 1994

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## RECOMMENDATION 3.8

The Administration on Aging should sign an agreement with appropriate agencies to jointly encourage the sharing of resources, expertise, and training at both the national and local levels.

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA and the following agencies, institutions and organizations:

- . National Institute on Aging (satellite operations on Alzheimer's disease)
- . Health Care Financing Administration (data and training to increase the number of Indian users)
- . Centers for Disease Control and Health Promotion (satellite operations in Indian country to survey health care issues)
- . Office for Minority Health
- . Administration for Native Americans
- . Bureau of Indian Affairs
- . Social Security Administration
- . Foundations: Kaiser, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, etc.

**Actions:**

AoA should be the lead agency in establishing contacts with the other agencies to develop the agreement(s).

**When:** Ongoing

### RECOMMENDATION 3.8

The Administration on Aging will develop a MOU with ACTION or its successor organization to review the current program and to develop initiatives to improve access by Native Americans.

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### ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA, ACTION

**Actions:**

1. Develop the MOU.
2. Educate Tribes on ACTION programs and how to access its resources.

**When:** Within 30-60 days.

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## RECOMMENDATION 3.10

Develop a new MOU between the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)<sup>3</sup> and the Administration on Aging aiming at the coordination of all Federal transportation resources tailored to the needs of Native American elders.

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** Lead agencies -- FTA, AoA

Secondary agencies -- DOT/DHHS  
Joint Coordinating Council on  
Human Service Transportation

Consultants -- National Association  
Title VI Grantees; and the National  
Indian Council on Aging (NICOA)

### **Actions:**

1. FTA and AoA will enter into a MOU to coordinate all Federal transportation resources available to Native American elders with the active participation of the DOT/DHHS Joint Coordinating Council on Human Service Transportation.
2. The DOT/DHHS Joint Council will develop streamlined recommendations for all participating agencies dealing with the transportation needs of Native Americans.
3. All DOT/DHHS Council participants will implement the recommendations made and disseminate appropriate instructions to all affected parties, on the data collection mechanisms.
4. The Joint Council will order an evaluation of the effectiveness of the guidelines issued and will make the necessary changes based on the evaluation.

**When:** Action 1 - ASAP  
Action 2 - FY 1994  
Action 3 - FY 1994 and 1995  
Action 4 -- FY 1995 and 1996

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<sup>3</sup> Formerly the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA)

### **RECOMMENDATION 3.11**

**The Administration on Aging with the assistance of the Federal Transit Administration will establish a training program for Title VI grantees teaching them how to access all potential transportation resources which are directly or indirectly Federally funded.**

---

### **ACTION PLAN**

**Who: Lead Agencies – AoA and FTA**  
**In coordination with: DOT/DHHS**  
**Joint Coordinating Council on**  
**Human Service Transportation;**  
**National Association Title VI**  
**Grantees; National Eldercare;**  
**Institute on Transportation;**  
**Support Agencies**

***Actions:***

1. AoA and FTA will approach the DOT/DHHS Joint Coordinating Council on Human Service Transportation to identify all appropriate transportation resources and related training materials.
2. AoA and FTA will enter into an agreement with appropriate training and technical assistance resources to develop training for Title VI grantees.
3. The National Association Title VI Grantees will assist in the development of the training and AoA will provide logistical support.
4. The training program will be implemented.

***When:*** FY 1994

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## RECOMMENDATION 3.12

**Amend Sections 16 and 18 of the Federal Transit Act to provide a direct funding set-aside to Tribal entities for transportation services and support.**

---

### ACTION PLAN

**Who:** Lead agencies and organizations --  
National Association Title VI  
Grantees, NICOA, and the National  
Congress of American Indians  
(NCAI)

Supporting agencies and  
organizations -- AoA, FTA,  
Administration for Native  
Americans (ANA), Joint  
Coordinating Council on Human  
Service Transportation, Community  
Transportation Association of  
America (CTAA), etc.

**Actions:**

1. Advocates for the Native American communities must develop public education materials on the importance of transportation to the elders.
2. The Native American communities must inform the legislative and administrative branches of the Federal government of the issue, using the educational materials.
3. The communities must form alliances with other players in the aging and transportation fields to gain more support for these efforts.
4. During the 1996 reauthorization of the Urban Model Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, all resources must be mobilized to make the necessary changes in the legislation.

**When:** Action 1 - FY 1994  
Action 2 - FY 1995  
Action 3 - FY 1994  
and 1995  
Action 4 - FY 1996

### RECOMMENDATION 3.13

The Administration on Aging, the National Indian Council on Aging, and the National Association Title VI Grantees will send separate letters to the Assistant Secretary for Public Indian Housing at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and to the Assistant Secretary for Housing. The letters will recommend the establishment of a Native American set-aside in HUD Sections 202 and 811 housing programs.<sup>4</sup>

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### ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA, National Indian Council on  
Aging (NICA), National Association  
Title VI Grantees

**Actions:**

1. Compose and send three separate letters.

**When:** FY 1994

---

<sup>4</sup> See also National Indian Aging Agenda, National Indian Council on Aging, Inc., Issue 5, p.13

## RECOMMENDATION 3.14

**The Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will collaborate to assure safe, decent, and sanitary housing for Native American elders.**

---

## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** BIA, HUD

**Actions:**

Appropriate officials at HUD and BIA should meet at least twice a year. The first meeting will explore ways of collaboration to increase the impact of each other's efforts in providing improved housing to Native American elders. The report of recommendations from this meeting shall be shared with the Associate Commissioner, AoA, OAIANNHP. The second meeting shall focus on developing strategic plans for implementing recommendations. The plans shall be shared with the Associate Commissioner. Subsequent meetings shall focus on implementing and updating plans. Annual reports shall be made to the Assistant Secretary on Aging.

**When:** First Meeting - 1994  
Second Meeting - Within  
60 days of first  
Thereafter - At least  
twice a year

### **RECOMMENDATION 3.15**

**The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) should develop training for all Tribal program staff concerning resources available through its services.**

---

### **ACTION PLAN**

**Who:** ACF

**Actions:**

ACF will train Tribal staff on how to access the available resources.

**When:** FY 1994

### RECOMMENDATION 3.16

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will expand its adult care assistance program nation-wide.

---

### ACTION PLAN

**Who:** BIA, in coordination with AoA,  
NICOA, National Association Title  
VI Grantees, Tribes

**Actions:**

BIA will study the law and regulations which authorize the program, find out where the gaps are, and then make recommendations for improvement and expansion.

**When:** FY 1994

### RECOMMENDATION 3.17

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will add a Native American elder component to the Housing Improvement Program (HIP) of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI).

---

### ACTION PLAN

**Who:** BIA, in coordination with AoA,  
NICOA, National Association Title  
VI Grantees, Tribes

***Actions:***

BIA will look at HIP law and regulations with regard to the incorporation of a component for elderly persons.

**When:** FY 1994

## RECOMMENDATION 3.18

Develop a MOU with the Administration of Children and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services to review the status of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and to recommend ways of increasing Tribal participation in the program.

---

## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** AoA, ACF

**Actions:**

Develop MOU with Administration of Children and Families to outline a strategy resulting in assistance to Tribal elders.

**When:** FY 1994 - 1995

### **RECOMMENDATION 3.19**

**Services of the Veterans Administration (VA) should include outreach, legal assistance, assistance in the application process, and education regarding VA benefits to Indian elders.**

---

### **ACTION PLAN**

**Who:** AoA, VA, IHS

**Actions:**

1. VA will send a representative to all Native American communities at least monthly to assist veterans applying for VA benefits, including outreach, legal assistance and other services.
2. VA will support the designation of a day to honor Indian veterans, consistent with the efforts of the National Council of American Indians (NCAI).
3. VA and AoA will implement the resolutions that NCAI has proposed, with regard to Agent Orange, etc.

**When:** FY 1994

## RECOMMENDATION 3.20

**The Veterans Administration should fund and provide training for Tribal VA service offices.**

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## ACTION PLAN

**Who:** VA, AoA, IHS

**Actions:**

1. VA and AoA will develop a MOU to review the concerns of the Native American communities regarding VA benefits.
2. VA and AoA will collaboratively develop a curriculum to train Native American communities on VA benefits and application procedures.
3. AoA staff will arrange for training of the Native American communities, by VA trainers, in "train-the-trainer" workshops.

**When:** Action 1 and 2 - FY 1994  
Action 3 - FY 1995

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---



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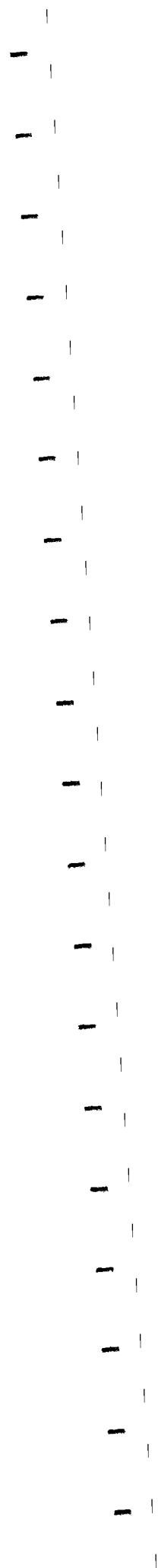
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**PROCEEDINGS**

**SECOND NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE  
ON NATIVE AMERICAN ELDERS**

**Convened by the Administration on Aging**

**August 5-6, 1993**



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