



Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging & Minnesota Diverse Elders Coalition

Championing diversity, equity & inclusion

A Minnesota without ageism, racism & disparities

For many, Minnesota is a great place to age. The state is consistently ranked the healthiest and most senior friendly in national polls. However, this is not true for all groups. Minnesota ranks as one of the highest in health disparities between communities of color and the LGBT community and their peers. Further, organizations that specialize in supporting diverse communities are often understaffed and small, focused on direct service, and unable to participate in broader systems change initiatives designed to eliminate health disparities.

Recognizing these disparities, the **Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging** established the *Aging Together Minnesota* initiative with to explore aging within diverse communities using a cultural humility lens by engaging diverse older adults, families and staff who serve diverse populations. The initiative will advance a greater sense of community connectedness, participation, inclusion and civic involvement for underserved older adults including the economically disadvantaged to reduce isolation and improve their quality of life.

Out of these explorations, the Leadership Council formed the **Minnesota Diverse Elders Coalition** in 2019. The Coalition convenes community and service providers to identify and implement activities that advance the goals of *Aging Together Minnesota*. The coalition works with older adults to create healthy communities where older adults are valued and improves access to high quality and culturally diverse supports so that all older Minnesotans can be well and live healthy.

Bringing together community

The Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging convenes dedicated Coalition members, including: Alzheimer's Association MN/ND, American Indian Family Center, CAPI USA, Care Providers of Minnesota, Centro Tyrone Guzman, East Side Neighborhood Services, Hallie Q. Brown, Hue-MAN Partnership, JS Impact, JustUs Health, Korean Service Center, Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly, Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, Minneapolis American Indian Center, Minnesota Department of Health, NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, Inc., Ramsey County Public Health, Stairstep Foundation, Stratis Health, University of Minnesota-School of Public Health, Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota, Wellshare International and the YMCA at The Cora McCorvey Center.

Advocating priorities

- Funding: limited resources, requirements of some state funding create unattended barriers (match)
- Technical assistance: inability for the Coalition to have a Live Well at Home grant training
- Community input: lack of community engagement to help shape policy, procedures, systems

Contact Information

For more information visit <http://www.mnlcoa.org/agingtogethermn> or contact Alana Wright, Equity Director at the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging & Facilitator of the Minnesota Diverse Elders Coalition, at alana@mnlcoa.org.