

2003 Listening Session Report and Summary

Reno, NV
October 29, 2003

Blackfeet Nation

Issue: Reporting should be done on an annual basis.

Issue: Title VI Part C Caregiver Program is a great but would like to see more funding. The Program isn't helpful to individuals who need services but are over income for Medicaid and under age for Medicare.

Issue: Prescription Drug Bill is detrimental to the wellbeing of not only Indians, but many elders. Under this bill, employers could cut retiree benefits if they are eligible for Medicare

Issue: Montana has not corrected its funding formula for the Title III as of September 2003.

Muckleshoot Tribe

Issue: AoA should maintain the flexibility of the Caregiver Support Program which allows directors to develop services specific to their community. Children are eligible or services such as TANF, but the grandparents do not apply for benefits for fear that if they receive support it may negatively affect the parents of these children

Issue: The coordination between title VI and Title III in the state of Washington are being done for window dressing. It is requested but there isn't any collaborating which makes it not worth it.

Issue: Title III forces Title VI to follow their guidelines which can sometimes violate Title VI guidelines. Coordination needs to be improved.

Issue: Due to the lack of coordination between APS and tribes, direct funding to the tribes would be more beneficial. There should be a relationship between APS and tribes similar to Tribes and Indian Child Welfare Act.

Issue: There should be better transportation infrastructure and services for vehicles in Indian country

Chippewa Cree

Issue: Not having enough dollars to cover facility costs is a major concern. The nearest Indian Health Services Clinic is 25 years old. Given the amount of services that are being provided, there is nothing left over for building maintenance.

Issue: There is no real negotiating formula for Title III services. Funds are offered on a take it or leave it basis.

Issue: there should be collaboration between AoA and Veterans Administration. There are a significant number of Veterans.

Issue: If the VA could provide assistance directly to the Title VI Programs then they could integrate the Veterans more directly into their services.

Confederate Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siusla Indians

Issue: Oregon has cut funds for senior services by 80% which has increased pressure on limited Title VI funds.

Santa Clara Pueblos

Issue: The current reporting requirements are perfect as it allows a mid-term report and helps prep the forthcoming year's budget request.

Issue: Information on programs so tribes can turn for facility funding. They received \$600K from congress to build an adult day care, but need startup funding

Issue: VA officials expand services to neglected or forgotten veterans to areas not currently being served

Issue: Representatives from Social Services covering tribal areas would be beneficial and providing counseling. There is a need for prescription drug hotline available to elders to check for interaction and potential adverse drug reactions.

Issue: Tribal based energy assistance program

Issue: Funds should be earmarked for salary increases for staff due to the difficulty of retaining qualified employees when the casinos pay much more. Turnover really hurts the programs.

Association of Village Council Presidents

Issue: Title VI monies have not increased with the growth in the number of elderly.

Issue: Service barriers include proximately of those that live in rural areas, and language barriers with no translators and no way to help elderly fill out paperwork for Medicare and Medicaid.

Issue: Tribes in rural areas need construction funds to build ramps for elders.

Issue: Due to the State of Alaska reorganizing state departments, there have been a cut in services for elder investigations. There are currently on three state investigators which is insufficient for the State of Alaska

Issue: Because some elders live remotely and need to be transported by plane to get to health care services, transportation costs are very expensive.

Quinault Indian Nation

Issue: Title VI funds are inadequate. While the current funding is at \$30M there is need for \$100M to cover the increasing number and needs of AI/AN elders.

Juneau, AK Director Office

Issue: Need more funding for skills training and for the caregiver program because there is a current shortage of caregivers in the community and the elder population is growing.

Issue: supports annual reporting to give enough time to get the information

Issue: Counseling is needed for the elders who gamble and neglect to spend money for food and fuel

Lummi Nation

Issue: Reauthorize the Older Americans Act including Title VI and Caregivers. The Title VI Program is crucial so that we can provide supportive, nutritional, and caregiver services.

Issue: Other services that are needed to be funded are: mental health counseling, staff salary increases, training and construction of new buildings

Muscogee Nation

Issue: Coordination between the state, Title VI network, and the AAAs to work together in bringing about better services to their elders.

Issue: Funding for the caregiver program is joke as some tribes will not apply due to the low amount of funding