Call to Action
FOR AN AGING NATION

Every year, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), which represents America’s national network of 622 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and provides a voice in the nation’s capital for the 256 Title VI Native American aging programs, develops a set of top policy priorities to guide our legislative and administrative advocacy efforts. Due to their targeted nature, these priorities, however, do not encompass the full breadth of policy issues that we believe are critically important to older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers.

Demographics demand and must drive federal focus on policies that support older adults and their caregivers. The Trump Administration will face the steep slope of an unprecedented and long-term shift in the composition of our country’s demographics ushered in by the maturing of America’s baby boomer generation. In the next four years alone, nearly 15 million people will turn age 65. By 2030, 73 million—or one in five—people in America will be 65 or older.

This historic demographic shift is already evident in many U.S. regions, including rural areas, where ratios of older adults far exceed the current national average and available services are unable to keep pace with the growing need. By 2035, all communities must be prepared to address these demographic realities when, for the first time in the nation’s history, the population of adults 60 and over will outnumber youth under 20.

These demographic milestones are not simply blips on the U.S. Census radar. They are mile-markers on a longer road toward a significantly older nation. It is critical that lawmakers at all levels of government recognize that, unlike at any other point in our history, demographics demand, and must drive a dedicated approach to promote cost-effective policies that meet a growing need for services and preserve fiscal stability.

Read our Aging Principles >