

Snapshot of Title VI Programs in Alaska



Overview

Title VI Native American Aging Programs (Title VI programs) provide nutrition, supportive and caregiver services to older American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. Established by the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1978, there are more than 280 Title VI programs in the United States. Title VI grants are awarded to tribal entities in federally recognized tribes, as well as to organizations representing Native Hawaiian elders (Title VI grantees). This data brief shares information about Title VI programs in Alaska, which is part of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Region X. Alaska data is presented separately due to their large number of Title VI programs and geographic distance from the rest of Region X. Thirty-seven of Alaska’s 42 Title VI programs responded to the survey, for a response rate of 88 percent. The data in this report compares regional data with information about Title VI programs overall.

Budget and Staffing

The table below shows the median and range for annual budgets and staff size of the Title VI programs in Alaska compared to Title VI programs across the country. Budgets vary considerably among programs due to differences in program size and amount of funding received from non-federal sources.

Table 1: Title VI Budget and Staffing Levels

	Alaska Median	Alaska Range	National Median	National Range
Annual budget	\$191,984	\$58,276-\$1,889,254	\$235,388	\$58,276-\$3,233,935
Number of full-time staff	1	0-20	2	0-65
Number of part-time staff	4	0-20	2	0-55

*Alaska budget n=34; Alaska staff n=37; national budget n=198; national staff n=228

Funding Sources

Some Title VI programs rely exclusively on OAA Title VI Parts A/B and C funding to serve elders, while others receive funding from multiple sources, as shown in Table 2.¹ The *percent* columns in the table below show what percentage of programs received any funding from each funding source. The amount in the *median* columns show the median amount of funding received among all Title VI programs reporting some amount, greater than \$0, from that specific funding source.

¹ Title VI Parts A/B provide funding for nutrition services and supportive services. Part C provides funding for caregiver support services.

Table 2: Proportion of Title VI Programs Receiving Funding from Various Sources and Median Amounts

	Alaska Percent Receiving (n=34)	Alaska Median Amount (n varies)	National Percent Receiving (n=198)	National Median Amount (n varies)
OAA Title VI Parts A/B	100%	\$89,650	100%	\$103,180
OAA Title VI Part C	82%	\$26,320	87%	\$36,675
OAA Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)	91%	\$3,370	90%	\$10,493
Tribal dollars, including gaming revenue	6%	\$156,818	40%	\$259,999
OAA Title III (not NSIP)	35%	\$76,623	27%	\$72,200
State Funds	15%	\$26,250	20%	\$87,664
Medicaid	21%	\$18,013	9%	\$8,484
Other (e.g., private donations, grants)	50%	\$28,203	28%	\$18,500

Services

Title VI programs provide critical services to elders and caregivers, including meals, information and referral, as well as other supportive services. Table 3 lists the services most commonly provided by Title VI programs across the country, and the proportion of Title VI programs in Alaska offering each service.

Table 3: Proportion of Title VI Grantees Providing Selected Services Funded Partially or Fully Through Title VI Funds

	Alaska (n=37)	National (n=231)
Congregate meals	92%	97%
Home-delivered meals	95%	97%
Information and referral/assistance	89%	89%
Outreach	84%	86%
Special events for elders	53%	79%
Family caregiver support services	84%	79%
Telephone reassurance/friendly visiting	71%	78%
Senior center activities	36%	71%
Transportation (medical or non-medical)	66%	65%
Cultural events	31%	62%
Respite care	62%	61%

Unmet Needs

Title VI grantees provide a wide range of services, but the limited funding they receive does not necessarily allow them to meet all the needs of the elders they serve. Table 4 lists the unmet needs most commonly reported by Title VI programs across the country, and the proportion of Title VI programs in Alaska reporting that need.

Table 4: Proportion of Title VI Grantees Reporting Some Unmet Needs for Elders by Topic

	Alaska (n=35)	National (n=231)
Home repair (e.g., replacing a broken window, repairing leaks)	94%	89%
Money management	94%	89%
Help in home (e.g., personal care)	84%	89%
Home modification (e.g., ramps, grab bars, widened doorways)	94%	86%
Homemaker help	89%	81%
Legal assistance	88%	80%
Chore (e.g., yard work)	86%	79%
Supportive services for grandparents raising grandchildren	91%	77%
Dementia awareness	89%	77%
Mental health services	85%	76%
Emergency response system	90%	75%
Help with medication	82%	74%

Priorities for Long-Term Services and Supports

Twenty-seven percent of Title VI programs in Alaska are having discussions with tribal leadership about developing or expanding long-term services and supports (LTSS), compared with 46 percent of Title VI programs nationally. In Alaska, the most commonly discussed LTSS are assisted living facilities, transportation, in-home care, adult day services and independent living assistance such as bill paying, eligibility paperwork and finances.

Partnerships

To serve elders, Title VI programs partner with other organizations and departments both within and external to their tribes. Table 5 lists the partnerships most commonly reported by Title VI programs across the country, and the proportion of Title VI programs in Alaska with that partner.

Table 5: Proportion of Title VI Programs Partnering with Various Organizations

	Alaska (n=31)	National (n=218)
Tribal health care (e.g., tribal health clinic or center)	71%	81%
Indian Health Service	61%	81%
Tribal housing	65%	80%
Adult Protective Services	71%	79%
Tribal health department/Tribal public health	42%	77%
Area Agency on Aging (Title III)	65%	76%
Veterans Administration	68%	70%
State unit or department of aging	65%	68%
Medicaid	65%	67%
Medicare	55%	66%
Disability service organizations	65%	65%
Nursing home, assisted living facility or group homes	52%	65%

Title VI programs have important partnerships with tribal health care to support elders' health needs. Among Title VI programs that reported partnerships with tribal health care, Table 6 lists the types of activities on which they partner.

Table 6: Proportion of Title VI Programs with Certain Activities Through Partnerships with Tribal Health

	Alaska (n=26)	National (n=194)
Provide nutrition and/or health education	46%	78%
Conduct wellness checks	42%	73%
Provide transportation	35%	70%
Coordinate on diabetes wellness programs	19%	67%
Coordinate COVID-19 preparedness and response	46%	67%
Coordinate on annual health fair	39%	63%
Make home visits or deliver meals	42%	58%
Coordinate on flu clinic	27%	58%
Deliver medications	35%	56%
Approve meals and/or help with menu planning	31%	55%

Title VI programs also partner with AAAs and other Title III providers to serve tribal elders. Of the Title VI programs that reported partnerships with AAAs/Title III providers, Table 7 lists the types of activities on which they partner.

Table 7: Proportion of Title VI Programs with Certain Activities Through Partnerships with AAAs or Title III Providers

	Alaska (n=20)	National (n=163)
Attend meetings and events together	40%	55%
AAA(s)/Title III provider(s) offer services in our community	50%	48%
Exchange information about the elders we serve (e.g., SAMS software)	40%	47%
We receive training and education from AAA(s)/Title III provider(s)	10%	41%
Receive funding from local AAA(s)/Title III provider(s)	40%	39%
Our local AAA(s)/Title III provider(s) have a dedicated office or liaison that we work with	30%	39%

Alaska Title VI Directors Share Their Stories

Title VI directors shared information on how they are using funding in new or creative ways during the COVID-19 pandemic and how they have overcome challenges.

“We are delivering lunches to elders who will not leave their homes. This increase went from 12 elders to at times over 100 elders. We provided games and puzzles for the elders to take home. We made crafts and delivered them to elders with lunches.”

“We are happy that we have been able to serve an increasing number of elders, and we feel that our phone outreach has been a useful tool in keeping in touch with our elders and checking on their welfare.”

About This Regional Profile

Data presented in this profile was gathered through the 2020 National Survey of Title VI Programs conducted by USAging in partnership with the Scripps Gerontology Center. The survey was in the field from September–December 2020 and had an 84 percent response rate. The full survey report is available at www.usaging.org/2021TitleVIsurvey.



Leaders in Aging Well at Home



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