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Expanding, coordinating, and targeting necessary services

- 1 WHEREAS older persons desire to maintain their independence as long as possible;
- 2 WHEREAS an available and accessible service network must be maintained to provide older persons with a wide range of options;
- 3 WHEREAS older persons represent a heterogeneous group with a wide range of diverse needs and interests;
- 4 WHEREAS the growing diversity in the racial and ethnic composition of the older population warrants the provision of culturally appropriate services;
- 5 WHEREAS many older people are at risk of becoming isolated and alienated from society; and
- 6 WHEREAS over 15,000 senior centers provide social and recreational services to seven million adults;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to support policies that:

- 7 Coordinate and provide an adequate supply of community-based services that enable all older persons, including those residing in rural and underserved areas, to age in place with dignity;
- 8 Provide services which address the physical, nutritional, social, emotional, and cognitive needs of older persons at risk of becoming isolated and alienated from society, especially those living in rural areas;
- 9 Develop, expand, and implement culturally- and linguistically-sensitive, comprehensive, community-based services for older persons, including nutrition and nutrition education programs;
- 10 Allow greater regulatory flexibility in administering programs;
- 11 Encourage research on individual characteristics and environmental opportunities that maximize independence throughout adult life, and on successful methods for promoting community-based programs for a diverse older population;
- 12 Emphasize the importance of physical fitness, recreation, the arts and humanities, leisure activities, and education as elements of health promotion for all older persons;

- 13 Amend and reauthorize Title III of the Older Americans Act (OAA) to create a more comprehensive and inclusive service system which gives emphasis to those with special needs, including physical and cognitive impairments, and which re-emphasizes its mandate to serve those with the greatest economic and social need, especially low-income minority and rural elders;
- 14 Develop transportation options and funding opportunities, including public/private partnerships, that remove barriers and provide access to the community and to services;
- 15 Authorize the Administration on Aging (AoA) to establish mechanisms to be utilized by State units on aging, to ensure compliance with the OAA of 1965, as amended, especially as related to serving those in greatest social and economic need, particularly low-income minorities and rural elders;
- 16 Require compliance with Section 306, (3)(A) of the OAA, which calls for the designation of community focal points;
- 17 Retain the OAA as a separate authorization.



1995 WHCoA Advisory Committee Meeting