

# OLDER INDIANS NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER 2021



## OPEN GRANT OPPORTUNITY JUST FOR TITLE VI GRANTEES: APPLY FOR MIPPA TODAY!

### What is MIPPA?

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) is a program that helps to make Medicare affordable for older Americans who need help paying for portions of their Medicare costs. Tribal MIPPA grants are awarded to Title VI grantees to advertise MIPPA benefits and to help their elders get enrolled in programs that will cover Medicare costs.

### MIPPA Programs: MSP and LIS

Tribal MIPPA grantees will advertise and assist with enrollment in two programs that help elders pay for Medicare costs:

1. [Medicare Savings Programs](#) (MSPs), which help pay for Medicare Part B premiums and co-pays, and
2. [Medicare Part D Extra Help/Low-Income Subsidy](#) (LIS/Extra Help), which helps pay for the Prescription Drug (Part D) premium and reduces the cost of prescriptions at the pharmacy.

Your Tribal MIPPA grant funds will be used to coordinate at least one community announcement about the MSP and LIS programs and conduct at least one community outreach event that informs and assists eligible elders about the MIPPA benefits available to them.

If you or your program isn't familiar with these programs, we do not expect you to become Medicare experts. There are plenty of people who can help your elders get enrolled in these programs. Check with your Tribal clinic, your Tribe's benefits specialists, or reach out to the State Health Insurance assistance Program (SHIP) in your state. SHIPs are staffed by highly trained and unbiased individuals who can help your elders make sense of the options available to them, and enroll them in the programs they are eligible for. You can find the SHIP in your state by [clicking here](#).

### How You Can Apply for Tribal MIPPA Grants

Applications are due Thursday, **August 12, 2021**. Do NOT apply through grants.gov. Submit your application using these quick and easy steps:

1. Check out page 10 of [this document](#),
2. Enter your organization's name and your grant number,
3. Get it signed by your organization's representative/Tribal Chair, and
4. Email it to [MIPPA.Grants@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:MIPPA.Grants@acl.hhs.gov).

**You will receive funds if you apply for them.** This is not a competitive grant process. The amount of funding you receive will be based on the number of elders your program applied for on the 2020 Title VI Part A/B grant application. Grant awards are for at least \$2,000.

For more information about MIPPA, check out this [recent presentation](#) or the [resources here at the National Council on Aging's website](#).



## Upcoming Title VI Events

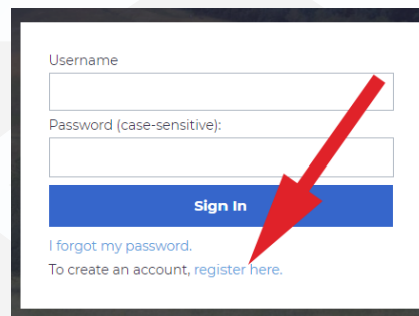
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
August 11, 2021	Title VI Webinar: Title VI Program Survey Results	Webinar - 2:00pm ET <a href="#">Webex Link</a> Passcode: 1234 Audio conference: 415-527-5035 Access code: 199 158 6821

### **\*NEW\* Older Indians Learning Management System (LMS)**

The Older Indians LMS is for Title VI Directors to access online courses, complete mandatory and online trainings, view training history, certifications, curricula, and more.

Older Indians Learning Management System (LMS): <https://olderindians.inquisiqlms.com/>

When signing into the Older Indians LMS for the first time, you will need to register, then create a username and password. We strongly recommend using your Title VI email address for your username.



The image shows a login form with two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password (case-sensitive)'. Below the fields is a blue 'Sign In' button. Underneath the button are two links: 'I forgot my password.' and 'To create an account, register here.'. A red arrow points from the top right towards the 'Sign In' button.

### **Title VI Afternoon Chats**

Join our weekly Title VI Afternoon Chats during which we explore and discuss a variety of topics that affect the Title VI community.

Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET via Webex

Dial-in details change weekly, check our ACL/AoA Weekly Update email blast or <https://olderindians.acl.gov/events> for details each week

### **National Title VI Training & Technical Assistance Conference**

We are planning to host our National Title VI Conference in person March 21-25, 2022 at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, MD. Keep an eye out for Title VI email blasts for details.

For more information on Upcoming Events, visit <https://olderindians.acl.gov/events> or contact contact Melissa Szasz at [Melissa.Szasz@teyaservices.com](mailto:Melissa.Szasz@teyaservices.com)

# Tribe of the Quarter

## Pueblo of Santa Ana - Tamaya



Senior Services are part of the overall Social Services Program at the Pueblo. The Social Services Department's mission is "to provide culturally competent and comprehensive social services for the welfare, care, support and protection, to the child, the adult, the family, the Pueblo of Santa Ana, and the community as a whole, in collaboration with other community service providers."

Senior Services are primarily provided through the Senior Center, which provides nutrition services, information and assistance, limited transportation, loan of durable medical equipment, and social and recreational opportunities. Other services are provided in collaboration with other tribal programs (such as Tribal Transportation, Social Services, Community Health, Wellness Program, Education and Tamaya Housing and our IHS Health Clinic) to create a comprehensive array of services to meet elder needs. Services provided through collaborative efforts include more extensive transportation, case management, health and nutrition education, physical fitness, health screenings, home repair and safety modifications, and elder protection.

A new senior service that is in the process of development is an adult day care program that will be co-located within the Senior Center. The Pueblo has received a start-up grant from the Aging and Long-Term Services Department, which is New Mexico's State Unit on Aging. The program will be a hybrid of the social and medical models. It will provide basic health care monitoring, socialization, supervision, and respite with the goal of keeping frail elders healthy, safe and within the community.

The starting of the Adult Day Services has been slowed by the pandemic, which has also hindered many senior services. During the pandemic, senior service staff have been considered essential workers and have continued to provide nutrition services. Congregate meals were discontinued and in its place the program has provided curbside pick-up meal services, while continuing home deliveries. Several food boxes were also provided to homebound elders. Elders requesting nutrition services has more than doubled during the pandemic.

The Pueblo also received a MIPPA grant this past year. We teamed with the ALTSD's SHIP program to provide education and assistance during Medicare open enrollment. A virtual event was hosted in response to the need for COVID-19 safe practices. All contacts between SHIP staff, Social Services staff and participants were performed either by telephone or computer. State staff provided benefits counseling information to elder participants on how to maximize their Medicare benefits. Pueblo staff conducted pre-counseling services where they gathered basic financial and medical information necessary for the benefits counseling. Pueblo staff was also responsible for scheduling an appointment with a SHIP staff on behalf of the participant.