

**our communities  
will be the thread  
that sustains the  
future.**

The Diverse Elders Coalition (DEC) advocates for policies and programs that improve aging in our communities as racially and ethnically diverse people, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and LGBT people. Founded in 2010, the DEC focuses on reforming public policies to better serve older people of color and LGBT elders, connecting diverse elders to policy discussions on aging and health, and increasing awareness on the issues that shape our communities.



**DIVERSE  
ELDERS  
COALITION**

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**DIVERSE  
ELDERS  
COALITION**

**As the  
fabric of our  
country  
changes in  
texture**

The U.S. is becoming increasingly older and more diverse in its racial and ethnic composition. Further, generations of LGBT people are aging. In this context, addressing the health and economic security of older people will require dedicated attention from leaders in government, the aging and health fields, and from our everyday communities.

**The Diverse Elders Coalition exists to address the profound challenges facing older people of color and LGBT elders, including:**

#### **Economic vulnerability**

Older people of color and LGBT elders experience high poverty rates and decreased financial security, due in large part to a lifetime of discrimination in the workplace and higher concentrations in jobs with low wages and few retirement options.

#### **Poor health and health care access**

Research shows that people of color and LGBT people experience profound disparities in various areas related to physical and mental health—all of which worsen over time. Moreover, people of color make up half of the uninsured, and many elders 65 and older with Medicare aren't fully aware of their coverage options or new benefits that can make health care more accessible.

**The shifting social fabric: older and more diverse**

#### **Cultural and linguistic challenges in the aging field**

Older people of color and LGBT elders report encountering aging professionals who lack the insight and sensitivities to deal with elders with different cultural backgrounds, customs, languages and identities. And limited-English elders report a dearth in resources available in their native languages.

#### **Public policies that neglect, discriminate and underfund our communities**

The policies that many low-income people rely on—Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid—are consistently under attack, and many of them exclude same-sex couples or our extended families of choice. Additionally, policies related to health, housing, employment and other aging concerns rarely consider the unique barriers facing older people of color and LGBT elders.

**More than 4 million lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people will be age 65 or older by 2030.**

#### **Policy reform. Increased awareness. A new agenda. We are weaving the pieces together.**

Since 2010, the Diverse Elders Coalition has worked with policy leaders, community advocates and the aging field to understand and improve our realities. We recognize that working in partnership will help all of us prepare for the demographic shifts that are reshaping this country. The DEC's strategies include:

#### **Federal policy reform**

Strengthening programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, while drawing attention to the Older Americans Act's potential for LGBT older people and culturally and linguistically competent services.

#### **State advocacy**

Partnering with leading state organizations to ensure that our communities, age 50 and older, have the coverage they need to live healthy lives.

#### **Shifting the policy conversation**

Distributing original analysis on pressing issues to help policy leaders understand what it means to craft policies that account for older people of color and LGBT elders.

#### **Community education and engagement**

Serving as a centralized source of information for older people, who use our resources to learn more about key issues and advocate on their own behalf.

**18% of the U.S. population, or 72 million people, will be 65 or older in 2030.**

**Whether you're an older person or a policy leader, an aging professional or a community-based advocate, our coalition needs you.**

**By 2030, 1 in 3 people 65 or older will be a person of color, which includes Black, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaska Native, and multiracial people.**



Visit [diverseelders.org](https://diverseelders.org) to learn more about our issues and meet our organizations.

The Diverse Elders Coalition includes:

- National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
- National Caucus and Center on Black Aging
- National Hispanic Council on Aging
- National Indian Council on Aging
- SAGE
- Southeast Asia Resource Action Center