

# AGING INNOVATIONS PROGRAM

Rural Aging Initiative 2017 - 2019



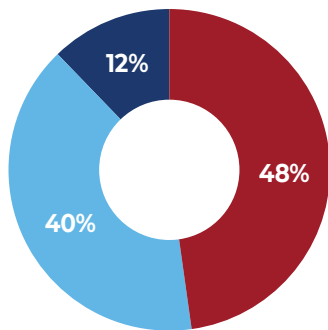
The Aging Innovations Program was introduced in Phase II of the Rural Aging Initiative. Its goal was to spark and support community-based organizations to explore, pilot, evaluate, and share creative approaches to help older adults age in place. Both competitive and strategic grantmaking were implemented. In total, 24 competitive projects and 15 strategic grants were awarded to select aging services organization partners, Tribal Nation partners, and AGE to age partners.

Nearly one-third of the projects have been replicated in other parts of the region including intergenerational chore services, groceries-to-go, memory cafés, virtual dementia training, GrandCare™ comprehensive caregiving technology, and the National Council on Aging's Aging Mastery Program®.

From small Jump Start grants to Major grants, Aging Innovations successfully spurred exciting, replicable, new efforts to help older adults and their caregivers live well in community.



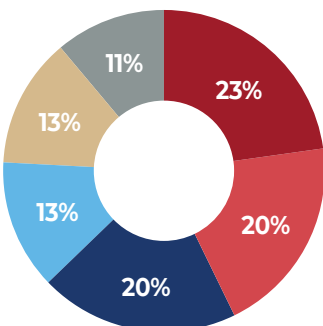
## PROJECT CATEGORIES



**Community Care Integration & Community Planning**

**Social Engagement**

**Quality Care**



**Service Access to Support Aging in Place**

**Intergenerational Social Engagement Opportunities**

**Health Promotion/ Education for Healthy Aging**

**Culturally Rooted Supports for Tribal Nation Elders**

**Dementia-friendly Programming**

**Technology Solutions to Support Aging in Place**

## AGING INNOVATIONS BY THE NUMBERS

**4,115 rural older adults** served

**\$631,234** awarded across **39 grants**

- **11** Jump Start grants of up to \$5,000 for 1 year
- **11** Major Innovation grants of up to \$50,000 for 1 year
- **5** Tribal Innovation grants of up to \$30,000 for 1 year
- **10** Other Innovation grants of up to \$30,000 for 1 year
- **2** Collaboration grants of \$10,000 over 2 years

**\$1.1 million leveraged** by grantees to implement/expand work

**27% of projects replicated** or adapted by other organizations

**90% of projects** have continued beyond the grant period

# SAMPLING OF PROJECTS

## COMMUNITY CARE INTEGRATION & COMMUNITY PLANNING



Strengthening care coordination among three aging services providers in Lake and Cook Counties to maximize resources and more effectively meet older adults' needs.



Helping Tribal Nation Elders access fresh, healthy food while promoting social engagement opportunities through a community garden bed program.



Creating an innovative chore service model to help rural older adults remain in their homes and help local youth develop job skills and connections with older adults in their community.

## SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT



Implementing the GrandCare™ program using technology to assist caregivers, health care providers, and others to support older adults in the setting of their choice.



Hosting a Memory Café program offering fun social outings for people with memory loss and their caregivers.



Offering an intergenerational arts and health program engaging older adults and younger community members in music and movement.

## QUALITY CARE



Providing Virtual Dementia Community Training to offer participants from multiple sectors the tools to better understand and support people living with dementia.



Equipping service providers and family caregivers, through a training program, with tools and resources to better serve LGBTQ older adults.



Implementing a new, volunteer-based model to provide companionship and crisis respite care in underserved communities.