



# Discussion Guide for Regional Viewing Sessions

2015 WHITE HOUSE  
**CONFERENCE**  
*on* **AGING**

The 2015 White House Conference on Aging is an opportunity to recognize the importance of key programs for older Americans like Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the Older Americans Act, as well as to look ahead to the issues that will help shape the landscape for older Americans for the next decade.

### **2015 White House Conference on Aging**

The face of America is growing older and more diverse as the first baby boomers reached retirement age in 2011, accelerating a population surge in the number of Americans over the age of 65. Each day for the next 15 years, thousands more will reach retirement age, creating new opportunities for how we define what it means to be an older American.

As we listen to aging leaders and older Americans, some of the common themes we hear include the following:

***Healthy aging*** will be all the more important as baby boomers age. Healthy aging means living a long, productive, meaningful life, and enjoying a high quality of life. As medical advances progress, the opportunities for older Americans to maintain their health and vitality should progress as well as community supports are important tools to promote this vitality.

***Long-term services and supports*** refer to assistance provided to people with physical or cognitive limitations, including services sometimes called “long-term care.” These services may be needed to maximize the independence and well-being of an individual. Older Americans overwhelmingly prefer to remain independent in the community as they age, and often depend on a caregiving network, including well-supported caregiving workforce.

***Retirement security*** is a vitally important issue. As many as 78 million working Americans – about half of the workforce – don’t have a retirement savings plan at work. Social Security provides critical income that every American can rely on, but too many Americans reach their retirement years without enough to supplement Social Security and enjoy a secure retirement after a lifetime of hard work.

***Elder justice*** is important given that seniors, particularly the oldest older Americans, can be vulnerable to financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect. The Elder Justice Act was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act, and aims to protecting seniors from scam artists and others seeking to take advantage of them.

### **Hosting A Viewing Session**

The White House Conference on Aging is hosting a series of Regional Forums to engage with older Americans, their families, caregivers, and leaders in the aging field, and others on the key issues affecting older Americans. Meeting locations include Tampa, FL on February 19<sup>th</sup>; Phoenix, AZ on March 31<sup>st</sup>; Seattle, WA on April 2<sup>nd</sup>; Cleveland, OH on April 27<sup>th</sup>; and Boston, MA on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The Forums are part of the 2015 White House Conference on Aging dialogue.

For those who cannot attend in person, we encourage community members to host viewing sessions and provide input to the Conference. To do so, we ask groups to share a summary of their viewing sessions within 30 days of completion, and not later than June 30, 2015. We have provided a template for this purpose and to transmit your information to the White House Conference on Aging website.

Feedback from community conversations will be compiled, and priority issues, successes, and solutions will be integrated into the Conference's work. Additionally, select stories of individuals may be shared on the website and on other materials.

Community members who wish to individually submit input or personal stories may also do so at the White House Conference on Aging website ([www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov](http://www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov)).



## SUMMARY OF REGIONAL VIEWING SESSION

Regional Forum Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Viewing Session Location: \_\_\_\_\_

(include city and state)

Number of Persons attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To facilitate consideration of your input, we suggest a document of no more than 3 pages in length. Recommendations should be related to one or more of the 2015 Conference priority areas: retirement security, healthy aging, long-term services and supports, and elder justice. We ask that recommendations be prioritized by rank, with the highest listed first.

Priority Issue #1: (describe specific issue)

Proposed Solution(s)/Options for addressing this issue:

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