

PURPOSEFUL AGING | AN AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE LOS ANGELES

A Research Opportunity to Work with Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles on the *Purposeful Aging Los Angeles Initiative*

Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles are seeking to form a partnership with an academic or independent research entity, which would take a leading role in the administration, processing and analysis of survey data to be collected in connection with the *Purposeful Aging Los Angeles (PALA) Initiative*, a public-private undertaking focused on improving the quality of life for the growing number of aging adults in Los Angeles County. Interested parties should submit their interest to: Mr. Carlos Pineda, CEO Services Integration Branch at: cpineda@ceo.lacounty.gov by *January 18, 2017*.

Background

The greying of the Baby Boomer generation, men and women born over the nearly two-decade period spanning from 1946 to 1964, has been the subject of intense commentary and speculation in recent years, as well as a source of concern among those grappling with the broad social and economic consequences and implications at stake. Within this context, the PALA Initiative is a unique instance in which a coordinated effort will be undertaken to establish a public-private policy basis of support intended to improve financial, health and quality-of-life outcomes for ‘Boomers’ as they transition into senior citizenship. That these efforts are taking place in the most populous County in the United States - currently home to 650,000 residents who are at least 60 years of age, a count expected to spike significantly in the coming decades - makes the Initiative a critical test case that will yield valuable information in terms of the extent to which government bodies can meaningfully steer and direct the impacts of broadly-based demographic aging.

Gathering Baseline Information through the Collection of Survey Data

A first basic step in the Initiative, beginning in early 2017, is the process of gathering fundamental information on residents who either are aging adults or for whom aging adult status is imminent. The American Association of Retired People (AARP), a key partner in the Initiative, has developed a survey which has been tailored to yield information on aging adults in the Los Angeles County region across a broad spectrum of life domains, including their connectedness to the Los Angeles County region and its communities, their intentions to stay in the region or leave as they advance in age, degrees of civic engagement, financial wellbeing and preparedness, transportation, health, and use of public services. The survey instrument has additionally benefitted from input offered by academics and policy experts.

The Research Collaborator’s Role

The Research Collaborator will be asked to administer the survey, process and tabulate the data, and provide a summary analysis and report of the results and their implications. The report will be submitted to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles City Council, as part of the proposed five-year strategic plan to implement the Purposeful Aging Initiative. Geographic and community distribution of the survey is to be weighted based on population. The Initiative’s goal with respect to participation rate is to obtain completed surveys from a representative sample of respondents from throughout the Los Angeles County region/cities.

While the relationship with the Research Collaborator is to be a strictly nonfinancial arrangement, the partnership provides a valuable opportunity for analysts and scholars working in the overlapping areas of gerontology, demography, health outcomes, and social policy. Ownership of the survey data will remain with the County and City of Los Angeles, however partners will be given rare access to the data for their own research purposes. Moreover, since the analysis resulting from the survey data will directly inform the process of developing the County’s and City’s Age-Friendly Action Plan (target completion date: May 2018), involvement in the Initiative and engagement with the Initiative’s myriad stakeholders will situate researchers in a central position from which to directly drive policy within a substantive domain rapidly gaining significance and visibility.

All questions and inquiries about this opportunity should be directed in writing to: Mr. Carlos Pineda, CEO Service Integration Branch at: cpineda@ceo.lacounty.gov.