

Shaping a Social Isolation Strategy for Older Adults: An Executive Summary

On January 10th, 2024, the Center for Healthy Aging at The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM), with support from The John A. Hartford Foundation, hosted more than 70 participants, both in person and virtually, from across the U.S. to discuss collaborative action that will improve care of older adults by addressing social isolation and loneliness.

The attendees represented a wide range of sectors, including academia, healthcare, philanthropy, business, government, nonprofit, and social service organizations. The goal of the convening was to guide The John A. Hartford Foundation in pursuing effective interventions to address social isolation and loneliness among older adults. Discussions were grounded in two key reports: the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults: Opportunities for the Healthcare System* (NASEM, 2020) and the U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory, *Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community* (Murthy, 2023).

Opportunities for the Healthcare System (NASEM, 2020) and the U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory, *Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community* (Murthy, 2023).

Opportunities for Implementation

The meeting discussion resulted in a series of opportunities that other funders, government agencies, and organizations can utilize as guidelines for affecting change. The recommendations focus on addressing social isolation and loneliness among older adults through:

1. Inclusion as a social determinant of health
2. Training of healthcare and social service professionals
3. Promotion of partnerships between community-based organizations and healthcare organizations, networks, and resources
4. Building upon existing federally funded efforts to develop a national resource center
5. Focusing policy efforts on older adults who have been historically underserved
6. Standardizing the approach to measurement and documentation
7. Ensuring that older adults are included as active partners in research and evaluation
8. Advancing the role of technology

Download the full report for details from the convening about conceptual frameworks, promising models, scalable tools, and approaches to accelerating successful interventions:

<https://www.nyam.org/publications/publication/shaping-social-isolation-strategy-older-adults/>

