

Long-Term Care Impact on Government, Communities and Individuals Study Proposal 07.05

1. Describe your project idea, including clearly defining the problems and specific policy questions to be addressed.

Examine the impact on government, communities and the individual of the arrival of the baby boomers' at retirement.

Many in this age group have not accumulated sufficient savings to support retirement.

The state and our communities are unprepared for the impacts including costs and demand on the health care systems and the other systems that serve aging Minnesotans. We will need to examine longterm care and look at the needs of caregivers whether family or professional.

How will we pay for increased demand for a wide range services, how will we support those who cannot afford retirement, how

Many in this generation will need financial assistance to survive - Does this mean creating work opportunities, creating additional government or privately funded safety net?

We need to rethink housing and transportation in order provide more and longer lived citizens opportunity to stay independent.

2. Why is this problem important?

The aging of the boomers has broad impact on Minnesota and Minnesotans - Its important because we have not bwgun to look at what the costs might be or addressed what this will mean in terms allocated of dollars. If keeping seniors independent will reduce the public and private costs how do do we do this? In this mix is what hole will the children of the Boomers play in securing their retirement bot in terms of dollars and in terms of care.

3. How could the Citizens League make a unique contribution?

The Citizens provides a unique vehicle for bringing people together, creating an enviroment for creative thinking and ideas, publicizing reports and recommendation and then engendering public discussion of these. Staff excells and collecting and distilling the information that provides the foundation for discussion and problem solving.

4. What are prospects that project would yield recommendations that could be implemented and have a major impact on the problem?

Good - the state has a group called the 2010 Study Group (16 state agencies) that has done work in this area - There is also the joint legislative 2020 Conference headed by Represernative Joe Atkins. Much has been written lately in the newspaper and magazine press about the impacts of the retirement of this group.

5. Explain how this problem can be addressed by data, research, and reason? Identify probable sources for data and research.

The State's 2010 commission has collected alot of data, there is a lot available on line and from government agencies. The demographers, the Census bureau, Congressional Budget Office and others have done research and published material. (I am a public policy research libraries I will be happy to expand on this in person)

6. Explain how this proposal can be framed without partisan bias.

Everyone has a parent or grandparent and everyone is aging - the problem impacts all of us. This is not a partisan problem - and it is upon us.

7. Why would this project be attractive to members?

It is easy to grasp the immediacy of the impacts.

8. How would this project reach out to under-represented segments of the community?

Though the groups that work in these communities, leaders and press (As always personal contact works best) - It seems to me that members of these communities have the most to lose by neglecting this problem and the most to gain by addressing it -- Many in these communities have already been facing these problems -- Our recommendations and the implementation of solutions will need to make sure that everyone benefits.

9. What is the potential for making this issue visible to a broader public? Why?

The issue is already visible - Why, because its real, individuals in the boomer group are worried, public officials see it coming, people are talking about it -- but not much has been done to plan for the challenge and that's why Citizen League involvement is important.

10. What resources—funding, experts, etc. might be available to support this project?

I found that that a well designed study could get foundation funding.