

Futures Committee – May 14, 2025

Presentation

For May, which is Older Americans Month, the group received a presentation from [Sydney Byer](#), Senior Manager, Advocacy and External Affairs for **Next50**. Sydney shared her expertise about trends in grantmaking to support older adults and aging in place and the types of services Next50 is seeing offered across the country.

Next50 is a health conversion foundation, founded by the sale of InnovAge in 2016. The foundation's \$250M endowment has been leveraged to provide \$68M in grants to support older adults. Next50 adopted a strategic plan in 2024 that prioritized three areas: ending ageism, advancing digital equity, and supporting aging in place.

- Demographic trends: Colorado is the second-fastest aging population in the nation. By 2030, CO will have more seniors (65+) than youth (<18).
- It is expensive to age in America. 30% of seniors report economic insecurity. 22% continue to work past the age of 65, sometimes for economic necessity.
- The percentage of older adults in the workforce is growing and the number of People 75 and Older in the Labor Force Is Expected to Grow 96.5 Percent by 2030.”
- Older adults are the fastest-growing population experiencing homelessness – in Denver 50% of people experiencing homelessness are 50+.
- Next50 partners with organizations who are working to make it less expensive to age, we support innovative solutions and try to catalyze systems change.
- Next50 takes a “polycapital” approach, beginning with a relationship and bringing monetary and non-financial resources to address the biggest challenges of partner organizations.
- The group has developed an “impact investing” strategy to ensure the endowment is fully-aligned with Next50’s goals.
- Next50 has 3 major approaches to funding:
 - Sudden and urgent need – small and specific needs, often for unplanned hurdles
 - Changing aging – funds to organizations or governments who are changing community or changing systems. Example – anti-ageist curriculum in K12 schools in NYC
 - Colorado Resiliency Grant (CORE) – support a Colorado organization itself to withstand funding cuts
- Trends in funding –
 - increase in number of requests for basic needs
 - decrease in requests for social-isolation programs
 - Home modifications are one of the largest request categories
- Next50’s initial mission included “innovation.” We have found this often means improving service delivery and efficiency rather than flashy technology innovations

Discussion

Attendees had a lively discussion about potential implications of the data presented on their field of work. Questions and observations posed included:

- South Metro Chamber is working to build a 501c3 nonprofit. How could we support non-profits as a group? Maybe through education about ageism or needs of older adults?
- Who is attracting older adults?
 - There is general movement from rural areas to more urban areas that have increased access to healthcare
- There was a conversation about trends in “solo aging” of people without children or close family. What if we could adopt an older adult? Some private companies in the “homesharing” market - What incentives are available for homesharing?

Menti Exercise

What is your biggest take-away from this presentation?

- Think big and about systems work
- How grant dollars can be used to support aging
- Challenges associated with aging
- We really need to start thinking about the demographic shifts and how that impacts the City.
- Next50 is one of the largest supporter of older adults and they really want to support Colorado.
- Aging populations are outpacing the growth of younger population at a rate unprecedented, which leads to questions of how can we socially engineer systems

How might this take-away impact your organization?

- Aging in place needs to be a higher priority
- Want to look at new ways to provide transportation for older adults as a pilot program or new opportunity through our organization.
- Largest number of nonprofits. Awesome but leads to competition. Work smarter, not harder. Together
- Help us with organizational resiliency and capacity. Maybe a statewide partnership
- This can and will effect economic outlays for cities and require a shift in provided service

What is one action your organization could take in response?

- Refer more non-profits to Next50
- Partner with other nonprofits
- Examining and fixing regulations that make it harder for older adults to find housing or stay in their homes.
- Explore policy ideas and outcomes that incentivize aging in place
- Is there training for staff that would be helpful to prevent ageism?