



Lutheran
Services
in America®



1 in 4

older adults live in a rural community or small town¹.

Over the next decade, **73 million more** people in America will turn 65², necessitating a renewed focus on aging supports.

Rural Aging Action Network

Mobilizing Rural and Frontier Communities to Empower Older Adults and Caregivers

Where you live plays a significant role in how you age. Supporting aging in rural communities requires a commitment to develop and fund community-driven solutions that empower older adults and connect them to reliable access to healthcare, food, transportation, safe housing and social connections.



Learn More About the Rural Aging Action Network

¹ Rural Health Information Hub, *Aging in Place Toolkit*.

² 2020 US Census.

Expanding the Circle of Partners in Aging

The innovative Rural Aging Action Network (RAAN) model seeds investment in community-led approaches to aging in rural and frontier communities that centers the voices of older adults. The RAAN approach broadens the circle of partners in aging, recognizing that unlike urban areas, rural environments with less infrastructure demand creative and inclusive approaches to mobilize whole communities to support older adults.



A Whole Person Approach

Whole person-centered care is intrinsic to the Lutheran social ministry tradition of service. Rural Aging Action Networks are grounded in one-on-one individual assessments to empower and connect underserved and isolated older adults to local and affordable resources in their community, including reliable access to food, transportation, safe housing, health care and social engagement. This holistic approach builds trusting relationships, elevates the lived voice and honors older adults as unique and vital community members.

Top gaps in care for rural older adults engaged in RAAN

Highest Needs	Emerging Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Affordable food » Transportation options (medical & non-medical) » Healthcare navigation » Benefits eligibility navigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Legal assistance » Landscape maintenance » Utilities assistance » Translation assistance

Collaborative Action for Rural Aging

Our Member Organizations

The Lutheran Services in America collaborative learning and action model is proven to accelerate solutions among our leading health and human services organizations—but it doesn't work without partners. We are honored to partner with the following leading organizations to advance and expand the impact of RAAN.



Our RAAN Partners



Our Impact

Community-Led Solutions

- Train **19** rural health leaders
- Mobilize **284** community partners
- Leverage **989** community assets

Empowering Older Adults

- Empowering **213** underserved & isolated older adults

Transformative Impact

- Connected to **279** services addressing food security, social isolation, housing safety, healthcare and transportation challenges



“A few months ago, I didn’t know I needed [RAAN] or it existed—it wouldn’t have sunk in. Now I know how good [life] can be.”

— Bill Barton,
New Holland, South Dakota
(Population: 70)

Join Us to Support Rural Aging

With the workforce shortage emergency and record-setting closure of rural healthcare facilities, rural aging support is more critical than ever—but our window of opportunity to act is closing.

Join Lutheran Services in America to expand aging-in-place options, mobilize communities and seed critical innovations to protect the future of older adults aging in rural and frontier communities.

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Headquartered in Washington, DC, Lutheran Services in America leads innovative collaborations with its member organizations and partners in philanthropy, academia, healthcare and business to address the most critical challenges in our communities and empower people to lead their best lives.