Focus on Older Adults

COVID-19 Rapid Response, Recovery and a Just Future
Background

• Metta Fund is a private foundation dedicated to advancing the health and wellness of San Francisco’s aging population, particularly those who are farthest from access and opportunity.

• Our nonprofit partners provide direct services for older adults, as well as advocate with and for older adults to drive systemic change to address health inequities. Our grantmaking is primarily focused in San Francisco with additional support concentrated on policy advocacy throughout the state.

• In 2017, Metta made a 10-year commitment to focus on addressing social isolation and loneliness among older adults, a growing social problem with detrimental health consequences.
The Loneliness Epidemic in the News

The New York Times

The Surprising Effects of Loneliness on Health

All the lonely people
Loneliness is a serious public-health problem

The lonely are not just sadder; they are unhealthier and die younger. What can be done?

The Economist

How cities could be designed to combat the loneliness epidemic

Japan's lonely seniors are the tip of a global epidemic of senior loneliness

Forbes

UK Has A Minister Of Loneliness: This Is How Bad Loneliness Has Gotten
Social isolation and loneliness: the under-recognized social determinant of health.

- The health consequences are equivalent to smoking fifteen cigarettes a day.
- The condition can prompt cardiovascular disease, stroke, obesity, clinical depression and premature death.
- Social isolation and loneliness disproportionately affects people who have low incomes.

- When coupled together, economic insecurity and social isolation create social poverty, leaving older adults with even less connections and access to the already limited supports that are available to them.
Metta Fund’s COVID-19 Rapid Response grantmaking

Metta Fund disbursed our first round of rapid response funding to our partners to support the immediate needs of older adults in community.

- Phone banking to provide connection, information, linkages to additional services and supports
- Converting in-person programming to online
- Distribution of tablets along with remote technical support and help paying for connectivity
- Hiring of additional staff or reallocating staff to support non-English speaking monolingual older adults via phone
- Food security
Metta Fund’s COVID-19 Rapid Response funding

What did this pivot require of our foundation?

• Combination of clear strategy, trusted relationships and strong governance and leadership.

• Shift in mindset

• Creativity and flexibility while still assessing and managing risk
California Older Adult Demographics

We are aging and more diverse

Projections: 2010-2060
- 4.3M (2010) to 13.5M (2060)
- 1 of 10 65+ in 2010 (11.5%)
- 1 of 5 will be 65+ by 2030 (20.6%)
- 1 of 4 will be 65+ by 2060 (26.4%)

Fastest growth is with elders of color
- 38.1% PoC (2010)
- 67.1% PoC (2060)
San Francisco Older Adult Demographics

Nearly 30% of SF residents will be age 60 or older by 2030

54% speak a primary language other than English

12% self-identify as LGBTQ
Older women are more likely to be poor

Older people of color are more likely to be poor

< 1\%
Ageism and the Need to Reframe Aging

AGEISM HURTS ALL SAN FRANCISCANS.
LET'S PUT AN END TO STEREOTYPES ABOUT AGING.

PASSION NEVER GETS OLD LEADERSHIP NEVER GETS OLD CREATIVITY NEVER GETS OLD COURAGE NEVER GETS OLD INTELLIGENCE NEVER GETS OLD

Metta Fund
Join Us!

Aging Intersections is a new network of funders focused on supporting direct service provision and on transforming the systems that support our diverse Bay Area communities as we age.

We were preparing to launch later this Spring but the COVID-19 crisis has inspired us to enter onto the scene sooner. We have deep knowledge that we want to share with the broader funder community to begin to make sense of the implications of COVID-19 on older adults in our community and what it will mean in the long-term.

We are eager to share what we know with our funder peers and drive forward our collective push for long-term systemic solutions that improve the health and economic realities for older adults and all of us as we age.

**WHEN and WHERE:** Aging Intersections will launch its first learning event virtually on **April 10th from 12 - 1:30pm**. Our first session will be co-sponsored by NCG and you’ll be receiving an invitation soon.