

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Administration on Aging

### Final Agenda for the 1995 White House Conference on Aging

**AGENCY:** White House Conference on Aging, AoA, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of final agenda.

**SUMMARY:** The Policy Committee on the White House Conference on Aging is publishing the final agenda for the May 1995 Conference. To formulate this final agenda, the Policy Committee used public comments received on the proposed agenda published October 12, 1994, in the **Federal Register** and recommendations emanating from several hundred pre-conference events held around the country. Part I of the final agenda is an overview of the comments received on the proposed agenda; Part II covers the Conference theme, Part III specifies the issues and subissues for which resolutions are to be developed and the structure of the Conference program; and the final section, Part IV, describes the process to be used to develop and pass resolutions at the Conference.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** White House Conference on Aging, 501 School Street, SW., 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20024-2755. The main telephone number for the Conference is (202) 245-7116 and the FAX number is (202) 245-7857. The INTERNET address (CONFERENCE@BAN-GATE.AOA.DHHS.GOV) may also be used.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Immediately after President Clinton formally called for the 1995 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) in February 1994, solicitation from a wide range of sources—especially from the grassroots—of suggestions and ideas for the Conference agenda began. A main source of this input has been more than 600 recognized activities, events and programs that have been held or will be held around the country as a prelude to the May Conference in Washington, DC. Other major sources have been the public comments on the proposed agenda and the letters received from States, individuals, and public and private organizations.

From the recognized events that have been held, over 300 reports have been received detailing the policy recommendations generated from the events. Input received from this variety of local, state, regional and national events conducted on behalf of the WHCoA over the past ten months points

toward an agenda that goes beyond traditional boundaries and paints a broad picture of aging—an agenda that looks at the present and the future. This Conference should examine the needs and contributions of today's and tomorrow's older citizens. The specific issues addressed by the recommendations parallel the public comments received on the proposed agenda.

The Older Americans Act Amendments of 1992, Public Law 102-375, required that the Policy Committee (which oversees the 1995 White House Conference on Aging) formulate and approve a proposed agenda for the Conference and that this proposed agenda be published in the **Federal Register** for public comment. The proposed agenda was published on October 12 and the comment period closed approximately seven weeks later on December 1. More information on the comments is provided in Part I.

The main goal of the 1995 WHCoA is to provide resolutions to influence national aging policy and to develop a blueprint for action to have these resolutions implemented. This Conference, the last one of this century, will have a major impact on aging concerns into the 21st century. To focus the impact of the WHCoA on those issues of overwhelming concern, the number of resolutions presented to the Conference delegates for passage will be limited. The process for development and passage of resolutions is described in Part IV.

### Part I. Comments on the Proposed Agenda

This part of the final agenda provides information on the comments received on the proposed agenda published in the **Federal Register**. The proposed agenda included four proposed themes for the Conference from which a final theme would emerge based primarily on public comments and a listing of major issues and subissues.

Written comments on the proposed agenda formulated and approved by the Policy Committee were received from 915 individuals and organizations. Fifty-nine percent of the comments came from individuals, many of them older citizens.

Approximately one-half of the commenters responded to the request for comments on a theme for the Conference. They indicated their preferences among the four proposed themes, combined elements of the four proposed themes or proposed different themes. The responses tabulated as follows:

Themes	Re-sponses
"Aging into the 21st Century: Generations Working Together for a Better Community" .....	89
"Investing in an Aging Society into the 21st Century: Independence, Opportunity and Dignity for All Americans" .....	42
"Investing Now in America's Future: A Lifetime of Productivity and Opportunity" .....	52
"America Now and into the 21st Century: Growing Older with Independence, Opportunity and Dignity" .....	163
Other (combined elements or proposed new theme) .....	108

Comments focused on the need to look ahead to the future, the interdependence among generations, the importance of maintaining independence and dignity as one ages and the options and opportunities that need to be present throughout life.

In the proposed agenda published in the **Federal Register**, commenters were asked to indicate the relative importance of the issues and subissues and to provide on how they might be linked. The comments received provided information on the specific issue or issues which were of paramount concern to commenters or their organizations. The tabulation of responses on the 19 issues listed in the proposed agenda for the Conference resulted in the following rank order of the issues:

1. Health.
2. Income security and other benefits.
3. Housing/social and community services.
4. Crime/personal safety.
5. Interdependence of generations.
6. Quality of life/meaning in later years.
7. Special constituencies.
8. Productive older people.
9. Employment.
10. Older Americans Act and its role.
11. Transportation.
12. Rights/responsibility/advocacy Arts and humanities.
13. Image of older people.
14. Research and education/training.
15. Cultural diversity.
16. Family and family life.
17. Role of the private sector.
18. Technology.

"Health" was an overwhelming concern of the commenters. The "health" issue received more than twice as many comments as the second ranked issue, "Income security and other benefits." Another common concern of the commenters was combining housing and social and community services.