








Seniors Sector Inclusion Project




Summary of Findings from Conversations

What We Heard from Seniors





Barriers to Inclusion

	<p>Language Barriers prevent diverse seniors from accessing programs and services.</p>
	<p>Lack of Information limits diverse seniors' access to programs and services.</p>
	<p>Cost is a barrier to participation in programs and services due to financial constraints.</p>
	<p>Transportation is a barrier that limits mobility, independence, and access to programs and services.</p>
	<p>Limited Accessibility limits seniors with disabilities from participating due to communication, mobility, and environmental barriers.</p>
	<p>Lack of Cultural and/or Religious Appropriateness results in diverse seniors facing barriers to participation in programs, services, and space.</p>
	<p>Exclusion of 2SLGBTQ+ Seniors historically and systemically created barriers to participation and inclusion for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors.</p>
	<p>Lack of Community Connectors is a barrier to diverse seniors' participation and inclusion.</p>
	<p>Organizational Lack of Knowledge about Diversity poses barriers to participation for seniors with diverse lived experiences.</p>
	<p>Lack of Agency/Involvement in Decision Making keeps many seniors marginalized.</p>
	<p>Mistrust of the System due to past harm and ongoing discrimination hampers diverse seniors from accessing programs and services.</p>
	<p>Treatment as Passive Recipients Rather Than Valued Contributors frustrates seniors and hampers their ability to share their skills and cultural knowledge.</p>

Wants & Interests

	Desire for Employment by many diverse seniors require organizational support to address barriers to employment.
	Desire for Skills Development opportunities to foster connection and contribute meaningfully were favoured by diverse seniors.
	Interest in Cross-Cultural Exchanges was expressed as a way to promote social inclusion by diverse seniors.
	Interest in Group Activities particularly, identity-based groups foster belonging essential for diverse seniors' mental health and well-being.

What We Heard from Seniors-Serving Organizations

	Knowledge Gaps within seniors-serving organizations impede their ability to effectively meet the needs of diverse seniors.
	Funding Limitations make it challenging to advance equity-focused efforts to address the unique and intersecting needs of diverse seniors.
	Data Gaps inhibit organizations from effectively addressing the needs of diverse seniors.
	Macro Level System Policies outside organizational control deeply affect diverse seniors.

Learn more: <https://seniorscouncil.net/ssip-march-2025/>

