

Responding to the Health Care Needs of the Elderly



JSI in the United States

Health care delivery and financing systems face unprecedented challenges to meet the demands of the growing aging population. Access to a high-quality continuum of care, which includes behavioral health and social supports as well as medical care, is critical to healthy aging. JSI conducts research, training, technical assistance, and consumer education to help health systems meet the complex needs of older people and to help older health care consumers access services effectively. JSI has a particular focus on those most vulnerable to the challenges of growing older, including minority and low-income populations.

Improving Access to Care

Building Comprehensive Services – For most older adults, the primary care provider is the gateway to extended medical care and specialty referrals, including mental health and substance abuse services. JSI works to improve older adults' access to necessary specialty services, including behavioral health, by integrating specialty and primary care provider services, or by designing systems to enhance referral and care coordination.

Long-Term Care – Elders need a range of models and settings from home-based care to assisted living to nursing homes. In order to help improve the capacities of local delivery systems to respond to and provide options for the long-term care needs of elders. JSI works with community-based agencies to enhance access to and the quality of long-term care services.

Implementing Policy and Plans on Aging – JSI works with state agencies and commissions to draft state plans on aging, including health promotion for the elderly and healthy-aging policies. As part of states' activities to implement Medicare policies, JSI has been called upon to educate elders about new drug benefits and healthy aging.

Focusing on Prevention and Healthy Lifestyles

Health Promotion – Prevention is not often associated with growing older but it needs to be. JSI helps states and community-based agencies to coordinate activities to promote healthy aging through exercise, nutrition, injury prevention, and early intervention for chronic diseases. JSI develops easy-to-understand printed and web-based health-promotion materials and training curricula for older adults and their care-givers that provide information, education, and training.

Conducting Research

Inclusive Research Methods – JSI conducts research with older people from a wide demographic spread to help adapt services, materials, and outreach in a culturally comprehensive and sensitive manner.

*JSI works with public and private clients to
address the nation's most pressing health issues facing older adults*

Selected Clients

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services
Baltimore, MD

Health Resources and Services Administration
HIV/AIDS Bureau
Rockville, Maryland

Boston Public Health Commission
Boston, Massachusetts

NH Division of Elderly and Adult Services (DEAS)
Concord, New Hampshire

Women's Educational & Industrial Union
Boston, Massachusetts

Vermont Department of Aging and Disabilities
Burlington, Vermont

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Rockville, Maryland

Vermont Department of Public Health
Burlington, Vermont

Vermont Governor's Commission on Healthy Aging
Burlington, Vermont

Massachusetts LGBT Aging Coalition
Boston, Massachusetts

Ethos, Inc. and Boston Partnership for Older Adults
Boston, Massachusetts

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*John Snow, Inc. (JSI) is a health care research and consulting organization, dedicated to
improving the health of individuals and communities worldwide.*

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