

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2018

Mr. Lance Robertson
Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging
Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Assistant Secretary Robertson:

We write to express our support for the application submitted by Spectrum Generations for funding through the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) 2018 Empowering Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities through Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs Financed by the Prevention and Public Health Fund. In partnership with SeniorPlus, another one of Maine's Agencies on Aging, the organization seeks to enhance its Healthy Living for ME Program to better serve Maine senior citizens living with chronic health conditions.

Based in Augusta, Maine, Spectrum Generations serves as the Central Maine Agency on Aging, providing resources and services to older adults of all backgrounds. Its services are particularly important for Maine seniors who suffer from diabetes and chronic pain that contribute to high health care costs and potential opioid misuse. In 2016, the organization secured ACL funding to build a Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Network (CDSME) in Maine, which has helped support its Healthy Living for ME Program. This program offers a variety of evidence-based health and wellness classes to seniors, emphasizing self-care, independence, and preventative measures for those who have chronic conditions and pain.

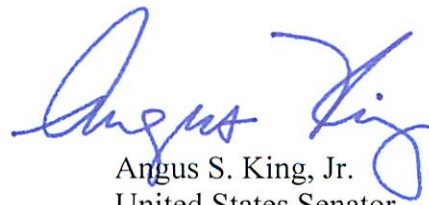
Through this grant, Spectrum Generations and SeniorPlus would build on the success of their Healthy Living for ME Program to ensure the sustainability of Maine's CDSME network by addressing the statewide capacity for serving adults with chronic conditions. The organizations will do so by planning for increasing the number of participants in self-management education and support programs, implementing innovative funding mechanisms, and streamlining these programs into an integrated prevention program network to better serve Maine's aging population. We believe this proposal will help improve chronic condition self-management for older adults throughout our state, ultimately lowering health care costs and allowing seniors to live more comfortably and independently.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of Spectrum Generations and Maine seniors. We urge your careful consideration of this application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify Katie Seelen (Collins) at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision is made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator