



Penn Asian Senior Services Receives \$100,000 Grant to Make Primary Care More Accessible for Asian Seniors

PHILADELPHIA, PA— Penn Asian Senior Services (PASSi) has received a \$100,000 grant from the Cigna Foundation to support the PASSi Primary Care program. The new initiative adds primary care to PASSi’s existing services including home-based care, adult day care, and benefits assistance to create a healthcare hub where underserved Asian American seniors, and seniors with limited English proficiency, can access care all in one place and in their own language. By making it easier for Asian seniors to find coordinated care, the PASSi Primary Care program will increase patient satisfaction, improve clinical outcomes, and help seniors stay independent for longer.

A recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation showed that 30% of Asian American men and 21% of Asian American women do not have a primary care physician. These low rates are due, in part, to social determinants of health like limited English and poverty. According to data from the U.S. Census, nearly one in three Asian seniors in Philadelphia lives below the poverty line, and 69% of Asian seniors in Pennsylvania speak a language other than English at home.

By adding primary care to their existing services, PASSi hopes to address these barriers and make access to comprehensive care more equitable. “This program will help our seniors receive a higher level of care, in their own language, at a place they are familiar with, and from a provider they know,” said Ken Yang, Executive Director of PASSi. “Our centralized approach to care will make it easier for seniors to manage any chronic conditions and age in place comfortably.”

“We are committed to making a positive impact in the communities where we live and work,” says Edgar Miranda, Cigna Market President in Philadelphia. “We are thrilled that this Cigna Foundation grant will help PASSi provide more support through their primary care program as the organization continues to improve the health and well-being of those it serves.”

PASSi, a 501(c)(3) organization, is the largest provider of culturally-attuned services for Asian seniors and other older adults with limited English proficiency in Southeastern PA. Each year PASSi provides approximately 800 low-income seniors with home care and adult day care services. Through the Penn Asian Vocational Institute, PASSi also offers training for future home health aides and certified nursing assistants, along with vocational ESL classes.

###