Building Partnerships to Translate the Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) Model to address Health and Social Service Gaps for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Senior Population residing in and around Capitol Hill neighborhood, Denver, Colorado

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Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender (GLBT) persons, estimated to represent 3-8% of the total population, face social and institutionalized barriers to accessing healthcare and social services as they age. Our focus is to identify health services gaps and access barriers faced by GLBT elders by bringing together partners interested in aging and GLBT issues. Once formed, the longer-term translational outcomes the partnership will address are how to adapt and implement an evidence-informed integrated supportive services model called a NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community), to serve the needs of this highly vulnerable, often hidden target population. The NORC model has been successfully used nationwide to help seniors access the health and social resources necessary for them to ‘age-in-place’ and has been shown to maintain older adult independence, increase life satisfaction, and sustain neighborhood stability. Proposed steps are to convene partners to identify key stakeholders including health and social service providers, decision-makers and GLBT elders/caregivers, whose input in designing the NORC will be critical; facilitate stakeholder meetings to discuss the issue, identify service gaps and provider training needs, understand barriers to access/service delivery; and to develop a joint partner proposal to design, implement and assess implementation, sustainability, and NORC-related performance outcomes.