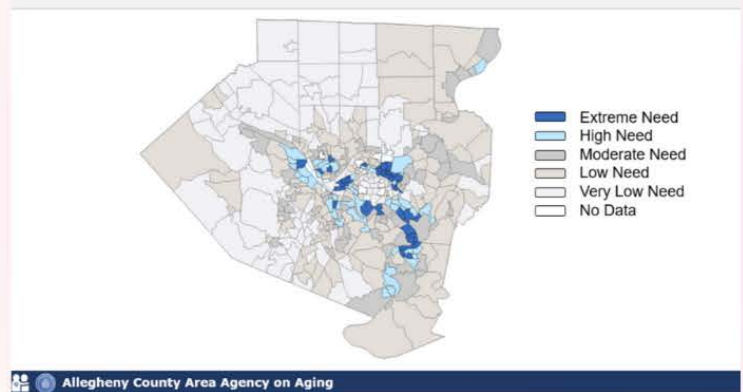# Age Out Loud:
Community Engagement Assessment
by Emily Waskowitz

My Fellowship project focuses on addressing critical gaps in community engagement within our region. The AAA's annual report estimates that there are **545,763 households in Allegheny County**, with **212,455** of these being older adult households, representing **a39% of the total population**. According to internal data, the AAA has provided assistance to approximately **8% of the overall county population and 18% of the county's older adult population.**

The data has revealed that older adults in different neighborhoods receive agency services at varying levels. Notably, Downtown, Penn Hills, and McKees Rocks show significant utilization, while service gaps are evident in neighborhoods along the northwest and southwest edges, such as Robinson, Ross, and Moon Townships. The Community Need Index currently does not highlight whether areas with low service usage also have higher percentages of marginalized populations. These insights are crucial for guiding AAA's outreach and data collection efforts in underserved areas, especially those located farther from existing resources. **The long-term goal of this project is to refine community needs definitions and provide public data to incorporate more comprehensive AAA programs .**

DHS Community Need Index (CNI)

Legend:
- Extreme Need
- High Need
- Moderate Need
- Low Need
- Very Low Need
- No Data

Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging

As a Racial Equity Fellow, it's essential for me to lead community engagement efforts equitably. My Community Engagement Model will value intersectionality, social determinants of health, the eight domains of livability. Additionally, I will prioritize Cultural Humility in my engagement approach, ensuring that as a community leader, I can effectively engage with diverse groups, ultimately leading to more sustainable and impactful outcomes in community development.

This project will involve collaboration both internally and externally, as I recognize the importance of engaging subject matter experts who have lived and professional experience within the aging community.

Identify Current Community Engagement Gaps/Define the Problem to Deepen Understanding → **Design a data collection model to address needs within Older Adults whom we have not reached. Use model to engage with underserved Older Adults**

↓

Share findings with internal/external stakeholders for service collaboration ← **Assess Data that is collected. Re-develop internal process and procedures for engaging with underserved communities**