



*Improving the Lives of Older Adults and People with Disabilities
Through Services, Research, and Education*

September 15, 2021

Mrs. Yvette Thomas, Director
Division of Long-Term Services and Supports
South Dakota Department of Human Services
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

I am pleased to inform you that the South Dakota State Plan on Aging under the Older Americans Act for October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2025 has been approved.

The State Plan outlines many significant activities that will serve as a guide for South Dakota's aging service network during the next four years. Of special note is your commitment to equitable access to programs that address social determinants of health, with a focus on identifying and understanding the needs of underserved (low income) and diverse (tribal) populations and others in the great State of South Dakota. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) recognizes the ongoing and difficult challenges faced by the Division of Long-Term Services and Supports during the current pandemic, and I appreciate your commitment and dedication to ensure the continuity of quality services. I am delighted to see that the Division of Long-Term Services and Supports continues to serve as an effective and visible advocate for older adults and family caregivers at the state level.

The Denver Regional Office looks forward to working with you and the Division of Long-Term Services and Supports in the implementation of the State Plan. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Percy Divine, Regional Administrator, at 303-844-7815. I appreciate your dedication and commitment toward improving the lives of older persons and family caregivers in the great State of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison Barkoff".

Alison Barkoff
Acting Administrator/Assistant Secretary for Aging