



Ms. Abha Bhattarai  
Washington Post  
1301 K. St. NW  
Washington, DC 20071

March 29, 2022

Dear Ms. Bhattarai,

Thank you for bringing the issue of inflation adversely impacting fixed-income retiree to the forefront of the readers of the Washington Post. The Juanita C. Grant Foundation has been working with local and national organizations on this issue for past 5 years and with stories like yours, regarding the economic impact on retirees and the 65 and older populations that are living on fixed incomes.

The Foundation has been trying to alarm policymakers, businesses, and elected officials on the number of older adults that are on the borderline of poverty or in poverty due to early retirement or being forced out of the workplace. To address this economic impact and insecurities, we launched an annual Workforce Development Forum and a Hiring Event in 2017, to help bridge the financial burden on this targeted population. The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in halting the 2020 in person event. The education and awareness to this issue are critical. So, we are glad to see this article in The Washington Post.

It was through our year-round workforce training and preparation workshops where thousands attended the training trying to get employment to supplement their income. The training was designed to help older adults refresh their computer skills and learn innovative techniques to participate in employers' virtual interviewing. Through this training and working directly with employers, in 2019, during this event 65 persons between the ages of 65 and 80 were hired on the spot.

Based on the results, this model appears to be very effective for older adults who need to remain in the workplace. We are advocating for policymakers and employers to bring and make this type of training available to those retirees that need support from its community. We are working to keep older adults from living in poverty or becoming homeless. As noted in your article, homelessness among older adults is rising and is expected to triple in the next decade. The Foundation is working to be proactive and preventing this from happening to older adults.

Thank you again for bringing this issue to the attention of many who were not aware, but perhaps, can now better understand the seriousness of this issue and the importance of acting now. It would be a travesty if we as a community and a country don't get ahead of this humanitarian issue that will impact millions of American families nationwide.

Sincerely,

Maggie Holmes  
Board Chair