

*Planting the Seeds of Change: Developing Mental Health and Aging Coalitions To Improve Services for Older Persons with Mental Illness* explores the development of statewide and community mental health and aging coalitions to promote systems change and improve services for older persons with mental illness. The report outlines the need for mental health and aging coalitions, the characteristics of successful coalitions, strategies and resources for interested stakeholders and recommendations proffered by grant recipients. Sample products from the funded coalitions and other technical assistance materials are included in the report's appendices.

This report is intended to provide the reader with an understanding of the needs of older people with mental illness and the role of mental health and aging coalitions in responding to those needs. Many of the insights and strategies within *Planting the Seeds of Change* were based upon the actual experiences of the profiled coalitions. As a result, this report should be a practical tool for developing and supporting successful mental health and aging coalitions.