



Inviting Public Comment on Older Americans Act Funding Proposal

In accordance with the Older Americans Act (OAA) (Section 315(c)(1)), Central MN Council on Aging (CMCOA) is soliciting the views of older individuals, providers, and other stakeholders on two elements of its 2019 funding proposal to the Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA).

- Plans for Program Development and Coordination Activities funded under Title III-B (Supportive Services).
- Strategy for cost sharing related to supportive, health promotion, and caregiver support services.

Draft Program Development and Coordination Activities

The CMCOA will submit a 2019 proposal to the MBA for use of 25 percent of its allocated Title III-B (Supportive Services) funds for Program Development and Coordination Activities. These activities will have a direct and positive impact on services for older persons in the central 14 county region of Minnesota.

The following items detail specific strategies that CMCOA proposes to deploy related to each of the four goals set out by the MBA. These strategies align with direction from the MBA for Program Development and Coordination Activities. We welcome your consideration of these strategies and your comments and suggestions for changes.

Goal 1: Leverage the experience, expertise, and energy of older Minnesotans

- Build the capacity of Senior Corps to facilitate opportunities to connect older adults in their communities and build social connections.

Goal 2: Equip older Minnesotans with the tools to take charge of their health and make informed decisions about services when they need them

- Pilot one or more sustainable models for offering evidence-based health promotion programs with community-based partners that address disparities and reach unserved or underserved populations.
- Participate in a state-led project to modernize the current nutrition services delivery model to achieve efficiencies, promote sustainability, and increase choice.

Goal 3: Support families and friends in their caregiving roles

- Enhance the caregiving support infrastructure to provide family caregivers with on demand access to consultation and resources in person, by phone, or online.
- Participate in CARE Act partnerships with the State, AARP, and Minnesota Hospital Association.
- Develop on-the-ground relationships with nonprofits to expand caregiver consultation services.
- Identify partners to be trained in *Powerful Tool for Caregivers*, Dementia Education, and Respite Education & Support Tools (REST).
- Support family and friends who are caregiving by building a regional respite care coalition.

Goal 4: Support aging in community with access to a range of services and housing options

- Assist low-income homeowners to age in community by leveraging regional/local public private partnerships to complete home modifications, maintenance, and in-home services.

- Coordinate home and community-based services with existing weatherization programs, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) loans, and resources with State Services for the Blind.
- Ensure OAA funded Title III providers target outreach and services in senior housing.
- Develop new partnerships to deliver services and supports in senior housing.
- Explore options to improve current OAA core services, Elderly Waiver, Alternative Care, and Essential Community Supports.
- Work with cultural and ethnic communities to disseminate information and build awareness of services available through OAA and other public programs.

2019 Proposal for Cost Sharing

CMCOA proposes each year a plan to the MBA to use Title III OAA funds for the purpose of providing supportive services, health promotion, and caregiver support services and must employ a cost sharing strategy to expand services to older adults and their family caregivers. Service expansion, as feasible, is undertaken by the organizations that receive Title III funds from CMCOA and cost share payments from individuals receiving services. CMCOA implements cost sharing in accordance with requirements of the OAA and the MBA.

Services Subject to Cost Share in 2019:

- Chore
- Homemaker
- Assisted Transportation
- Consultation Support Planning
- Caregiver Consultation
- In-Home/Group Respite

Services without Cost Share in 2019:

- Health Assessment
- Health Promotion
- Legal Education
- Caregiver Education

Services Not Permitting Cost Share in 2019:

- Information and Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Nutrition (Congregate and Home Delivered Meals)

Cost share should be applied to all individuals receiving any services subject to cost share, except individuals:

- a) With incomes at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level.
- b) Receiving services through a Medicaid Waiver Program or the Alternative Care program.

OAA and MBA requirements for Title III funded organizations administering cost share include:

- a) Protect the privacy and confidentiality of each individual.
- b) Establish appropriate procedures to safeguard and account for cost share payments.
- c) Use collected cost share payments to expand the service for which such payment was given.
- d) Determine the unit of service cost as the basis for the sliding scale.

- e) Inform service recipients of their rights and responsibilities in relation to cost sharing including cost of service, recommended level of cost-sharing, availability of a sliding fee scale, and information on availability of services if payment is not made due to inability or unwillingness to pay.
- f) Determine eligibility to cost share solely by a confidential declaration of income, with no requirement for verification.
- g) Determine income level solely on the gross income of the individual who is 60 years and older, not considering assets, savings, or other property owned by an older individual, to determine whether cost sharing is permitted. In the case of a Caregiver Support Service, the income level will be based on the care receiver's income. Where the caregiver and the care receiver are married, and one is 60 years and older, the Title III provider is required to use two-person household income and apply to the two-person household category on the sliding scale.
- h) Determine when cost sharing participation will be waived for extreme hardship as determined by CMCOA and the Title III provider.
- i) Notify individuals of current cost share amount due, without carrying forward a balance due amount.

Cost Sharing Sliding Scale

The MBA recommended level of cost sharing is 50%. The method of cost sharing is a sliding fee scale based solely on a confidential declaration of income and with no requirement for verification. The sliding fee recommended scale is established on 10-25-50-100% of the cost of delivering services and applicable to the individual's income level at greater than 100%, greater than 150%, greater than 200%, and greater than 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Title III providers must submit a copy of the sliding fee scale(s) and related client education and notification materials to CMCOA for review, comment, and approval. Variations to the sliding scale provided by CMCOA that comply with the intent of the policy and encourage financial contributions by users are allowed with CMCOA approval.

Written Comments

Written comments are encouraged and will be accepted until September 21, 2018. Please send written comments via email to lori@cmcoa.org or by mail to the following address:

Central MN Council on Aging
Attn: Lori Vrolson
250 Riverside Avenue North
Suite 300
Sartell, MN 56377

Public Hearing

Individuals may also give oral testimony at the Public Hearing to be held at the Central MN Council on Aging at the address noted above on Monday, September 24, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Testimony is limited to 5 minutes per person. Send RSVP to lori@cmcoa.org by September 21, 2018 to register your attendance and, if desired, your intent to speak at the hearing.