



TO: Applicants and Service Providers in North Central Connecticut

FROM: Maureen McIntyre, Chief Executive Officer

RE: **2023 PROPOSAL REVIEW PRIORITIES**

The program funding priorities for Title III funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2023 have been approved by the NCAAA Advisory Council and Board of Directors. These funding priorities for Title III funds are based on mandates of the Older Americans Act and local needs assessments done for NCAAA Area Plan. With the guidance of these priorities, difficult decisions can be made as to which proposals should be recommended for 2023 funding.

RESOURCES:

The Older Americans Act (OAA), effective through FY 2024, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and the NCAAA Area Plan 2022-2024 shall serve as primary planning and funding resources. NCAAA will prepare a budget as final numbers are received from the Department of Aging and Disability Services. Though NCAAA's governance entities are well familiar with the Older Americans Act, additional information on the ARPA funds is as follows.

ARPA FUNDING DEFINED

On March 11, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) was signed into law by President Biden. Section 2921 of the law appropriated \$1.434 billion to remain available until expended to carry out the Older Americans Act of 1965 (OAA). As the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected older adults and especially within communities of color, it is NCAAA's intention to use these funds to improve or build capacity for community-based programs who serve these populations. We will encourage program applications that address critical needs exacerbated by the pandemic such as mental health services, social isolation, home safety and repair, and food insecurity. ARPA funding has been categorized in the same manner as OAA funds. With ARPA B, D, and E to be used for Supportive Services & Senior Centers, Evidence Based Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, and National Family Caregiver Support Program respectively.

GOALS:

OAA funding should be used as "seed money." This federal funding should start programs that will later be supported by local communities. That is why we have a formula that requires a local match. Over a three-year period, OAA funding declines as local resources increase. OAA funding supports programs that coordinate and collaborate and this is encouraged to maximize efforts, resources, and efficiencies. ARPA funds, to be awarded concurrently, are to be expended by September 30, 2023. Local match will be required on program dollars and despite the limited timeframe, project sustainability will be strongly considered during program review.



Both the OAA and ARPA mandates that services be targeted to those older individuals with the greatest social and economic need, with particular attention to low income older individuals, low income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas. OAA dollars are not to be used to duplicate current services or to supplant resources that are no longer available.

The basic goal of OAA funding is to identify new elder service needs in the community and develop new programs and services. The basic goal of ARPA funding is to ameliorate the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on older adults and family caregivers in under-served populations.

MANDATES:

OAA and the SUA also mandate that we fund the following social services areas under Title III-B:

- In Home (25% of total funding, minimum)
- Access (16% of total funding, minimum)
- Legal (6% of total funding, minimum)
- Discretionary based on local priorities (53%)

Both OAA and ARPA Title III-C, D, and E monies are allocated separately with funding targeted for Nutrition, Evidence-Based Health Promotion services, and services for Family Caregivers.

**There are no such state-level mandates on ARPA-B funding.*

ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS:

Based on NCAAA's assessment of local needs, the following areas are priorities for funding under OAA Title IIIB, D, and E, in 2023: Transportation; nutrition/food security; health education, wellness, and disease prevention; navigation/information and referral services. These priorities are further organized within the following Area Plan Goal Areas:

1. EMPOWER OLDER ADULTS TO RESIDE IN THE COMMUNITY SETTING OF THEIR CHOICE.
 - Programs that provide older adults improved access to available services by reducing and addressing barriers. Services include transportation such as programs offering transportation across town lines and during extended hours, assisted transportation, and enhanced transportation to medical appointments are priorities.
 - Programs that provide in-home care services not covered by another funding source that allow older persons to remain at home safely and independently. Such as but not limited to, adult day care, homemaker, home health aide, chore, and companion.
 - Legal assistance, education and information assistance, and social support programs are encouraged as well as programs that provide guidance, support, counseling and instruction to caregivers of older adults and grandparents/relatives raising children. Priority will be given to programs providing new or expanded services and those that specifically target services to older persons with the greatest social and economic need.
2. PROVIDE OLDER ADULTS WITH PREVENTION AND WELLNESS OPPORTUNITIES.
 - Programs that promote healthy aging by addressing physical health, mental health and social determinants of health. Services include programs that provide health services not covered by other sources of payment (i.e. Medicare) including dental, nutrition, behavioral or mental health, physical activity, management of chronic diseases, fall



- prevention, overall wellness promotion, and programs designed to provide enhanced and/or integrated access to community-based health services.
- Develop innovative and multi-faceted approaches to food-insecurity such as but not limited to facilitated shopping, shopping list development, nutrition counseling, and nutrition education. Successful projects will support consumer choice and independence, and will integrate social interaction into the delivery system,
3. PROTECT ELDER RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING AND PREVENT ELDER ABUSE, FRAUD, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION.
- Programs that promote elder rights efforts and the dissemination of information in order to address the rights of older persons are encouraged. Services include but are not limited to housing, age discrimination, patients/tenants/grandparents rights and older elder rights issues.
 - Programs that address and work to counter systemic ageism that contributes to the discrimination against older adults and devaluation of CTs older residents that can foster abuse, neglect and exploitation.

