



Aging Program Directive (APD)

APD#: 24-01-04

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Program Area: AAA Administration


Disposition: Rescinds APD 24-01-03

Origin: Bureau of Finance

Contact: Finance – Jennifer Cave

SUBJECT **AREA AGENCY ON AGING (AAA) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, PLANNING ALLOCATIONS AND AGING SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FORMAT FOR FY 2023-2024-REVISION #3**

TO Executive Staff
Administration on Community Living
Area Agencies on Aging
PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Office of Long-Term Living
PA Council on Aging
Comptroller

FROM 

Jason Kavulich
Secretary

PURPOSE The purpose of this Aging Program Directive (APD) is to: (1) delineate financial requirements for FY 2023-24 Area Agency on Aging (AAA) program; (2) provide procedures for the development and submission of the FY 2023-24 Aging Services Block Grant Revised Budget No. 3; (3) transmit the initial FY 2023-24 funding allocation levels for each AAA; and, (4) superseding the information previously provided in APD 24-01-03.

BACKGROUND This APD transmits key information required for the submission of the FY 2023-24 Aging Block Grant Revised Budget No.3. The AAAs are to use this APD frequently for fiscal instruction, management, and administration of these funds.

Federal funding included within this APD incorporate grants provided by the Administration for Community Living:

<u>Grant No.</u>	<u>CAN</u>	<u>FAIN</u>	<u>Award Date</u>	<u>Subaward Period</u>
Title III	2201PAOASS-01	93.044	10/01/20-09/30/24	10/01/22-09/30/24
Title III	2101PASSC6	93.044	04/21/21-09/30/24	04/01/21-09/30/24
Title III	2201PAOACM-01	93.045	10/01/20-09/30/24	10/01/21-09/30/23
Title III	2201PAOAHDC-01	93.045	10/01/20-09/30/23	10/01/21-09/30/23
Title III	2201PAOAPH-01	93.043	10/01/20-09/30/24	10/01/22-09/30/24
Title III	2201PAOAFDC-01	93.052	10/01/20-09/30/23	10/01/22-09/30/24
Title III	2101PAPHC6	93.043	04/01/21-09/30/24	04/01/21-09/30/24
Title VII	2201PAOAEA-01	93.041	10/01/20-09/30/24	10/01/22-09/30/24
Title VII	2201PAOAOM-01	93.042	10/01/20-09/30/24	10/01/22-09/30/24
Public Workforce	2201PASTPH	93.044	01/01/22-09/30/24	10/01/22-09/30/24
NSIP	2201PAOANS-01	93.053	10/01/22-09/30/24	10/01/22-09/30/24
MIPPA AAA	2201PAMIAA	93.071	09/01/23-08/31/24	09/01/23-08/31/24
MIPPA	2201PAMISH	93.071	09/01/23-08/31/24	09/01/23-08/31/24
MIPPA ADRC	2201PAMIDR	93.071	09/01/23-08/31/24	09/01/23-08/31/24
ARPA Ombuds	2101PACMC6-00	93.747	04/01/21-09/30/24	04/01/21-09/30/24
HDM	2301PAOAHDC6	93.045	04/01/21-09/30/24	04/01/21-09/30/24
Preventive Health	2301PAOAPH	93.043	10/01/23-09/30/24	10/01/23-09/30/24
SHIP Base Grant	90SAPG0059	93.324	04/01/20-03/31/25	04/01/23-03/31/24
Critical Relief	90NWC30027-01	93.048	04/01/20-09/30/23	04/01/20-09/30/23
APS ARPA	2101PAAPC6-01	93.747	08/01/21-09/30/24	08/01/21-09/30/24

BLOCK GRANT

The funds distributed through the Aging Block Grant include Regular Block Grant, State Caregiver Support Program (SCSP), Federal Caregiver Support Program (FCSP), Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP), PA Medi, Health Promotion, and other categorical funds.

AAAs should continue to refer to APD #97-01-02, "Accounting Manual for Area Agency on Aging Programs", for definitions related to specific cost centers and service programs. Any fiscal instructions necessary to complete the contract process, and not included within the Cooperative Agreement and the Accounting Manual, will be cited in this APD.

All AAAs will be organized in a manner which avoids conflicts with the mission and responsibilities of an AAA. At a minimum, the AAA Director and all subordinate staff should be free from any responsibilities for the oversight or operation of:

- Nursing facilities, personal care homes, home health agencies; and
- Any other organization which would be able to financially benefit from favorable decisions by an AAA.

MINIMUM PROGRAM AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS
FOR FY 2023-24

**IN HOME
SERVICE
PARAMETER**

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) has established a minimum parameter of **60%** of funding levels for the provision of in-home services. The In-Home Services Parameter schedule identifies the minimum amount each AAA shall expend on in-home services for FY 2023-24. The calculation base for the parameter is the Block Grant allocations for the Regular Block Grant, State Caregiver Support Program, Federal Caregiver Support Program, Nutrition Services Incentive Program, categorical allocation-OPTIONS Services, and categorical allocation-Block Grant Supplement.

The following cost centers have been identified as in-home services for the purpose of meeting this parameter: Home Delivered Meals, Passenger Transportation, Home Health, Personal Care, Environmental Modifications, Medical Equipment/ Supplies/Adaptive Devices, Home Support, Adult Day Care, Care Management, Protective Services, and Guardianship.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
COSTS**

No more than **10%** of the funds allocated in the Total Aging Block Grant (*less Health Promotions and OPTIONS Services funding*) may be budgeted and expended in the AAA Administration cost center. No Health Promotions or OPTIONS Services funding can be used for administration costs.

AAAs are to adhere to the requirements of APD #05-01-10, "Indirect Cost Policy for Department of Aging Contracts". This directive states the maximum indirect costs for direct service contracts with public or private providers shall be the actual indirect costs or **2%** of the agency's total direct service costs, whichever is lower. Indirect Costs are only reported in the AAA's Administrative cost center.

**FEDERAL
FUNDING**

As a result of the change in the Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF), each AAA's federal funding allocations within their Cooperative Block Grant Agreement has been adjusted accordingly. At a minimum, the IFF change effects each AAA's allocation for Titles IIIB (Supportive Services), IIIC1 (Congregate Meals), IIIC2 (Home Delivered Meals), IIID (Health Promotions) and IIIE (Caregiver Services).

On April 4, 2022, the identifier used across the federal government changed from the DUNS number to the Unique Entity ID (UEI). The UEI is a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by SAM.gov. Any AAA receiving federal funding shall maintain an active UEI. Existing registered entities can find their UEI by following the steps [here](#). New entities can get their Unique Entity ID at SAM.gov and, if required, complete an entity registration.

**CAREGIVER
SUPPORT
PROGRAM (CSP)**

The CSP allocation is budgeted and expended on CSP and FCSP activities and program administration costs. Requirements stipulated for the FCSP allocation are also applicable for the CSP program.

**FEDERAL
CAREGIVER
SUPPORT
PROGRAM (FCSP)**

FCSP funding is expended on CSP activities and program administration costs when federal match requirements are maintained.

AAA administration costs charged to the FCSP allocation shall not exceed 10% of the FCSP allocation. The maximum monthly care plan cost cap for Caregivers enrolled in the CSP is **\$600**, subject to the Caregiver's determined reimbursement percentage. Justification of the approved CSP monthly care plan cost cap shall be documented in the Caregiver's record in SAMS. Per policy requirements with the passage of Act 20 of 2021, the \$300 aggregate average monthly reimbursement cap for all CSP cases was eliminated. AAAs may authorize CSP care plan amounts up to a maximum of \$600 per month based on identified need and are no longer required to adhere to the aggregate average requirement. At least 55% of the allocated CSP funding shall be budgeted and expended for reimbursement to Caregivers for caregiving-related services and supplies. Of this amount, no more than **20%** of the amount budgeted and expended for financial assistance to Caregivers can be budgeted and expended for home modifications and assistive devices.

There is a **\$5,000** lifetime cap per Caregiver for the purchase of a Home Modification or Assistive Device, which is subject to the Caregiver's determined reimbursement percentage (Section V. C. 2. of the CSP Chapter in the PDA's Policy and Procedure Manual).

Per the Older Americans Act (OAA) as amended and reauthorized in 2020, there is no longer a requirement to limit CSP spending on Grandparents/Other Older Relative Caregivers of Children and Older Relative Caregivers of an Adult with a Disability to 10% of the overall CSP funding allocation. AAAs will no longer need to track CSP expenditures to ensure funding for these Caregivers is below a specified percentage.

NOTE: With the passage of Act 20 of 2021, AAAs may use both state and federal funding to serve Grandparents/Other Older Relative Caregivers

The Department of Aging defines eligible caregiving-related services and supplies as respite services, consumable supplies, supportive services supplemental services, home modifications, assistive devices, and services specific to Grandparents/Older Relative Caregivers.

In administering cost sharing for the FCSP, AAAs are to comply with the requirements for determining the reimbursement percentage for Caregivers enrolled in the program (Section V. B. of the CSP Chapter in

the PDA's Aging Service Policy and Procedure Manual) using the CSP Reimbursement Percentage Guide (Appendix F.2 of the CSP Chapter in the PDA's Aging Service Policy and Procedure Manual).

**U. S. NUTRITION
SERVICES
INCENTIVE
PROGRAM CASH**

The Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) allocation amounts are based on the number of eligible meals each AAA reported in SAMS as providing during FY 2022-23.

PA MEDI

Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight, PA MEDI (State Health Insurance Assistance Program, SHIP) and MIPPA funds are allocated according to the Intrastate Federal Funding formula.

Funding for PA MEDI and MIPPA should be dedicated to training sessions, Medicare enrollment and informational meetings, outreach (advertising, mailings) and educational efforts, equipment needs such as laptops, phones, headsets, and projectors, and other activities related to Medicare benefits counseling, Medical Advantage plan/Medigap selection, Medicare Part D assistance, application for assistance programs and outreach to enroll people in the low-income assistance programs for Medicare premiums, and long term care insurance. A minimal amount of funding should be designated to personnel cost.

AAAs are to carefully analyze its costs allocation methodologies associated with these funds.

Funding for the PA MEDI Program is identified as a categorical allocation In the AAA's Total Block Grant. AAAs are to provide PA MEDI Program services consistent with the established program requirements.

Funds for the AAA's PA MEDI are to be budgeted and expended on allowable activities in the Information and Referral and/or the Senior Community Center Services cost center(s).

**HEALTH
PROMOTION**

Funds for the AAA's Health Promotion Program are to be budgeted and expended on program allowable activities as identified in APD# 19-04-01 in the Senior Community Center Services cost center. The current allocations are based on the IFF.

NOTE: Administrative costs are not an eligible use of Title III-D funding (Health Promotion).

OMBUDSMAN

Each AAA shall budget and provide funding for the local ombudsman entity, or for a contracting provider of ombudsman services including recruitment, training, and volunteer management, to perform activities for the PA Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office subject to policies and reporting requirements contained in APD #16-10-01. All activities shall be documented in the statewide reporting system, OmbudsManager, to

include full-time equivalency staff and volunteers. The corresponding amounts identified by AAAs are as outlined in the formulary in the attached ABGATCHA on the Ombudsman worksheet.

If the AAA chooses to or is required to utilize a contractor to administer Ombudsman services, including staff, volunteers, and the Pennsylvania Empowered Expert Residents (PEER) program, **the entire amount of the Volunteer/PEER allocation shall be provided to the contractor in support of the Ombudsman Volunteer/PEER program.**

These funds shall be over and above any other funds expended on Ombudsman activities and shall be reported in the Ombudsman cost center.

Ombudsman allocations are subject to adjustment in subsequent budget amendments based on the performance of the local ombudsman program in relation to the performance of the volunteer ombudsman component.

Acceptable Use of Volunteer/PEER Funds include:

PEER program:

- PEER recruitment
- PEER training costs
- Copying of PEER training materials
- Meals for PEERs
- Transportation for PEERs
- Any ADL support not provided by the facility for PEERs to attend PEER Training
- Equipment for use by PEERs only, such as laptops, tablets, and phones.

Volunteer recruitment:

- Advertising
- Training costs
- Training related meals for volunteers
- Mileage for volunteers

Volunteer retention:

- Ongoing volunteer meetings
- Copying/printing of the ombudsman training materials
- Stipends
- Speakers
- Training related meals
- Mileage
- Recognition activities

Uses do NOT include:

- Staff costs for mentoring activities
- Meal provisions for staff related training
- Equipment for staff and volunteers, such as laptops, computers, tablets, and phones
- Staff time engaged in the above supported volunteer/PEER activities

Regional Ombudsman Contracts:

AAAs that have agreed to hold regional ombudsman contracts shall budget these funds in the Ombudsman cost center. PDA will negotiate separate budget and reporting requirements with the AAAs that are hosting the regional ombudsmen. An annual spreadsheet of budgeted expenses should be supplied to PDA and approved prior to the fiscal year. This will also be supplied upon request at any time.

In addition, each AAA shall budget an amount of funds equal to the AAA share of ombudsman activities charged to Older Americans Title III funds in FY 2019.

The ABGATCHA contains the minimum funds that shall be budgeted for ombudsman Volunteer/PEER activities. All ombudsman activities for all ombudsman funding sources, projects and program shall be budgeted and expended in the Ombudsman cost center.

**PASSENGER
TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES**

AAAs that are not directly receiving Shared-Ride Program funds should not report the funds received by other Shared-Ride Program providers. The amount the AAA plans to expend in co-payments for Shared-Ride service should be reported in the Passenger Transportation Services cost center. The funds used for co-payments should be reflected in the respective funding source such as Block Grant, local cash, etc.

PDA reaffirms its intent to promote the coordination and integration of transportation services for older persons with other local transportation systems. AAAs should refer to APD #85-07-01, "Passenger Transportation Services."

**LEGAL
ASSISTANCE**

In all subcontracts procured for legal assistance, the provider standards contained in the OAA 45 CFR Section 1321.71 / (1988) should be addressed. The Department of Aging requires all AAAs to expend a minimum portion of the AAA's Block Grant funds on legal assistance for older adults with the greatest economic or social need, and to, specify a minimum proportion of the funds to be spent by each AAA and that each AAA has provided assurances, as required by the OAA, section 306(a) (2), that an adequate proportion will be expended on legal services for older adults with the greatest economic or social need.

**OTHER
CATEGORICAL
FUNDS**

Allocations have been included for those agencies that were awarded additional categorical funds for community and other various grant projects. Specific programmatic and fiscal guidance is found in the grant application's guidelines and procedures as well as the grant's award notification letter.

**CATEGORICAL
FUNDS-OPTIONS
SERVICES FUNDS**

Guidelines specific to the use of these funds include:

- To serve additional consumers and provide additional units of service to existing consumers.
- Priority will be given to individuals on the waiting list and provision of protective services.
- For consumer direct services reported in the following cost centers:
 - Home Delivered Meals
 - Home Health
 - Personal Care
 - Overnight Shelter/Supervision
 - Environmental Modifications
 - Medical Equipment/Supplemental Adaptive Devices
 - Home Support
 - Adult Day Care
 - Care Management
- Care Management cost center expenditures are to be limited to the amount attributable to the increase in consumers being served because of this allocation.
- The funding can be used to support information and referral costs associated with evidenced based programs. For guidance on allowable programs please refer to the Aging Technical Assistance Bulletin 19-04-01 "Older Americans Act Title IIID Funding for Evidenced-Based Programs."

Further guidance related to this allocation is found in APD 16-01-02.

**CATEGORICAL
FUNDS- BLOCK
GRANT
SUPPLEMENT**

The allowable uses of the funds are:

- Contractor rate increases
- Supplement ongoing agency operations
- Hiring additional program staff

**AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN
ACT (ARPA)**

When developing a spending plan for the use of ARPA funds, AAAs are to prioritize the following activities:

- Reduce and/or eliminate waiting lists
- Provide new or additional services that allow consumers to remain in their home
- Attract and/or retain direct care workers
- Provide additional services and supports to caregivers

Suggested recommendations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Utilization of optional OPTIONS services* which AAAs may not normally provide to assist individuals to remain in their homes, such as:
 - Home Modifications for one-time expenses
 - Home Support activities such as lawn care and snow removal, minor home repairs, and heavier cleaning activities, if needed
 - AAAs may contract with entities other than home care agencies to provide these services. For instance, a lawn care company for lawn maintenance and snow removal or a cleaning company for housekeeping
 - AAAs have discretion in selecting specific Home Support activities it will offer in their PSA
 - Medical Equipment, Supplies, Assistive and Adaptive Devices for either one-time purchases or supplies not usually provided
 - Emergent Services for services needed for a short duration to alleviate an emergency, such as lack of heating or cooling
- Increase the number of units of services being provided to consumers if there is an identified need
 - Increasing units of service may be an incentive to home care agencies to staff these cases by allowing additional hours of services for Personal Care and Home Support
 - Provide additional meals to In-Home Meal consumers and senior center participants.
 - Increase evidence-based program workshops to consumers to expand AAA's Health Promotion activities.
- Support the Caregiver Support Program's (CSP) expanded use (see above)

- Increase evidence-based program workshops to expand AAA's Health Promotion activities.

*Note: If a AAA is not able to continue to offer the optional service(s) upon expiration of the ARPA funding due to inability to sustain the costs, the AAA is not required to issue appeal rights to consumers when ending these services as they are no longer a serviced offered to any consumer in the AAA's PSA.

**DOMICILIARY CARE
RETENTION
PAYMENTS**

To preserve and expand the Domiciliary Care (Dom Care) program, PDA will be distributing funding to AAAs to provide one-time retention payments in the amount of \$2,500 to existing providers of traditional Dom Care homes. Every AAA shall receive \$2,500 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Aging Network for States funding for each traditional Dom Care Provider as of April 15, 2024, in their planning and service area. AAAs have provided verification of the traditional Dom Care Providers to the Bureau of Aging Services. The AAA will receive an award letter from PDA to include the total payment amount to the AAA based on the number of eligible Dom Care Providers. The AAA shall allocate the funds to each traditional Dom Care Provider within 30 business days of receipt of the funds from PDA. The AAA shall provide the Bureau of Aging Services a spreadsheet of retention payments issued. The spreadsheet shall include each Dom Care Provider's name, address, and date they received the retention payment.

**EXPANDING
ACCESS TO COVID
VACCINES**

The grant is issued for the following purposes:

- Disseminating credible information about COVID-19 vaccines and help direct those with questions to additional sources of information.
- Identifying people who may need help getting a COVID-19 vaccination, including those who are unable to independently travel to a vaccination site.
- Helping with scheduling a COVID-19 vaccination appointment for those who need help.
- Arranging or providing accessible transportation to COVID-19 vaccination sites.
- Providing technical assistance to local health departments and other entities on vaccine accessibility.
- Providing personal support if needed (e.g., peer support).
- Reminding the person of their supplemental vaccination appointment.

**CRITICAL
RELIEF
FUND SUPPORT
(ADRC/PALink)**

Funding is being provided to perform the following activities for both aging and disability populations:

- Virtual Management of ADRC Access Functions—Utilize funds for the purpose of enhancing virtual activities within the service area. Transform traditional face-to-face activities to virtual by utilizing audio/video conferencing, online survey instruments, virtual trainings and webinars. Ensure the service area is properly equipped to perform these virtual functions. Assess and acquire the needed equipment, software and programs. Examples of such items include Laptops with video capabilities, printers, scanners, cell phones, and software needed for virtual communication and survey functions.
- Care Transition Services—Target populations at risk of COVID-19 who are seeking transitional support from hospital-to-home and nursing home-to-home by utilizing Aging and Disability network supports and services.
- Food Order and Deliver—Identify and partner with local food distribution efforts to provide delivered groceries and food to targeted populations in need who are not currently being assisted.
- Arranging or providing accessible transportation to COVID-19 vaccination sites.
- Assistive Technology—Refer individuals to the PA Assistive Technology Act program, TechOwl. TechOwl will provide assistive technology assessments, technology devices, and training for older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers and clinicians in order to improve understanding of how to use technology for telehealth, obtaining services, and providing services. Also, Service Areas will develop ways to assist this population to increase social engagement and connections to mitigate social isolation.
- Mitigate Social Isolation—Identify at-risk individuals. Implement mitigation interventions to include but not limited to technology, virtual platforms, person to person connections. Also, increase awareness and access for targeted populations to low-cost programs that connect individuals through broadband and telecommunication equipment.
- I&R/Person-Centered Counseling (PCC)—Provide financial assistance to ADRC partner agencies for promoting and conducting I&R/PCC to targeted populations.

TELEHEALTH PILOT

Butler County Area Agency on Aging will partner with Primary Health Network (PHN), a Federally Qualified Health Center, to pilot a program that assists with connecting older adults and individuals with disabilities to telehealth services and provide them with digital education.

Objectives are as follows:

- Utilize a PHN Navigator to provide outreach to the target population and schedule events for the community.
- Conduct a Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) assessment and an Information Technology needs assessment related to individuals' health care situation. SDOH assessment will be completed by a PHN Community Health Worker; the Navigator will track identified needs and all referrals made.
- Educate consumers on telehealth services and how to access the services by conducting educational sessions at senior community centers and provide outreach materials to on how to use telehealth services.
- PHN will provide monthly progress reports to PDA.

FINANCIAL ABUSE SPECIALIST TEAM (FAST)

Pilot a Financial Abuse Specialist Team to assist the local Area Agencies on Aging with completing, analyzing, and acting upon cases of elder financial exploitation to process them in the most efficient and effective manner.

STATEWIDE REPORT ABUSE PS HELPLINE

The Statewide Report Suspected Abuse Helpline answers calls, takes Reports of Need (RON) on abuse, neglect, exploitation, and abandonment, and categorizes RONs in accordance with the law and regulations, and notifies the AAA or Adult Protective Services contractor (Liberty Healthcare Corporation) to investigate.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES BENCH

Pilot a resource tool of qualified and trained Protective Services individuals (Bench) to assist AAAs with completing investigations of RONs and closing cases.

**Supplemental
OPTIONS Funds**

With passage of the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 – 2024 budget, PDA received an additional \$5,000,000 in PennCare funding for OPTIONS Program services/waitlist. The allocation of this funding is based on each AAA's proportional share of total non-other funds (Regular Block Grant, State/Federal Caregiver Support, NSIP, SHIP, and Health Promotion) after the Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) was applied. Items in the other funds category, such as MIPPA, ADRC, and ARPA funds were not considered in this allocation. To support the smaller agencies of the network, the allocations for the two largest funded AAAs will be capped and the remainder will be distributed, proportionally, to the 26 lowest funded AAAs. Allocations are included in the ABGATCHA spreadsheet, entitled 26 Supplemental OPTIONS Funds on worksheets Other Funds-Revision No. 1 and Amendment 1-Other Funds. To track and justify future budgetary requests, these funds will require supplementary, narrative reporting, describing how the new funds were used for expansion, enhancements, creation of services, etc. In addition to standard AccuFund reporting, PDA will use information from SAMS to compare OPTIONS services between the current and previous fiscal years. Accufund coding for these monies will be distinct from other OPTIONS funds.

**CONTRACTOR
RATE INCREASES**

AAAs are authorized to provide contractor rate increases up to **4.5%** of their existing rates. Funding that is available for the rate increase includes the Regular Block Grant, OPTIONS Services, and Block Grant Supplement allocations. Any rate increase given to a contractor is at the discretion of the AAA director/administrator.

**LINE ITEM
BUDGET**

PDA will develop “placeholder” budgets for the allocations noted in this APD which will be used until AAA budgets are submitted or entered in the AccuFund reporting system. This is done to facilitate the payment process and ensure AAAs continue receiving monthly payments until their budget documents are received by PDA.

**DELIVERY OF
SERVICES**

The Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, requires AAAs to provide preference in the delivery of services to those older persons with the greatest social and economic need with particular attention to low-income minority individuals, low-income individuals, and frail individuals (including individuals with any physical or mental functional impairment). In planning FY 2023-24 program budgets, AAAs should be guided by this requirement as well as their individual goals and objectives in determining funding priorities. “Greatest economic need” means the need resulting from an income level at or below poverty levels established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>). The 2023 figures define poverty as being **\$14,580** for one person, with each additional person adding **\$5,140**. “Greatest social need” means the need

caused by non-economic factors which include physical and mental disabilities, language barriers and cultural, social, or geographic isolation including that caused by racial or ethnic status which restricts an individual's ability to perform normal daily tasks, or which threatens such individual's capacity to live independently.

Service delivery information in the SAMS data base will be used to determine service levels and the numbers of consumers served.

**ACCOUNTING
MANUAL**

AAAs are to comply with the "Accounting Manual for Area Agency on Aging Programs", (APD #97-01-02) and applicable federal and state regulations (e.g., 45 CFR Part 95, etc.) in the utilization of PDA Block Grant agreement funds.

**MANDATORY
RETIREMENT**

Neither the AAA nor any AAA vendor may apply a policy of mandatory retirement to positions funded under this Application for Support.

AMENDMENTS

As stated in the Cooperative Agreement, PDA has the authority to amend the Aging Services Block Grant allocation on an as needed basis. This may occur if the AAA has not expended an appropriate level of its annual allocation by December 31, 2023. Amended allocations may also occur if additional funds are awarded during the year.

FIXED ASSETS

The definition of a fixed asset includes property of a tangible nature with a useful life of more than one (1) year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more. Acquisition cost is defined as the net invoice price of the article plus the transportation charges, installation or setup fees and the cost of any necessary modifications, attachments, programming, or accessories.

When procuring fixed assets or facility space, the AAA should make an appropriate cost analysis of the lease versus purchase alternatives, and the most economical cost alternative should be chosen.

All proposed fixed asset acquisitions are to be reported in the budgeting module of Accufund. Acceptance of a proposed budget by PDA is considered approval for the purchase of fixed assets shown. For acquisitions of additional fixed assets during the year/after the final budget submission, the AAA is to receive prior approval from PDA's Bureau of Finance through the submittal of an administrative waiver request. Waivers for fixed asset purchases are to be submitted prior to April 30th.

When acquiring or disposing of assets, the AAA is to list the following: Purchase/Anticipated Purchase Date, Asset Life, Disposal Date, and Residual Value (at date of disposal) as applicable.

All disposition of assets purchased with PDA-provided funding are to be coordinated with the PDA Operations and Management Office, Kevin Atkinson (keatkinson@pa.gov).

**PROGRAM
INCOME**

APD #05-01-11, "Area Agency on Aging Program Income Policies", establishes the following policies for the retention of program income collections:

Federal Program Income - All program income generated from services funded, in whole or in part, by the federal OAA funds that is on hand as of June 30, 2023, are to be budgeted and expended during FY 2023-24.

Local Program Income – The June 30, 2023, balance of local program income generated from services funded by non-federal sources are not to exceed 10% of the AAA's total Block Grant allocation for FY 2023-24 up to a maximum of \$400,000. These funds are to be budgeted and expended in consumer service cost centers.

OPTIONS Cost Sharing Funds – The June 30, 2023, balance of OPTIONS Cost Sharing Fund collections are to be budgeted and expended during FY 2023-24.

Local fee scale funds received are reported as OPTIONS Cost Sharing Funds.

Failure to comply with these policies may result in the reduction of Aging Block Grant funding to the AAA.

For FY 2023-24, seven (7) cost centers will contain Title III federal funds and all program income earned in any of these cost centers will be considered Federal Program Income. The seven cost centers are Home Delivered Meals, Congregate Meals, Senior Community Center Services, Passenger Transportation, Information and Referral, Legal Assistance, and Ombudsman.

Federal Program Income can only be budgeted and expended in the seven (7) federally funded cost centers.

AAAs will comply with the provisions of APD #05-01-11 concerning excessive balances of program income collections. AAAs are advised that payments of funds on FY 2023-24 Aging Block Grant contracts will be contingent upon the compliance of AAAs with the federal and state requirements for program income and cost sharing fund balances.

When a AAA has excessive balances of Federal Program Income, Local Program Income or OPTIONS Cost Sharing Funds as of June 30, 2022 (Fourth Quarter FRR), its FY 2023/24 Block Grant monthly payment(s) may be reduced or withheld until the AAA achieves compliance with the established program income balance requirements.

Planned expenditures of accumulated, as well as anticipated, collections of program income and cost sharing funds are to be included under "Other Resources".

**MATCH FOR
FEDERAL
DOLLARS**

AAAs desiring to use Block Grant funds as match for other federal funding should submit a written request to PDA's Bureau of Finance for authorization. On approval, PDA will issue a statement to the AAA clarifying that only state funds are allowable for such a purpose.

BUDGETING

FEDERAL FUNDS

AAAs are strongly encouraged to budget and expend federal allocations and Federal Program Income funds prior to allocating other resources to a federal funded cost center. This will assist PDA in meeting federal spending parameters.

**SENIOR COMMUNITY
CENTERS**

AAAs shall request and receive written approval from PDA's Bureau of Aging Services prior to implementing plans to open, close or relocate a senior community center (SCC) or a satellite center.

**SENIOR COMMUNITY
CENTER GRANTS –
NON-COMPETITIVE**

The AAAs received the non-competitive grant funding in the amount of \$2,551 for each senior community center (SCC) in their planning and service area who did not apply for a competitive grant. The AAA received an award letter for the SCCs' funding through this non-competitive award process. The AAA shall allocate the funds to each SCC within 30 business days of receipt of the funds from PDA. The SCCs continue to have the flexibility to use this funding for a variety of purposes to best meet the needs of the center and their participants, in accordance with the allowable uses of funding described below. The AAA does not receive an administrative fee for disbursing this funding to the SCCs.

Allowable uses of the funding by SCCs include, but are not limited to the following:

Capital Improvements & Renovations

- Small capital improvements or renovations such as painting, new flooring, lighting, cabinets, countertops, etc.
- Renovations to upgrade or repurpose space within the center to allow for additional programming or activities, or to improve safety and/o accessibility
- Repairs or replacement of essential equipment or furniture

Programs & Services

- Equipment and supplies for new or existing programming
- Contracted instructors or speakers for programming activities

Technology

- Technology equipment and supplies for new or existing programs in the center
- Technology equipment and supplies to provide virtual programming
- Purchase of Copilot or MySeniorCenter hardware/software, and/or annual subscription fees

Nutrition Services

- Improvements for the provision of meal services, including appliance upgrades or replacements

Marketing

- Marketing and outreach tools and materials to reach new and existing center participants

Unallowable uses of the funding include:

- Staff salaries, wages, or other personnel costs
- Administrative costs or any fees associated with administering the grant funding
- Projects, repairs, renovations, equipment in spaces not primarily used by senior center participants or for their direct benefit
- Renovations to other locations, including future senior center sites
- Renovations that change the “footprint” of the building
- Renovations or repairs that are the responsibility of the landlord
- Consultant fees
- Travel expenses for staff or contractors
- Vehicles
- Handouts or gifts

ASSESSMENTS

Block Grant funds are not to be used for assessment costs.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

AAAs are required to submit cumulative monthly expenditure data and/or trial balances to PDA via AccuFund according to the schedule shown below:

<u>Cumulative Expenditures Through</u>	<u>No Later Than</u>
July	August 20th
August	September 20th
September	October 31st
October	November 20th
November	December 20th
December	January 31st
January	February 20th
February	March 20th

March	April 30th
April	May 20th
May	June 20th
June	August 15th

All quarterly reports need to report the application of revenue used.

Additionally, AAAs are responsible for maintaining profile information regarding their agency's operations in the AccuFund reporting system. This includes Program Income which is to be reported on a quarterly basis. The AAA Staff Report, senior community center information, and community focal records are to be updated annually.

**COMPLIANCE
WITH
COOPERATIVE
AGREEMENT**

The AAA is to comply with all the terms and provisions identified in the Cooperative Agreement between PDA and the AAA.

**TRAVEL
REIMBURSEMENT
RATES**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of Administration establishes travel, lodging and subsistence allowable maximum reimbursement rates. AAAs are able to access the most current information on the [Office of Administration's web site](#). This information is found under Management Directive #230.10. Please refer to the most recent revision for the approved rates.

**BUDGET
SUBMISSION
REQUIREMENTS**

Upon receiving this APD, AAAs are responsible for the development of their budget data and information upload into AccuFund. AccuFund inputs are due **30 calendar days** after the issuance date of this directive.

**TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE**

Direct questions regarding the contents of this APD to the following resource account: RA-AIPDAACCUFUND@pa.gov.