



TO: NCAAA Advisory Council and Board of Directors

FROM: Maureen McIntyre, Chief Executive Officer

RE: **2021 PROPOSAL REVIEW PRIORITIES**

The program funding priorities for Title III funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 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 the four-year Area Plan covering FFY 2018 through FFY 2021. With the guidance of these priorities, difficult decisions can be made as to which proposals should be recommended for 2021 funding.

RESOURCES:

The Older Americans Act (OAA), effective through FY 2020, was reauthorized on April 19, 2016. FFY 2021 Title III funds are expected to reflect minor changes compared to the FFY 2020 level. NCAAA will prepare a budget when final numbers are received from the Connecticut State Unit on Aging (SUA).

GOALS:

Older Americans Act 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.

The OAA 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.

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%)

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.



ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS:

Based on NCAAA's assessment of local needs, the following areas are priorities for funding under Title IIIB, D, and E, in 2021:

1. **ACCESS TO SERVICES.** Programs that provide older adults improved access to available services by reducing and addressing barriers. Services include transportation; information and referral; outreach; and programs designed to provide enhanced and/or integrated access to community-based health services. Programs offering transportation across town lines and during extended hours, assisted transportation, and enhanced transportation to medical appointments are priorities. Programs that specifically address the needs of the diverse population of older adults in the North Central Region and those that offer expanded outreach services to isolated older adults are also priorities.
2. **LONG-TERM SERVICES AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS:** Programs that provide in-home care services not covered by another funding source that allow older persons to remain at home safely and independently. Services include, but are 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.
3. **HEALTHY AGING:** 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, and overall wellness promotion.
4. **ECONOMIC SECURITY:** Programs that provide advocacy, education, and support related to economic security of older adults and caregivers. Programs that increase awareness of the need to plan for long-term care, support opportunities to reduce the financial burden placed on family caregivers, focus on the support and needs of older women, and address housing-related concerns of older adults are priorities.
5. **ELDER JUSTICE:** Programs that promote the rights of older adults and advocate for the prevention of elder abuse, 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.

