



1401 El Camino Avenue, 4th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: (916) 486-1876
www.agencyonaging4.com

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AAA4 Bulletin

TO: AAA4 Funded Partners	NO: A4B2020-05
SUBJECT: SFY 2020-2021 Funding, CARES Act Augmentation Awards	DATE ISSUED: August 19, 2020
REFERENCES: A4B 2020-04	SUPERSEDES:
PROGRAMS AFFECTED: <input type="checkbox"/> ALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title III-B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title III C-1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title III C-2 <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-D <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title III-E <input type="checkbox"/> HICAP <input type="checkbox"/> OTO <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
PURPOSE OF BULLETIN: <input type="checkbox"/> Amend Policy or Procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clarification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information:	
FOR INQUIRIES CONTACT: Will Tift, Assistant Director or your Regional Services Specialist.	

AAA4 has now received the first installment of CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act) funds which will total \$4,504,890. While some local discretion does exist, the State has designated the majority of these funds (59.5%) for Title III-C Nutrition. Lesser shares have been designated for Title III-B Supportive Services (24.8%), Title III-E Family Caregiver Services (12.2%) and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (3.5%).

Once allocated, special measures will be used to disperse CARES dollars to Funded Partners as quickly as possible. Requests and approvals will be done via e-mail, then funds will be advanced. There is no matching requirement. Complete budget forms do not need to be submitted ahead of time; however, if you wish to purchase Equipment with a cost of \$5,000 or more with CARES funding, additional forms will be required prior to the request being approved. No contract amendments are needed because these are not Older Americans Act funds. Fiscal and data reporting will be done using customized forms and procedures developed by AAA4.

As stated in A4B2020-04, delays have occurred in the appropriations process at both the federal and state levels due to COVID-19. Consequently, AAA4’s initial baseline totals are significantly less than expected for the balance of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 and less than anticipated for FFY 2021. AAA4 will use the **first** portion of CARES Act funds to “fill” the temporary shortfalls in Transportation, Legal, Information & Assistance, Home-Delivered Meals and Caregiver Support. This is being done to prevent the affected Funded Partners from experiencing a temporary budget gap. Instructions for accepting and expending these dollars will be sent to each Funded Partner via e-mail. NOTE: Nutrition Providers must spend 100% of their FFCRA funds before receiving any CARES Act funds.

Transportation, Legal, Information & Assistance, Home-Delivered Meals and Caregiver Support programs will also be awarded their shares of the delayed Older Americans Act funds when they arrive. For that reason, it is not necessary for the affected Funded Partners to revise their scopes of service at this time. Instead, Funded Partners are advised to wait until the delayed funds arrive before determining whether a renegotiation of scope is needed or desired; this will reduce the mutual administrative burden of processing contract amendments multiple times.

On April 16, 2020 AAA4's Governing Board voted unanimously to declare "neither above-range nor below-range performance resulting from the Coronavirus shall, in and of itself, be valid grounds for any formal Sanction. . . [and] wherever a disagreement may exist as to whether COVID-19 obstructed the delivery of services, Funded Partners shall be granted the benefit of the doubt." The temporary cash flow delay described here is a direct result of the public health emergency.

The **second** portion of CARES Act funds are being prioritized as follows, based upon AAA4's assumption that Stay at Home Orders will remain in effect for Older Adults through at least June 30, 2021. AAA4 will evaluate the merits of each individual request for dollars; at the same time, we will attempt to create more equitable access to services throughout the seven county region.

- Title III-C Nutrition: Maintain traditional Home-Delivered Meal and modified Congregate Meal services at their current, heightened levels while also taking all reasonable measures to keep wait lists at zero in both programs for as long as possible.
- Title III-B Supportive Services: In the Transportation, Legal and Information & Assistance categories, elevate service levels to their highest current capacity and seek to expand existing capacity through increased staffing and/or capital investments, particularly those which facilitate offsite operations and onsite physical distancing, as appropriate.
- Title III-E Family Caregiver: In the Caregiver Support category, elevate service levels to their highest current capacity and seek to expand existing capacity through increased staffing and/or capital investments, particularly those which facilitate offsite operations and onsite physical distancing, as appropriate.
- LTC Ombudsman: Within the Ombudsman program, prepare for the reopening of Long-Term Care Facilities for visitation, investigation of complaints and support of facility staff.

Should any CARES Act funds remain, the **third** portion would be temporarily held in reserve while AAA4 continues to monitor Older Adults' changing needs relative to the availability of public resources during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARES Act funds must be expended by September 30, 2021 or sooner.

Questions may be directed to your Regional Services Specialist.