

# Coordination to Serve Native American Elders and Family Caregivers

## Title III & Title VI

### Updates to Older Americans Act Regulations

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has finalized updates to the regulations (also known as the rule or final rule) for its Older Americans Act (OAA) programs. The rule went into effect on March 15, 2024, and has a compliance date of October 1, 2025. Additional information can be found on [ACL.gov/OAArule](https://acl.gov/OAArule).

#### Brief Overview

The OAA sets forth fiscal requirements for grants to state agencies, also known as state units on aging (SUAs), under Titles III and VII. SUAs, in turn, provide funding to area agencies on aging (AAAs), where applicable, to coordinate programs and advocate for older adults and family caregivers. Title VI of the OAA authorizes grants that provide nutrition and supportive services to American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian elders to help them live full lives in their communities and authorizes grants to support caregivers. The rule establishes expectations that tribal organization and Native Hawaiian grantees coordinate with SUAs and AAAs regarding provision of services as set forth in parts 1321 & 1322.

#### Coordination Highlights

Updates to the rule focusing on coordination among Title III and VI programs are intended to improve knowledge about available programs; coordinate access to additional services; expand efficiency and reduce duplication of services; amplify community support; increase awareness of funding opportunities; facilitate access to information; enhance cultural competency; and address the comprehensive needs of Native American elders and family caregivers.

#### OAA Selected References on Coordination Between Title III and VI

- Section 306(a)(11) – Each area plan on aging shall provide information concerning services to older Native Americans and assure the AAA will coordinate Title III services with those provided under Title VI.

- Section 307(a)(21)(A) – Each state plan on aging shall assure that the SUA will coordinate Title III programs with Title VI programs.
- Section 614(a)(11) & 624(a)(3) – Each grantee under Title VI shall assure they will coordinate Title VI services with services provided under Title III in the same geographical area.

#### Review of Selected Areas of the Rule

##### Policies and Procedures; Coordination Responsibilities

##### PART 1321—GRANTS TO STATE AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ON AGING

##### § 1321.53 State agency Title III & Title VI coordination responsibilities

- SUA policies & procedures (P&P) are required to explain how the state aging network will coordinate with Title VI programs:
  - » Must be developed in coordination with relevant Title VI program director(s).
  - » SUAs may meet these requirements through a tribal consultation policy that includes Title VI programs.
- The SUA's P&P must address:
  - » How the aging network will provide outreach to tribal elders and family caregivers.
  - » How the SUA will make available and communicate opportunities to Title VI programs, to include:

- Title III and other funding opportunities.
- Technical assistance on how to apply for Title III and other funding opportunities.
- Meetings, email distribution lists, presentations, and public hearings.
- » Methods for collaboration on and sharing of program information and changes.
- » How Title VI programs may refer individuals for Title III or VII services.
- » How services will be provided in a culturally appropriate and trauma-informed manner.
- » Opportunities to serve on advisory councils (including AAA), workgroups, and boards.

§ 1321.69 Area agency on aging Title III & Title VI coordination responsibilities

- The AAA's P&P must:
  - » Be developed in coordination with the relevant Title VI program director(s).
  - » Explain how the AAA's network, including service providers, will coordinate with Title VI programs to ensure compliance with the OAA.
  - » Address how the AAA's network will provide outreach to tribal elders and family caregivers.
  - » Address how the AAA will make available and communicate opportunities to Title VI programs, to include:
    - Title III and other funding opportunities.
    - Technical assistance on how to apply for Title III and other funding opportunities, and
    - Meetings, email distribution lists, presentations, and public hearings.
  - » Describe the methods for collaboration on and sharing of program information and changes and how services will be provided in a culturally appropriate and trauma-informed manner.
  - » Address how Title VI programs may refer individuals who are eligible for Title III services.
  - » Detail opportunities to serve on advisory councils (including the AAA's), workgroups, and boards.

§ 1321.95 Service provider Title III and Title VI coordination responsibilities

- Where there are Title VI programs, the AAA's and/or service provider's P&P must explain how the service provider will coordinate with Title VI programs;

- The service provider's P&P must:
  - » Be developed in coordination with the relevant Title VI program director(s).
  - » Explain how the service provider will provide outreach to tribal elders and family caregivers.
  - » Address how the service provider will make available and communicate opportunities to Title VI programs, to include meetings, email lists, and presentations.
  - » Describe the methods for collaboration on and sharing of program information and changes and how services will be provided in a culturally appropriate and trauma-informed manner.
  - » Address how Title VI programs may refer individuals who are eligible for Title III services.
  - » Detail opportunities to serve on advisory councils, workgroups, and boards.

PART 1322—GRANTS TO INDIAN TRIBES AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN GRANTEEES FOR SUPPORTIVE, NUTRITION, AND CAREGIVER SERVICES

§ 1322.31 Title VI & Title III Coordination

- A Title VI tribal organization/Hawaiian Native grantee must have P&P, developed in coordination with the relevant SUA, AAA(s), and service provider(s), that explain how the Title VI program will coordinate with Title III and/or VII funded services.
- The P&P must address:
  - » How the tribal organization/Hawaiian Native grantee will provide outreach to tribal elders and family caregivers regarding services for which they may be eligible under Title III and/or VII of the Act.
  - » How the tribal organization or Hawaiian Native grantee will make available and communicate opportunities to Title III and VII programs, to include meetings, email distribution lists, and presentations.
  - » The methods for collaboration on and sharing of program information and changes.
  - » How Title VI programs may refer individuals who are eligible for Title III services and how services will be provided in a culturally appropriate and trauma-informed manner.
  - » Processes the Title VI program will use for providing feedback on state and area plans on aging.

- The Title VI program director is to participate in the development of the policies and procedures related to Title III and VI coordination.

## **State and Area Plans on Aging; AAA Advisory Council**

### PART 1321—GRANTS TO STATE AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ON AGING

#### § 1321.27 Content of State plan

- SUAs must have an approved state plan on aging to receive OAA Title III and VI funds. State plan content must include:
  - » A description of how greatest economic need (GEN) and greatest social need (GSN) (definition at [§ 1321.3](#) includes isolation due to Native American identity) are determined and addressed, including methods to address prioritized populations.
  - » An intrastate funding formula (IFF) showing how funds are distributed to AAAs, or a funds distribution plan for SUAs without AAAs.
  - » Demonstration that:
    - The determination of GEN and GSN specific to Native American persons is identified in communication among the SUA, tribes, tribal organizations, and Native communities;
    - Title III & VI services will be coordinated.
    - The SUA will require AAAs to provide outreach where there are older Native Americans, including those living outside of reservations and other tribal lands.

#### § 1321.63 Area agency advisory council

- The OAA and the final rule require AAAs to have an advisory council to advise the AAA regarding the area plan on aging, representing the interests of older adults and family caregivers, and reviewing and commenting on policies, programs, and actions affecting older adults and family caregivers:
  - » Membership must be at least 50% older individuals, with efforts to include those identified as in GEN and GSN.
  - » May include others, including representatives from Indian tribes, Pueblos, or tribal aging programs.

#### § 1321.65 Submission of an area plan and plan amendments to the State agency for approval

- Area plan content, specified in SUA P&P must include:
  - » A description of how GEN and GSN (definition at [§ 1321.3](#) includes isolation due to Native American identity) are identified and addressed.
  - » Assessment and evaluation of unmet need.
  - » Proposed description of services, individuals to be served, units of service, and expenditures.
  - » How funds will be distributed within the AAA's planning and service area.
  - » An opportunity for public participation regarding the area plan.

## **Emergencies and Disasters**

### PART 1321—GRANTS TO STATE AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ON AGING

#### § 1321.97 Coordination with State, Tribal, and local emergency management

- SUAs shall establish emergency plans and plans shall discuss coordination with AAAs and service providers and tribal and local emergency management.
- AAAs shall establish emergency plans that must include coordination with federal, local, and state emergency response agencies, service providers, relief organizations, local and state governments, and any other entities that have responsibility for disaster relief service delivery, as well as with tribal emergency management, as appropriate.

#### § 1321.103 Title III and Title VI coordination for emergency and disaster preparedness

- SUAs, AAAs, and Title VI programs should coordinate in emergency/disaster preparedness planning, response, and recovery.
- SUAs and AAAs that have Title VI programs in operation within their jurisdictions must have policies and procedures for how they will communicate and coordinate with Title VI programs regarding emergency and disaster preparedness planning, response, and recovery.

PART 1322—GRANTS TO INDIAN TRIBES AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN GRANTEES FOR SUPPORTIVE, NUTRITION, AND CAREGIVER SERVICES

§ 1322.33 Coordination with Tribal, State, and local emergency management

- A tribal organization or Hawaiian Native grantee shall establish emergency plans to include coordinating activities with:
  - » The SUA, any AAAs providing Title III and VI funded services within the tribal organization's or Hawaiian Native grantee's approved service area.
  - » Local emergency response and management agencies, relief organizations.
  - » Local governments, other state agencies responsible for emergency and disaster preparedness.
  - » Any other institutions that have responsibility for disaster relief service delivery.

§ 1322.37 Title VI and Title III coordination for emergency and disaster preparedness

- Title VI grantees, SUAs, and AAAs should coordinate in emergency and disaster preparedness planning, response, and recovery.
- Title VI grantees must have policies and procedures in place for how they will communicate and coordinate with SUAs and AAAs regarding emergency and disaster preparedness planning, response, and recovery.

**Resources**

- [Final Rule](#)
- For information on SUAs and AAAs, go to <https://eldercare.acl.gov>
- For information on Title VI grantees, go to <https://olderindians.acl.gov>

*This fact sheet is intended for informational and summary purposes only. The final rule, published in the [Federal Register](#) and codified in the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations](#), is the official document that should be referenced regarding requirements for OAA programs, until the Code of Federal Regulations is updated after October 1, 2024.*