



*Improving the Lives of Older Adults and People with Disabilities
Through Services, Research, and Education*

October 23, 2019

State Unit on Aging Directors Letter #02-2019

Dear State Unit on Aging Directors,

This letter replaces Program Instruction (AoA-PI-14-01) and serves as a guide for any new State Plans taking effect on or after October 1, 2020. Specifically, this letter outlines the purpose, content, and focus area requirements for State Plans (enclosed), and should also be referenced when developing and submitting State Plan amendments (including intrastate funding formula (IFF) revisions).

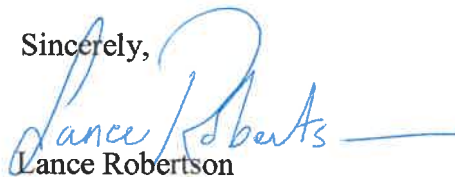
A State Unit on Aging may elect to develop a new State Plan for a two, three or four-year period. New State Plans are due to the appropriate Regional Support Center on ***July 1st of the year when the current state plan expires.*** A State with a two or three-year State Plan may request an extension; however, there is no statutory authority to extend a four-year State Plan. See the enclosed list of state plans **due July 1, 2020.**

Amendments may be submitted anytime to keep the plan current, and/or to incorporate significant changes. States may submit two different types of State plan amendments:

1. An amendment for Assistant Secretary (ASA) approval is submitted when a State proposes either of the following:
 - a. Changes to the intrastate funding formula (IFF); or
 - b. Major changes (statewide) in objectives such as initiating or deleting an objective related to funding a particular service/initiative, e.g., starting/stopping a transportation program, starting/stopping an ADRC or similar long-term care reform project.
2. An amendment for update purposes i.e., to keep the plan current, does not require Assistant Secretary approval, and is submitted when a State undertakes any of the following:
 - a. Changes to planning and service areas (PSAs) and/or the designation of area agencies on aging (AAAs);
 - b. Changes to the State agency on aging structure; or
 - c. Any other significant change to the plan not listed above.

States should seek technical assistance from their ACL Regional Support Center throughout State Plan development and should submit at least one draft prior to final submission.

Sincerely,



Lance Robertson

Assistant Secretary for Aging

Enclosures: List of State Plans Due July 1, 2020; State Plan Purpose, State Plan Content and State Plan Focus Areas Sections; Attachments to the State Plan (*Attachment A -- State Plan Assurances and Activities; Attachment B -- Information Requirements; and Attachment C -- Intrastate Funding Formula Requirements*)

**Older Americans Act
State Plans
Due on July 1, 2020**

| STATE | NUMBER OF YEARS APPROVED | NEXT PLAN DUE |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| | | |
| ALABAMA | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| CONNECTICUT | 3 | 7/1/2020 |
| DELAWARE | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| FLORIDA | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| IDAHO | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| ILLINOIS | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| KENTUCKY | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| MAINE | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| MARYLAND | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| MICHIGAN | 3 | 7/1/2020 |
| NEVADA | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| PENNSYLVANIA | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| PUERTO RICO | 2 | 7/1/2020 |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| WEST VIRGINIA | 4 | 7/1/2020 |
| | | |

STATE PLAN PURPOSE

The State Plan serves multiple purposes:

- **Documenting** the tangible outcomes planned and achieved as a result of state long-term care reform efforts.
- **Translating** activities, data, and outcomes into proven best practices, which can be used to leverage additional funding.
- **Providing a Blueprint** that spells out the coordination and advocacy activities the state will undertake to meet the needs of older adults, including integrating health and social services delivery systems.
- **Building Capacity** for long-term care efforts in the state.

States should succinctly incorporate into the State Plan as many of their activities related to aging as possible, regardless of funding source. The plan should serve as a valuable tool for planning/tracking all efforts on behalf of older adults.

STATE PLAN CONTENT

In order to facilitate a timely review of the Plan, please provide a table of contents with page numbers. Please include the following sections.

- Signed Verification of Intent Page from State Governor or designee;
- Narrative;
- Intrastate Funding Formula; and
- Attachments.

Signed Verification of Intent Page from State Governor or Designee:

The State Plan must be signed by the Governor or the individual (designee) to whom the Governor has granted signatory authority.

Narrative:

The narrative portion of the State Plan should be comprised of ***no more than 30 pages***. In order to stay within this maximum, the State may wish to submit lengthy survey information, demographics, etc., as separate attachments to the plan. The narrative should clearly address the following areas:

1. **Executive Summary (3 pages)** - The executive summary should stand alone in summarizing the state's planned efforts on behalf of older individuals. A well-written summary can aid the state in educating the public, lawmakers, and other agencies, and can assist in securing additional resources.
2. **Context** – The context sets the stage for the State Plan and describes the issues to be addressed in the rest of the document. A summary of needs assessment activities undertaken by the state, as well as the findings of such activities, should be included here. Further, the findings should correspond to the outlined goals and objectives in

- “3” below. Indicate how your state solicited input for development of the plan, e.g., public hearings, surveys, website, etc.
3. Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Outcomes – Goals are visionary statements that describe the strategic direction in which the state is moving. Objectives are the attainable, specific, and measurable steps the state will take to achieve its goals. Strategies outline how the state will achieve the goals and objectives. Outcomes document the measurable benefit older individuals should derive from the State Plan goals, objectives and strategies. States should have at least one goal, objective, strategy, and outcome measure for each of the four State Plan focus areas listed below.
 4. Quality Management – Quality management of service programs encompasses three functions: data collection to assess ongoing program implementation, remediation of problem areas, and continuous improvement. Describe any quality management activities that will be undertaken during the Plan period.

Intrastate Funding Formula:

Each new State Plan submittal must include a copy of the State’s current Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) and the resulting funding allocation to the planning and service areas. Any revisions to the IFF must be clearly indicated and take into consideration the statutory requirements listed in Attachment C, Intrastate Funding Formula Requirements. Any change to IFF factors or weights requires approval by the Assistant Secretary. Revisions that do not coincide with a new State Plan submittal must be submitted as a State Plan amendment. Attachment C to this letter, Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) Requirements, is a guide to the development of new or revised IFFs and is provided for information purposes.

Attachments (to the State Plan document):

The number and type of State Plan attachments will vary from state to state; however, *every State Plan must include Attachment A, State Plan Assurances and Activities, as well as Attachment B, Information Requirements.* Other attachments to the plan could include demographic data, needs analysis, special initiatives, etc. ***In order to facilitate review of intrastate funding formulas (IFFs), please include your State IFF as a separate and labeled attachment as part of the State Plan.***

Attachment A – State Plan Assurances and Required Activities includes statutory assurances and activities related to the development/implementation of State Plans, and must be reviewed, signed and included as part of the State Plan. In addition, documentation of how the State will address each assurance must be maintained at the State and made available for review by ACL, as requested and appropriate.

Attachment B – Information Requirements includes specific information requirements related to development/implementation of the State Plan. The State’s detailed responses to these requirements must be listed within the Attachment and submitted as part of the State Plan.

Attachment C -- Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) Requirements is a guide to the development of new or revised IFFs and is provided for informational purposes. This attachment does not need

to be included in the State Plan/amendment submittal, however the IFF developed using the Attachment should be included in the plan as Attachment C.

STATE PLAN FOCUS AREAS

State Plans must include measurable objectives that address State Plan requirements within each focus area below that is applicable to your state. In developing objectives, consider the role these focus areas serve in optimizing the state's long-term services and supports system (LTSS) for older adults and their caregivers.

Older Americans Act (OAA) Core Programs Focus Area

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|-------------------------|---|
| Overview | OAA core programs are encompassed in Titles III (Supportive Services, Nutrition, Disease Prevention/Health Promotion and Caregiver Programs), VI (Native American Programs), and VII (Elder Rights Programs), and serve as the foundation of the national aging services network. |
| State Plan Requirements | Describe plans and include objectives that measure your progress towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinating Title III programs with Title VI Native American programs; ○ Strengthening and/or expanding Title III & VII services; ○ *Supporting families and caregivers; ○ Improving coordination between the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and other Older Americans Act programs; ○ *Expanding Employment Opportunities; ○ *Increasing the business acumen of aging network partners; ○ *Working towards the integration of health, health care and social services systems and social services systems, including efforts through contractual arrangements; and ○ Integrating core programs with ACL's Discretionary Grants. <p>*ACL Pillar</p> |

ACL Discretionary Grants & Other Funding Sources Focus Area

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Overview | Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative (ADPI); Evidence-Based Disease and Disability Prevention Programs; SHIP, MIPPA, Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), Nutrition Innovations, Lifespan Respite, No Wrong Door and other programs that support community living. |
| State Plan Requirements | Describe plans and include objectives that measure your progress towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Integrating ACL Discretionary Grants with OAA core programs; ○ Age and Dementia friendly efforts; ○ Social determinants of health efforts; and ○ Incorporating aging network services with other Home- and Community-Based Services. |

Participant-Directed/Person-Centered Planning Focus Area

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|-------------------------|---|
| Overview | Making fundamental changes in state policies and programs which support consumer control and choice is recognized as a critical focus for State Plans. OAA Title VII programs and services are designed to support this effort. Opportunities also exist for maximizing consumer control and choice in Title III and VI programs. The Plan should address activities to support these goals. |
| State Plan Requirements | Describe plans and include objectives that measure your progress towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Supporting participant-directed/person-centered planning for older adults and their caregivers across the spectrum of long term care services, including home, community and institutional settings; and o *Connecting People to Resources. *ACL Pillar |

Elder Justice Focus Area

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Overview | This area focuses on coordinated programs and services for the protection of vulnerable adults under Title VII of the OAA. |
| State Plan Requirements | Describe plans and include objectives that measure your progress towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Preventing, detecting, assessing, intervening, and/or investigating elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation; o *Protecting Rights and Preventing Abuse; and o Supporting and enhancing multi-disciplinary responses to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation involving adult protective services, LTC ombudsman programs, legal assistance programs, law enforcement, health care professionals, financial institutions, and other essential partners across the state. *ACL Pillar |

STATE PLAN RESOURCES**ACL National Resource Centers:**

<https://acl.gov/node/2884>

ADvancing States Tools for Planning:

<http://www.advancingstates.org/state-technical-assistance/tools-planning>

ACL Regional Support Center:

<https://acl.gov/about-acl/regional-offices>

State Plan Guidance
Attachment A
STATE PLAN ASSURANCES AND REQUIRED ACTIVITIES
Older Americans Act, As Amended in 2016

By signing this document, the authorized official commits the State Agency on Aging to performing all listed assurances and activities as stipulated in the Older Americans Act, as amended in 2016.

ASSURANCES

Sec. 305, ORGANIZATION

(a) In order for a State to be eligible to participate in programs of grants to States from allotments under this title—

(2) The State agency shall—(A) except as provided in subsection (b)(5), designate for each such area after consideration of the views offered by the unit or units of general purpose local government in such area, a public or private nonprofit agency or organization as the area agency on aging for such area;

(B) provide assurances, satisfactory to the Assistant Secretary, that the State agency will take into account, in connection with matters of general policy arising in the development and administration of the State plan for any fiscal year, the views of recipients of supportive services or nutrition services, or individuals using multipurpose senior centers provided under such plan;

(E) provide assurance that preference will be given to providing services to older individuals with greatest economic need and older individuals with greatest social need (with particular attention to low-income older individuals, including low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas), and include proposed methods of carrying out the preference in the State plan; (F) provide assurances that the State agency will require use of outreach efforts described in section 307(a)(16); and

(G)(ii) provide an assurance that the State agency will undertake specific program development, advocacy, and outreach efforts focused on the needs of low-income minority older individuals;

(c) An area agency on aging designated under subsection (a) shall be--...

(5) in the case of a State specified in subsection (b) (5), the State agency; and shall provide assurance, determined adequate by the State agency, that the area agency on aging will have the ability to develop an area plan and to carry out, directly or through contractual or other

arrangements, a program in accordance with the plan within the planning and service area. In designating an area agency on aging within the planning and service area or within any unit of general purpose local government designated as a planning and service area the State shall give preference to an established office on aging, unless the State agency finds that no such office within the planning and service area will have the capacity to carry out the area plan.

Note: STATES MUST ENSURE THAT THE FOLLOWING ASSURANCES (SECTION 306) WILL BE MET BY ITS DESIGNATED AREA AGENCIES ON AGENCIES, OR BY THE STATE IN THE CASE OF SINGLE PLANNING AND SERVICE AREA STATES.

Sec. 306(a), AREA PLANS

(a) Each area agency on aging...Each such plan shall--

(2) provide assurances that an adequate proportion, as required under section 307(a)(2), of the amount allotted for part B to the planning and service area will be expended for the delivery of each of the following categories of services-

(A) services associated with access to services (transportation, health services (including mental and behavioral health services), outreach, information and assistance (which may include information and assistance to consumers on availability of services under part B and how to receive benefits under and participate in publicly supported programs for which the consumer may be eligible) and case management services);

(B) in-home services, including supportive services for families of older individuals who are victims of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction; and

(C) legal assistance; and assurances that the area agency on aging will report annually to the State agency in detail the amount of funds expended for each such category during the fiscal year most recently concluded;

(4)(A)(i)(I) provide assurances that the area agency on aging will—

(aa) set specific objectives, consistent with State policy, for providing services to older individuals with greatest economic need, older individuals with greatest social need, and older individuals at risk for institutional placement;

(bb) include specific objectives for providing services to low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas; and

(II) include proposed methods to achieve the objectives described in items (aa) and (bb) of subclause (I);

(ii) provide assurances that the area agency on aging will include in each agreement made with a provider of any service under this title, a requirement that such provider will—

- (I) specify how the provider intends to satisfy the service needs of low-income minority individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas in the area served by the provider;
 - (II) to the maximum extent feasible, provide services to low-income minority individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas in accordance with their need for such services; and
 - (III) meet specific objectives established by the area agency on aging, for providing services to low-income minority individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas within the planning and service area; and
 - (iii) with respect to the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which such plan is prepared -
 - (I) identify the number of low-income minority older individuals in the planning and service area;
 - (II) describe the methods used to satisfy the service needs of such minority older individuals; and
 - (III) provide information on the extent to which the area agency on aging met the objectives described in clause (i).
- (B) provide assurances that the area agency on aging will use outreach efforts that will— (i) identify individuals eligible for assistance under this Act, with special emphasis on—
- (I) older individuals residing in rural areas;
 - (II) older individuals with greatest economic need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas);
 - (III) older individuals with greatest social need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas);
 - (IV) older individuals with severe disabilities;
 - (V) older individuals with limited English proficiency;
 - (VI) older individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction (and the caretakers of such individuals); and
 - (VII) older individuals at risk for institutional placement; and
- (ii) inform the older individuals referred to in sub-clauses (I) through (VII) of clause (i), and the caretakers of such individuals, of the availability of such assistance; and
- (C) contain an assurance that the area agency on aging will ensure that each activity undertaken by the agency, including planning, advocacy, and systems development, will include a focus on the needs of low-income minority older individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas.
- (5) provide assurances that the area agency on aging will coordinate planning, identification, assessment of needs, and provision of services for older individuals with disabilities, with particular attention to individuals with severe disabilities, and individuals at risk for institutional placement, with agencies that develop or provide services for individuals with disabilities;
- (9) provide assurances that the area agency on aging, in carrying out the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program under section 307(a)(9), will expend not less than the total amount of

funds appropriated under this Act and expended by the agency in fiscal year 2000 in carrying out such a program under this title;

(11) provide information and assurances concerning services to older individuals who are Native Americans (referred to in this paragraph as "older Native Americans"), including-

- (A) information concerning whether there is a significant population of older Native Americans in the planning and service area and if so, an assurance that the area agency on aging will pursue activities, including outreach, to increase access of those older Native Americans to programs and benefits provided under this title;
- (B) an assurance that the area agency on aging will, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate the services the agency provides under this title with services provided under title VI; and
- (C) an assurance that the area agency on aging will make services under the area plan available, to the same extent as such services are available to older individuals within the planning and service area, to older Native Americans;

(13) provide assurances that the area agency on aging will—

- (A) maintain the integrity and public purpose of services provided, and service providers, under this title in all contractual and commercial relationships;
- (B) disclose to the Assistant Secretary and the State agency--
 - (i) the identity of each nongovernmental entity with which such agency has a contract or commercial relationship relating to providing any service to older individuals; and
 - (ii) the nature of such contract or such relationship;
- (C) demonstrate that a loss or diminution in the quantity or quality of the services provided, or to be provided, under this title by such agency has not resulted and will not result from such contract or such relationship;
- (D) demonstrate that the quantity or quality of the services to be provided under this title by such agency will be enhanced as a result of such contract or such relationship;
- (E) on the request of the Assistant Secretary or the State, for the purpose of monitoring compliance with this Act (including conducting an audit), disclose all sources and expenditures of funds such agency receives or expends to provide services to older individuals;

(14) provide assurances that preference in receiving services under this title will not be given by the area agency on aging to particular older individuals as a result of a contract or commercial relationship that is not carried out to implement this title;

(15) provide assurances that funds received under this title will be used--

- (A) to provide benefits and services to older individuals, giving priority to older individuals identified in paragraph (4)(A)(i); and
- (B) in compliance with the assurances specified in paragraph (13) and the limitations specified in section 212;

Sec. 307, STATE PLANS

(a) . . . Each such plan shall comply with all of the following requirements: ...

(3) The plan shall--

(B) with respect to services for older individuals residing in rural areas— (i) provide assurances that the State agency will spend for each fiscal year, not less than the amount expended for such services for fiscal year 2000...

(7)(A) The plan shall provide satisfactory assurance that such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be adopted as may be necessary to assure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid under this title to the State, including any such funds paid to the recipients of a grant or contract.

(B) The plan shall provide assurances that--

- (i) no individual (appointed or otherwise) involved in the designation of the State agency or an area agency on aging, or in the designation of the head of any subdivision of the State agency or of an area agency on aging, is subject to a conflict of interest prohibited under this Act;
- (ii) no officer, employee, or other representative of the State agency or an area agency on aging is subject to a conflict of interest prohibited under this Act; and
- (iii) mechanisms are in place to identify and remove conflicts of interest prohibited under this Act.

(9) The plan shall provide assurances that the State agency will carry out, through the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, a State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program in accordance with section 712 and this title, and will expend for such purpose an amount that is not less than an amount expended by the State agency with funds received under this title for fiscal year 2000, and an amount that is not less than the amount expended by the State agency with funds received under title VII for fiscal year 2000.

(10) The plan shall provide assurance that the special needs of older individuals residing in rural areas will be taken into consideration and shall describe how those needs have been met and describe how funds have been allocated to meet those needs.

(11) The plan shall provide that with respect to legal assistance –

(A) the plan contains assurances that area agencies on aging will

- (i) enter into contracts with providers of legal assistance which can demonstrate the experience or capacity to deliver legal assistance;
- (ii) include in any such contract provisions to assure that any recipient of funds under division (i) will be subject to specific restrictions and regulations promulgated under the Legal Services Corporation Act (other than restrictions and regulations governing eligibility for legal assistance under such Act and governing membership of local governing boards) as determined appropriate by the Assistant Secretary; and
- (iii) attempt to involve the private bar in legal assistance activities authorized under this title, including groups within the private bar furnishing services to older individuals on a pro bono and reduced fee basis.

(B) the plan contains assurances that no legal assistance will be furnished unless the grantee administers a program designed to provide legal assistance to older individuals with social or economic need and has agreed, if the grantee is not a Legal Services Corporation project grantee, to coordinate its services with existing Legal Services Corporation projects in the planning and service area in order to concentrate the use of funds provided under this title on individuals with the greatest such need; and the area agency on aging makes a finding, after assessment, pursuant to standards for service promulgated by the Assistant Secretary, that any grantee selected is the entity best able to provide the particular services.

(D) the plan contains assurances, to the extent practicable, that legal assistance furnished under the plan will be in addition to any legal assistance for older individuals being furnished with funds from sources other than this Act and that reasonable efforts will be made to maintain existing levels of legal assistance for older individuals; and

(E) the plan contains assurances that area agencies on aging will give priority to legal assistance related to income, health care, long-term care, nutrition, housing, utilities, protective services, defense of guardianship, abuse, neglect, and age discrimination.

(12) The plan shall provide, whenever the State desires to provide for a fiscal year for services for the prevention of abuse of older individuals –

(A) the plan contains assurances that any area agency on aging carrying out such services will conduct a program consistent with relevant State law and coordinated with existing State adult protective service activities for--

(i) public education to identify and prevent abuse of older individuals;

(ii) receipt of reports of abuse of older individuals;

(iii) active participation of older individuals participating in programs under this Act through outreach, conferences, and referral of such individuals to other social service agencies or sources of assistance where appropriate and consented to by the parties to be referred; and

(iv) referral of complaints to law enforcement or public protective service agencies where appropriate;...

(13) The plan shall provide assurances that each State will assign personnel (one of whom shall be known as a legal assistance developer) to provide State leadership in developing legal assistance programs for older individuals throughout the State...

(15) The plan shall provide assurances that, if a substantial number of the older individuals residing in any planning and service area in the State are of limited English-speaking ability, then the State will require the area agency on aging for each such planning and service area—

(A) to utilize in the delivery of outreach services under section 306(a)(2)(A), the services of workers who are fluent in the language spoken by a predominant number of such older individuals who are of limited English-speaking ability; and

(B) to designate an individual employed by the area agency on aging, or available to such area agency on aging on a full-time basis, whose responsibilities will include--

- (i) taking such action as may be appropriate to assure that counseling assistance is made available to such older individuals who are of limited English-speaking ability in order to assist such older individuals in participating in programs and receiving assistance under this Act; and
- (ii) providing guidance to individuals engaged in the delivery of supportive services under the area plan involved to enable such individuals to be aware of cultural sensitivities and to take into account effectively linguistic and cultural differences.

(16) The plan shall provide assurances that the State agency will require outreach efforts that will—

- (A) identify individuals eligible for assistance under this Act, with special emphasis on—
 - (i) older individuals residing in rural areas;
 - (ii) older individuals with greatest economic need (with particular attention to low-income older individuals, including low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas);
 - (iii) older individuals with greatest social need (with particular attention to low-income older individuals, including low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas);
- (iv) older individuals with severe disabilities;
- (v) older individuals with limited English-speaking ability; and
- (vi) older individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction (and the caretakers of such individuals); and
- (B) inform the older individuals referred to in clauses (i) through (vi) of subparagraph (A), and the caretakers of such individuals, of the availability of such assistance.

(17) The plan shall provide, with respect to the needs of older individuals with severe disabilities, assurances that the State will coordinate planning, identification, assessment of needs, and service for older individuals with disabilities with particular attention to individuals with severe disabilities with the State agencies with primary responsibility for individuals with disabilities, including severe disabilities, to enhance services and develop collaborative programs, where appropriate, to meet the needs of older individuals with disabilities.

(18) The plan shall provide assurances that area agencies on aging will conduct efforts to facilitate the coordination of community-based, long-term care services, pursuant to section 306(a)(7), for older individuals who--

- (A) reside at home and are at risk of institutionalization because of limitations on their ability to function independently;
- (B) are patients in hospitals and are at risk of prolonged institutionalization; or (C) are patients in long-term care facilities, but who can return to their homes if community-based services are provided to them.

(19) The plan shall include the assurances and description required by section 705(a).

(20) The plan shall provide assurances that special efforts will be made to provide technical assistance to minority providers of services.

(21) The plan shall--

(A) provide an assurance that the State agency will coordinate programs under this title and programs under title VI, if applicable; and

(B) provide an assurance that the State agency will pursue activities to increase access by older individuals who are Native Americans to all aging programs and benefits provided by the agency, including programs and benefits provided under this title, if applicable, and specify the ways in which the State agency intends to implement the activities.

(23) The plan shall provide assurances that demonstrable efforts will be made--

(A) to coordinate services provided under this Act with other State services that benefit older individuals; and

(B) to provide multigenerational activities, such as opportunities for older individuals to serve as mentors or advisers in child care, youth day care, educational assistance, at-risk youth intervention, juvenile delinquency treatment, and family support programs.

(24) The plan shall provide assurances that the State will coordinate public services within the State to assist older individuals to obtain transportation services associated with access to services provided under this title, to services under title VI, to comprehensive counseling services, and to legal assistance.

(25) The plan shall include assurances that the State has in effect a mechanism to provide for quality in the provision of in-home services under this title.

(26) The plan shall provide assurances that funds received under this title will not be used to pay any part of a cost (including an administrative cost) incurred by the State agency or an area agency on aging to carry out a contract or commercial relationship that is not carried out to implement this title.

(27) The plan shall provide assurances that area agencies on aging will provide, to the extent feasible, for the furnishing of services under this Act, consistent with self-directed care.

Sec. 308, PLANNING, COORDINATION, EVALUATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF STATE PLANS

(b)(3)(E) No application by a State under subparagraph (A) shall be approved unless it contains assurances that no amounts received by the State under this paragraph will be used to hire any individual to fill a job opening created by the action of the State in laying off or terminating the employment of any regular employee not supported under this Act in anticipation of filling the

vacancy so created by hiring an employee to be supported through use of amounts received under this paragraph.

Sec. 705, ADDITIONAL STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS (as numbered in statute)

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible to receive an allotment under this subtitle, a State shall include in the state plan submitted under section 307--

- (1) an assurance that the State, in carrying out any chapter of this subtitle for which the State receives funding under this subtitle, will establish programs in accordance with the requirements of the chapter and this chapter;
- (2) an assurance that the State will hold public hearings, and use other means, to obtain the views of older individuals, area agencies on aging, recipients of grants under title VI, and other interested persons and entities regarding programs carried out under this subtitle;
- (3) an assurance that the State, in consultation with area agencies on aging, will identify and prioritize statewide activities aimed at ensuring that older individuals have access to, and assistance in securing and maintaining, benefits and rights;
- (4) an assurance that the State will use funds made available under this subtitle for a chapter in addition to, and will not supplant, any funds that are expended under any Federal or State law in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this subtitle, to carry out each of the vulnerable elder rights protection activities described in the chapter;
- (5) an assurance that the State will place no restrictions, other than the requirements referred to in clauses (i) through (iv) of section 712(a)(5)(C), on the eligibility of entities for designation as local Ombudsman entities under section 712(a)(5).
- (6) an assurance that, with respect to programs for the prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation under chapter 3—
 - (A) in carrying out such programs the State agency will conduct a program of services consistent with relevant State law and coordinated with existing State adult protective service activities for--
 - (i) public education to identify and prevent elder abuse;
 - (ii) receipt of reports of elder abuse;
 - (iii) active participation of older individuals participating in programs under this Act through outreach, conferences, and referral of such individuals to other social service agencies or sources of assistance if appropriate and if the individuals to be referred consent; and
 - (iv) referral of complaints to law enforcement or public protective service agencies if appropriate;
 - (B) the State will not permit involuntary or coerced participation in the program of services described in subparagraph (A) by alleged victims, abusers, or their households; and
 - (C) all information gathered in the course of receiving reports and making referrals shall remain confidential except—
 - (i) if all parties to such complaint consent in writing to the release of such information;
 - (ii) if the release of such information is to a law enforcement agency, public protective service agency, licensing or certification agency, ombudsman program, or protection or advocacy system; or
 - (iii) upon court order...

State Plan Guidance
Attachment A (Continued)
STATE PLAN ASSURANCES AND REQUIRED ACTIVITIES
Older Americans Act, As Amended in 2016

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Sec. 305 ORGANIZATION

- (a) In order for a State to be eligible to participate in programs of grants to States from allotments under this title—. . .
- (2) the State agency shall—
- (G)(i) set specific objectives, in consultation with area agencies on aging, for each planning and service area for providing services funded under this title to low-income minority older individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas;
- (ii) provide an assurance that the State agency will undertake specific program development, advocacy, and outreach efforts focused on the needs of low-income minority older individuals; and
- (iii) provide a description of the efforts described in clause (ii) that will be undertaken by the State agency; . . .

Sec. 306 – AREA PLANS

- (a) . . . Each such plan shall— (6) provide that the area agency on aging will—
- (F) in coordination with the State agency and with the State agency responsible for mental and behavioral health services, increase public awareness of mental health disorders, remove barriers to diagnosis and treatment, and coordinate mental health services (including mental health screenings) provided with funds expended by the area agency on aging with mental health services provided by community health centers and by other public agencies and nonprofit private organizations;
- (6)(H) in coordination with the State agency and with the State agency responsible for elder abuse prevention services, increase public awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and remove barriers to education, prevention, investigation, and treatment of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as appropriate;

Sec. 307(a) STATE PLANS

- (1) The plan shall—
- (A) require each area agency on aging designated under section 305(a)(2)(A) to develop and submit to the State agency for approval, in accordance with a uniform format developed by the State agency, an area plan meeting the requirements of section 306; and
- (B) be based on such area plans.

Note: THIS SUBSECTION OF STATUTE DOES NOT REQUIRE THAT AREA PLANS BE DEVELOPED PRIOR TO STATE PLANS AND/OR THAT STATE PLANS DEVELOP AS A COMPILATION OF AREA PLANS.

- (2) The plan shall provide that the State agency will --
 - (A) evaluate, using uniform procedures described in section 202(a)(26), the need for supportive services (including legal assistance pursuant to 307(a)(11), information and assistance, and transportation services), nutrition services, and multipurpose senior centers within the State;
 - (B) develop a standardized process to determine the extent to which public or private programs and resources (including volunteers and programs and services of voluntary organizations) that have the capacity and actually meet such need; ...
- (4) The plan shall provide that the State agency will conduct periodic evaluations of, and public hearings on, activities and projects carried out in the State under this title and title VII, including evaluations of the effectiveness of services provided to individuals with greatest economic need, greatest social need, or disabilities (with particular attention to low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas).

Note: "PERIODIC" (DEFINED IN 45CFR PART 1321.3) MEANS, AT A MINIMUM, ONCE EACH FISCAL YEAR.

- (5) The plan shall provide that the State agency will:
 - (A) afford an opportunity for a hearing upon request, in accordance with published procedures, to any area agency on aging submitting a plan under this title, to any provider of (or applicant to provide) services;
 - (B) issue guidelines applicable to grievance procedures required by section 306(a)(10); and
 - (C) afford an opportunity for a public hearing, upon request, by an area agency on aging, by a provider of (or applicant to provide) services, or by any recipient of services under this title regarding any waiver request, including those under Section 316.
- (6) The plan shall provide that the State agency will make such reports, in such form, and containing such information, as the Assistant Secretary may require, and comply with such requirements as the Assistant Secretary may impose to insure the correctness of such reports.
- (8)(A) The plan shall provide that no supportive services, nutrition services, or in-home services will be directly provided by the State agency or an area agency on aging in the State, unless, in the judgment of the State agency--
 - (i) provision of such services by the State agency or the area agency on aging is necessary to assure an adequate supply of such services;
 - (ii) such services are directly related to such State agency's or area agency on aging's administrative functions; or
 - (iii) such services can be provided more economically, and with comparable quality, by such State agency or area agency on aging.

(12) The plan shall provide, whenever the State desires to provide for a fiscal year for services for the prevention of abuse of older individuals—

(B) the State will not permit involuntary or coerced participation in the program of services described in this paragraph by alleged victims, abusers, or their households; and

(C) all information gathered in the course of receiving reports and making referrals shall remain confidential unless all parties to the complaint consent in writing to the release of such information, except that such information may be released to a law enforcement or public protective service agency.

(22) If case management services are offered to provide access to supportive services, the plan shall provide that the State agency shall ensure compliance with the requirements specified in section 306(a)(8).

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Official

**State Plan Guidance
Attachment B
INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS**

IMPORTANT: States must provide all applicable information following each OAA citation listed below. Please note that italics indicate emphasis added to highlight specific information to include. The completed attachment must be included with your State Plan submission.

Section 305(a)(2)(E)

Describe the mechanism(s) for assuring that preference will be given to providing services to older individuals with greatest economic need and older individuals with greatest social need (with particular attention to low-income older individuals, including low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas) and include proposed methods of carrying out the preference in the State plan;

State's Response:

Section 306(a)(17)

Describe the mechanism(s) for assuring that each Area Plan will include information detailing how the Area Agency will coordinate activities and develop long-range emergency preparedness plans with local and State emergency response agencies, relief organizations, local and State governments and other institutions that have responsibility for disaster relief service delivery.

State's Response:

Section 307(a)(2)

The plan shall provide that the State agency will --...

(C) specify a minimum proportion of the funds received by each area agency on aging in the State to carry out part B that will be expended (in the absence of a waiver under sections 306(c) or 316) by such area agency on aging to provide each of the categories of services specified in section 306(a)(2). (Note: those categories are access, in-home, and legal assistance. Provide specific minimum proportion determined for each category of service.)

State's Response:

Section 307(a)(3)

The plan shall--

...

(B) with respect to services for older individuals residing in rural areas--

- (i) provide assurances the State agency will spend for each fiscal year not less than the amount expended for such services for fiscal year 2000;
- (ii) *identify, for each fiscal year to which the plan applies, the projected costs of providing such services (including the cost of providing access to such services); and*
- (iii) *describe the methods used to meet the needs for such services in the fiscal year preceding the first year to which such plan applies.*

State's Response:

Section 307(a)(10)

The plan shall provide assurance that the special needs of older individuals residing in rural areas are taken into consideration and shall *describe how those needs have been met and describe how funds have been allocated to meet those needs.*

State's Response:

Section 307(a)(14)

(14) The plan shall, with respect to the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which such plan is prepared—

- (A) *identify the number of low-income minority older individuals in the State, including the number of low income minority older individuals with limited English proficiency; and*
- (B) *describe the methods used to satisfy the service needs of the low-income minority older individuals described in subparagraph (A), including the plan to meet the needs of low-income minority older individuals with limited English proficiency.*

State's Response:

Section 307(a)(21)

The plan shall –

- (B) provide an assurance that the State agency will pursue activities to increase access by older individuals who are Native Americans to all aging programs and benefits provided by the agency, including programs and benefits provided under this title, if applicable, *and specify the ways in which the State agency intends to implement the activities.*

State's Response:

Section 307(a)(28)

(A) The plan shall include, at the election of the State, an assessment of how prepared the State is, under the State's statewide service delivery model, for any anticipated change in the number of older individuals during the 10-year period following the fiscal year for which the plan is submitted.

(B) Such assessment may include—

- (i) the projected change in the number of older individuals in the State;
- (ii) an analysis of how such change may affect such individuals, including individuals with low incomes, individuals with greatest economic need, minority older individuals, older individuals residing in rural areas, and older individuals with limited English proficiency;
- (iii) an analysis of how the programs, policies, and services provided by the State can be improved, including coordinating with area agencies on aging, and how resource levels can be adjusted to meet the needs of the changing population of older individuals in the State; and
- (iv) an analysis of how the change in the number of individuals age 85 and older in the State is expected to affect the need for supportive services

State's Response:

Section 307(a)(29)

The plan shall include information detailing how the State will coordinate activities, and develop long-range emergency preparedness plans, with area agencies on aging, local emergency response agencies, relief organizations, local governments, State agencies responsible for emergency preparedness, and any other institutions that have responsibility for disaster relief service delivery.

State's Response:

Section 307(a)(30)

The plan shall include information describing the involvement of the head of the State agency in the development, revision, and implementation of emergency preparedness plans, including the State Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.

State's Response:

Section 705(a) ELIGIBILITY --

In order to be eligible to receive an allotment under this subtitle, a State shall *include in the State plan submitted under section 307--*

(7) *a description of the manner in which the State agency will carry out this title in accordance with the assurances described in paragraphs (1) through (6).*

(Note: Paragraphs (1) of through (6) of this section are listed below)

In order to be eligible to receive an allotment under this subtitle, a State shall include in the State plan submitted under section 307--

(1) *an assurance that the State, in carrying out any chapter of this subtitle for which the State receives funding under this subtitle, will establish programs in accordance with the requirements of the chapter and this chapter;*

(2) *an assurance that the State will hold public hearings, and use other means, to obtain the views of older individuals, area agencies on aging, recipients of grants under title VI, and other interested persons and entities regarding programs carried out under this subtitle;*

(3) *an assurance that the State, in consultation with area agencies on aging, will identify and prioritize statewide activities aimed at ensuring that older individuals have access to, and assistance in securing and maintaining, benefits and rights;*

(4) *an assurance that the State will use funds made available under this subtitle for a chapter in addition to, and will not supplant, any funds that are expended under any Federal or State law in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this subtitle, to carry out each of the vulnerable elder rights protection activities described in the chapter;*

(5) *an assurance that the State will place no restrictions, other than the requirements referred to in clauses (i) through (iv) of section 712(a)(5)(C), on the eligibility of entities for designation as local Ombudsman entities under section 712(a)(5);*

(6) *an assurance that, with respect to programs for the prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation under chapter 3--*

(A) *in carrying out such programs the State agency will conduct a program of services consistent with relevant State law and coordinated with existing State adult protective service activities for-*

(i) *public education to identify and prevent elder abuse;*

(ii) *receipt of reports of elder abuse;*

(iii) *active participation of older individuals participating in programs under this Act through outreach, conferences, and referral of such individuals to other social service agencies or sources of assistance if appropriate and if the individuals to be referred consent; and (iv) referral of complaints to law enforcement or public protective service agencies if appropriate;*

(B) *the State will not permit involuntary or coerced participation in the program of services described in subparagraph (A) by alleged victims, abusers, or their households; and (C) all information gathered in the course of receiving reports and making referrals shall remain confidential except--*

(i) *if all parties to such complaint consent in writing to the release of such information; (ii) if the release of such information is to a law enforcement agency, public protective service agency, licensing or certification agency, ombudsman program, or protection or advocacy system; or (iii) upon court order.*

State's Response:

State Plan Guidance
Attachment C
INTRASTATE (IFF) FUNDING FORMULA REQUIREMENTS

The State IFF shall be submitted as part of the State Plan as “Attachment C” and shall meet all of the requirements in OAA Sec. 305(a)(2)(C) cited here. Clarifying information for developing a State IFF is included in the bulleted list below. State Plans will not be accepted if they do not include a description of the IFF considerations, a numerical table or chart which shows the calculations used to establish the IFF, and a list or table of the Census or comparable data used by the IFF.

Each State IFF submittal must demonstrate that the requirements in Sections 305(a)(2)(C) have been met:

OAA, Sec. 305(a)(2)

“States shall,

(C) in consultation with area agencies, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Assistant Secretary, and using the best available data, develop and publish for review and comment a formula for distribution within the State of funds received under this title that takes into account--

(i) the geographical distribution of older individuals in the State; and

(ii) the distribution among planning and service areas of older individuals with greatest economic need and older individuals with greatest social need, with particular attention to low-income minority older individuals.”

- For purposes of the IFF, “best available data” is the most recent census data (year 2010). More recent data of equivalent quality available in the State may be considered.
- As required by Section 305(d) of the OAA, the IFF revision request includes: a Descriptive Statement; a Numerical Statement; and a list or table of the data used in the calculations by planning and service area.
- Attachment C must also include information on how the proposed formula, if changed, will affect funding to each planning and service area when compared to the previous IFF.
- States may use a base amount in their IFFs to ensure viable funding across the entire state.