



Service Standards

Title III-B Friendly Visiting

The service provider must adhere to the Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging General Service Requirements in addition to service-specific requirements listed below.

I. Definitions

- A. Service Definition (IDOA 603.11 A):** Regular visits by staff or volunteers to socially and/or geographically isolated individuals for purposes of providing companionship and social contact with the community. The program is for the older person who is often unable to leave his/her residence, if at all, and who has few to no friends, family, or neighbors who can visit them.
- B. Unit of Service (IDOA 603.11 C):** One hour of staff/volunteer time expended on behalf of a participant constitutes one unit of service.
 - 1.** Units of service based upon one hour of staff/volunteer time expended on behalf of a participant include the time necessary for preparation, travel and case documentation.
 - 2.** Preparation of reports and grant applications are considered as administrative activities, not activities directly on behalf of a participant.
 - 3.** Units should be measured to the nearest quarter hour.

II. Service Activities

- A.** Utilize staff or volunteers to visit individuals in their residences (IDOA 603.11 B).
- B.** Arrange for and maintain the friendly visiting service (IDOA 603.11 B).
- C.** Provide training to ensure competent, ethical and qualified staff and volunteers (IDOA 603.11 B).
- D.** Assist older persons during times of disaster (e.g. flooding, hot weather, tornadoes, severe weather, man-made emergencies, etc.) by conducting special visits to assure older persons are safe and have access to services to meet their needs (IDOA 603.11 B).

III. Service Standards

A. Records and Documentation

- 1.** Provider will complete with IDOA-created intake form with all new participants (NEIL).
- 2.** Provider may disclose information by name about a participant only with the informed consent of the participant or his or her authorized representative. Such informed consent must be documented in the participant's record whether it is written or verbal consent. The documentation must include who (participant or authorized representative) provided the written or verbal consent (IDOA 603.17 E3).
- 3.** A record keeping system will be in place to maintain count of unduplicated persons and daily units of service provided (NEIL).

B. Access

- 1.** Friendly visits must be scheduled on a regular or specified basis to reduce social isolation and feelings of loneliness (NEIL).
 - a.** At a minimum, participants will receive 1 hour of Friendly Visiting per week while they are participating in the program.

C. Staffing

- 1.** Provider will utilize a staff person and/or volunteer dedicated to overseeing service delivery (NEIL).
- 2.** Volunteers: The service must have procedures for recruiting, training, and supervising volunteers. Each volunteer should have a job description, orientation, schedule of work, and a record kept of hours served (NEIL).