

FY2022 Title III-B Transportation Project Description

Overview

AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois is committed to collaborating with the Illinois Department on Aging (IDOA) and other community-based providers within our region to address the needs of older adults in our eight-county region. Utilizing American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding, AgeGuide seeks to enhance and expand services to increase access and address the increased social isolation older adults are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including IIIB Transportation. The goal of the Title III-B Transportation program is to remove barriers to transportation and to expand mobility options for those participating in activities which reduce social isolation and promote successful independent living.

This funding opportunity is intended to engage additional transportation providers to support programs designed to increase the availability and accessibility of community transportation services for older adults and their caregivers. Projects funded with this ARP grant will begin on June 1, 2022 and end on December 31, 2023.

Overview of Service Design

Transportation providers will be funded to provide the following transportation services:

- Robust volunteer driver programs, and/or
- Collaboration with a consortium of municipalities, townships, county government, PACE and other organizations providing transportation to seniors and persons with disabilities

Service activities may include:

- Assistance in scheduling travel arrangements
- Door through door, door to door, curbside or scheduled route
- Arrangement for special modes of transportation when required
- Coordination with similar and related transportation in the community
- Provision of transportation for medical, social service appointments, shopping, errands, social engagements and congregate meals

A service provider that receives funds under this grant must provide service at no cost to older adults, grandchildren, adult children with developmental disabilities or family caregivers accompanying an individual 60 and older. Individuals must have the opportunity to voluntarily contribute to the cost of the service. Providers may not deny services because the person will not or cannot contribute to the cost of the service.

Statement on Serving Populations in Greatest Economic and Social Need

As outlined in the AgeGuide Northeastern IL *General Service Requirements*, providers must assign priority, in the provision of services, to older adults in greatest economic and social need (“target populations”), at a rate at least in proportion to the incidence level of each group within the county. To achieve this outcome, providers must develop strategic plans to reach and provide services to these target populations which are defined in the federal Older American’s Act and the Illinois Act on the Aging as the following:

- Older adults with income at or below federal poverty guidelines,
- Minority older adults,
- Older adults age 75+,
- Older adults living alone,
- Older adults with Limited English Proficiency,
- Older adults who are frail,
- Older adults with severe disabilities,
- Older adults with dementia and related disorders (and their caretakers), and
- Older adults at risk for institutional placement.
- The Illinois Act on the Aging [20 ILCS 105/3.11] expanded the definition of “greatest social need” to the need caused by noneconomic factors that restrict an individual's ability to perform normal daily tasks or that threaten one’s capacity to live independently.
 - These factors include:
 - Physical or mental disability,
 - Language barriers and,
 - Cultural or social isolation caused by, among other things, racial and ethnic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or HIV status.

Title III-B Transportation Program Requirements

Title III-B Transportation providers will be required to perform the following activities:

1. Staffing:
 - a. Dedicate at least 1 staff position to coordinate and oversee providers' Transportation program.
 - b. The provider will recruit volunteers to provide the service or seek out volunteer programs to collaborate with. Providers are responsible for conducting staff and volunteers background checks and providing training.
 - i. Training for volunteers will minimally include information regarding services and opportunities available for participants and a process to ensure volunteers contact the provider when needs of their participants arise.
2. Connect participants receiving the service with other community-based services and/or resources available to them. For example: congregate meals, educational programs, health and wellness programs, and community events.
3. Adhere to the AgeGuide General Service Requirements and the program specific requirements as well as reporting requirements for these services, including completion of an annual demographic data report for each funded service. Visit the AgeGuide website (www.ageguide.org) for Service Standards and information on reporting requirements.
4. Providers will participate in regular check-in calls and/or meetings with AgeGuide as requested.