



FY2026 Lake County

Aging & Disability Resource Network Access Services Description

Overview

During the FY2025 Request for Proposal (RFP) cycle, AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois was unable to identify a provider for Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) Access services for Lake County. Following careful review of the existing service design, AgeGuide decided to approach these services from a township-based service delivery model to increase access to services and ensure countywide coverage. Using this approach, AgeGuide secured two providers, Antioch Area Healthcare Accessibility Alliance and Waukegan Township Patricia Jones Center, to provide ADRN Access services in the northern townships of Lake County.

AgeGuide was unable to locate a provider for seven townships including: Ela, Cuba, Fremont, Moraine, Vernon, Wauconda and West Deerfield. To fill this gap, AgeGuide provides Aging and Disability Resource Network Services directly for these seven townships as of October 1, 2024.

In this current funding opportunity, AgeGuide seeks applications from organizations interested in providing Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) Access Services within these seven townships with the intention of finding a permanent provider to begin October 1, 2025 (FY2026). Applicants can apply for a single township or groupings of townships, however, there will be only one ADRN designated for each township.

Service Design

Organizations providing ADRN Access services serve as central access points where older adults and persons with disabilities receive information and assistance, assessment of needs, referral, assistance in completing applications for various public programs and benefits and follow up to ensure referrals and services were received. Programs and benefits accessed include but are not limited to: Older Americans Act services (i.e. transportation, home delivered meals, legal services, funding for emergency and one-time needs, health promotion activities, supports for family caregivers and kinship relatives), state funded services (i.e. Community Care Program), assistance with navigating housing options, and benefit programs (i.e. IDOA Benefit Access Program, SNAP, Medicare Savings Programs, etc.).

ADRN services are accessible, culturally and linguistically appropriate, and person-centered. Services are provided in a variety of methods and settings, including targeted community sites within their county. They proactively engage in public education and outreach to promote awareness of the resources that are available through the ADRN. They establish relationships with key referral sources in their community to ensure staff in these entities know about the functions of the ADRN and have up-to-date information and tools for quickly identifying and referring individuals to the ADRN. Key referral sources include, but are not limited to, health care systems and providers, the Center for Independent Living, Medicaid waiver services, behavioral and substance use services, discharge planners at nursing facilities, organizations

FY2026 Lake County

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servicing adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, federally qualified health centers, and public health departments.

ADRN Access services providers are required to have Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) certified staff and provide SHIP services. The Illinois Department on Aging provides training on this program and additional funding may be available for sites to perform SHIP-related activities in addition to the activities detailed above. Funding for SHIP and benefits access-related activities are available through Senior Health Assistance Program (SHAP) and Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA).

ADRN Access Services Core Partners will be funded to provide the following services:

1. **IIIB INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE (I&A):** *Assistance with navigating and accessing a variety of resources, services, and benefit programs.*
2. **IIIB FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY SERVICES (FCS):** *Providers will have access to FCS funds which provide limited one-time or emergency funding to eligible participants to assist with paying for items, supplies, and unforeseen bills not covered by insurance or other means.*
3. **IIIB PUBLIC EDUCATION:** *A service for older adults that provides the public and individuals with information on resources and services available to the individuals within their communities.*
4. **SHAP/MIPPA:** *A person-centered, community-based service for older adults and adults with disabilities that:*
 - a) *Includes I&A services, outreach activities and educational programs, counseling about Medicare benefits and Medicare Part B Preventive Care Benefits, Low Income Subsidy (LIS/"Extra Help") and Medicare Savings Programs and prescription coverage available under the Medicare Part D drug plans or Medicare Advantage plans that offer a prescription drug benefit, and other public benefit and pharmaceutical assistance programs;*
 - b) *Includes technical assistance, phone support, and counseling to help Medicare beneficiaries eligible for the Medicare Part D benefit select and enroll in Part D plans and eligible persons (including those under the age of 60) and other pharmaceutical assistance programs when appropriate;*
 - c) *Supports other activities that promote effective coordination of enrollment and coverage in Medicare Part D plans, including hosting and coordinating enrollment events and creating and disseminating informational guides and resources.*



FY2026 Lake County

Aging & Disability Resource Network Access Services Description

5. BENEFITS ACCESS ASSISTANCE: *Application assistance with the Benefit Access Program which provides access to the Seniors Free Transit Ride Permit, Persons with Disabilities Free Transit Ride Permit and the Secretary of State's License Plate Discount Program.*

ADRN Access Package Requirements

Organizations designated as an ADRN Access service provider will be required to perform the following activities:

1. Units/Persons
 - a. AgeGuide will work with providers to develop accurate projections of persons and units to be served during the grant period.
2. Coordination:
 - a. Have a working relationship and/or written agreement with county specific key referral sources, as described above, to coordinate and where possible to co-locate services.
3. Staffing:
 - a. Dedicate at least 1 staff position to coordinate and provide ADRN Access Services.
 - b. At least 1 staff person will have certification from InformUSA. New applicants will demonstrate ability to obtain certification within 1 year of becoming the ADRN Access Services Core Partner – sooner if staff meet eligibility criteria to take the certification exam (<https://www.informusa.org/core-certification>).
 - c. At least 1 staff person will have Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) Counselor certification. New applicants will demonstrate ability to obtain certification during FY26.
4. Training:
 - a. Participate in ADRN meetings and trainings held by AgeGuide.
 - b. Participate in SHIP trainings held by IDOA.
5. Adhere to the AgeGuide General Service Requirements and the program specific Service Standards requirements as well as reporting requirements for these services. Visit the AgeGuide website (www.ageguide.org) for Service Standards and information on reporting requirements.