

AgeGuide

Eligible Caterer List

October 1, 2025- September 30, 2028

(Revised 4-8-25)

Guidelines

1. All potential grantees and or funded partners are required to use the caterers that are approved to provide Senior Nutrition program in DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties.
The caterers' application, sample menus, health inspections, fire inspections, Certified Food Protection Manager certification and references are included in this packet for the potential grantees and or funded partners' reference.
The caterers' food prices will be emailed separately to the CEO and Nutrition director of the potential grantees and or funded partners for the Counties they are proposing to provide Senior Nutrition program.
2. AgeGuide has established the maximum allowable food pricing for the approved caterers effective Oct. 1st, 2025. **The approved catering price should be included in the budget for RFP's. All potential grantees can negotiate with approved caterers but may not exceed the unit pricing established by AgeGuide.**
3. Approved caterers are able to provide services for Congregate dining, home delivered meals, shelf stable meals, culturally appropriate meals, medically tailored meals, and fresh Grocery boxes (which are not Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) does not get meal reimbursement)
4. Approved caterers are able to provide regular meals, specialized meals such as:
 - Culturally Appropriate Meals (i.e., Hispanic, Chinese, Southeast Asian Indian, and Korean cuisines)
 - Medically Tailored Meals, which may include but are not limited to:
 - Diabetic friendly
 - Renal friendly for those receiving dialysis
 - Heart-Healthy
 - Vegetarian
 - Gluten-Free
 - Pureed
5. Nutrition Providers will enter into individual contracts with AgeGuide's approved caterers established in the Eligible Caterer list.
6. **Any organization planning to use a Restaurant for a Senior Dine Program is exempt from using AgeGuide's Eligible Caterer List.** Cost per unit must be reasonable and justifiable. AgeGuide's nutrition providers' average food cost per

meal for Restaurant congregate dining is \$10.00. Nutrition providers must get prior approval from AgeGuide if their restaurant meal price is over \$10.00 per meal.

7. Copies of catering and restaurant contracts must be submitted to AgeGuide by no later than October 1, 2025.
8. If you are planning to use a caterer that is not on the Eligible Caterer List, contact Lourdes Chew at Lchew@ageguide.org or Kara Corsiglia at Kcorsiglia@ageguide.org for a caterer application form. Application is also required for any provider who will be using an in-house caterer or will be cooking meals on their own sites.
9. The guidelines are subject to change as caterers can be added or removed from the Eligible Caterer List.

Caterers Approved to provide Congregate Meals

Approved Caterers	Approved for the following Counties
1. Jigar's Kitchen	DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties
2. Lori's Restaurant	Kankakee County
3. Hanul Alliance	Lake County
4. Upper Crust	DuPage, Grundy, Kendall and Will Counties
5. Hoffman House	DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties
6. Maravela's Banquets & Catering	Kane, Lake and McHenry Counties
7. Doggie Diner/Katering by Kristie- newly added 3/10/25	DuPage, Kendall and Will Counties
8. Thyme 2 Eat Catering - newly added 4/1/25	DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties

Caterers Approved to provide Home Delivered Meals

Approved Caterers	Approved for the following Counties
1. Homestyle Direct	DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties
2. Jigar's Kitchen	DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties
3. Lori's Restaurant	Kankakee County
4. Mom's Meals	DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties
5. Hoffman House	DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties
6. Maravela's Banquets & Catering	Kane, Lake and McHenry Counties
7. Top Box	DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties
8. Thyme 2 Eat Catering - newly added 4/1/25	DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties

The following caterers are approved to provide Nutrition services for their own sites only.

Approved in-house Caterers	Approved for these sites only
1. CNNSSA -Kendall	Beecher Community Center
2. Metro Asian Family Services	MAFS
3. CNNSSA -Grundy	Saratoga Towers
4. Hanul Alliance (HDM)	Hanul Alliance

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NUTRITION PROVIDERS TO CONTRACTED CATERER:

1. Interested Nutrition Providers will contact the approved caterers to negotiate meal unit rates, which may be lower than the maximum allowable rates, and will enter into contracts with AgeGuide's approved caterers established in the Eligible Caterer list outlining all terms, responsibilities, and expectations between their business entities.
2. Host a site visit with a new caterer before starting up.
3. Establish a communication procedure for the daily meal order including changes, additions, and cancellations.
4. Review proposed menus and request changes, if needed.
5. Check caterer deliveries and food temperatures for accuracy and food safety compliance in the presence of the delivery driver.
 - a. Maintain food temperature logs and other relevant information per the standards.
6. Properly handle deliveries to ensure food safety at the Nutrition Sites.
7. Establish a payment schedule with the caterer.
8. Communicate with the caterer on a regular basis.
9. Obtain menu approval throughout the menu planning process from the Nutrition providers' Illinois Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist. The IL Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist must sign the menus.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CATERER TO CONTRACTED NUTRITION PROVIDER:

1. Approved Services:

Approved caterers on this list will be considered by AgeGuide's funded Nutrition Providers. Caterers may not solicit business directly from individual meal sites or any of the Nutrition Providers.

2. Meal Delivery & Logistics:

All meals must be delivered according to the established schedule and in compliance with food safety standards. The meals should be delivered at an agreed time determined by each individual Nutrition Provider to the designated distribution location(s). Caterers must ensure that all meals are transported in temperature-controlled containers to maintain food safety.

3. Quality Standards & Inspections:

AgeGuide and potential grantees/funded partners expect the caterers to follow all relevant health and safety regulations, including those set forth by the local health department.

4. **Dietary Needs and Adjustments:**

AgeGuide and potential grantees/funded partners may request special dietary adjustments (e.g., gluten-free, diabetic-friendly, heart-healthy, vegetarian, pureed, and renal friendly) and/or cultural meal choices. Caterers must ensure that their services are flexible and can accommodate these needs as they arise.

5. **Monitoring:**

AgeGuide will conduct an onsite inspection of the caterer's kitchen and other food prep facilities within the next (3) years.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGEGUIDE

AgeGuide requires that the maximum allowable cost per meal will be adhered to beginning October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Failure of caterers to adhere to the approved maximum allowable cost could result in caterers being removed from the Eligible Caterer List.

By mid to late January of each year, AgeGuide will establish and publish a maximum acceptable per-meal cost increase for each meal type. The increase will be determined by using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) showing the cost for "Food Away from Home" during the 12 months previous. Maximum increases will be expressed as a percentage. AgeGuide will conduct a survey of all existing Eligible Caterers every third fiscal year, with current contracts to determine how successfully the caterers are operating at their currently approved catering rates.