

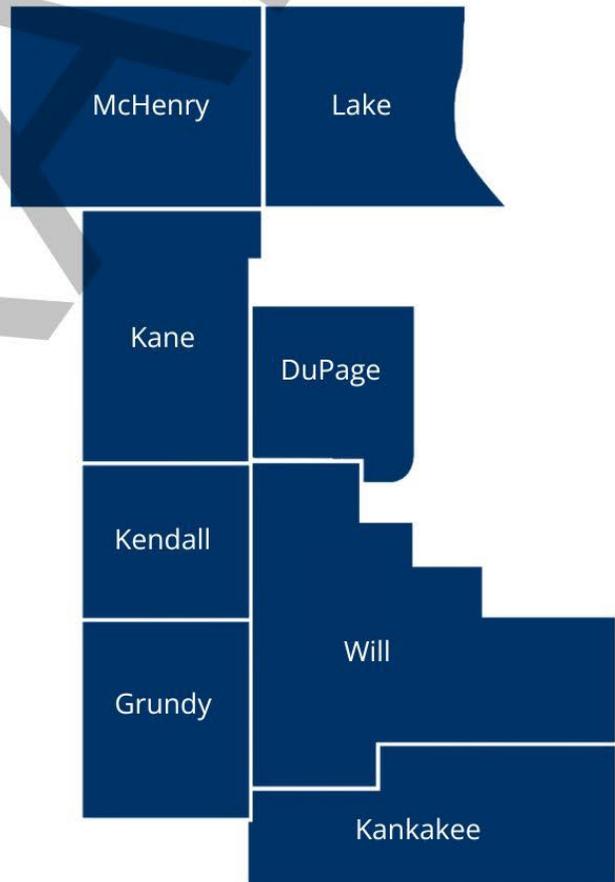


Public Information Document

FY27 AMENDMENT

Mission of AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois

At AgeGuide, it is our mission to be a vital resource and advocate for people as we age by providing thoughtful guidance, supportive services and meaningful connections.



Serving Older Americans in Northeastern Illinois: DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties
(Planning and Service Area – 02)

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Purpose of the Public Information Document and the Public Hearings

The purpose of this Public Information Document is to provide a summary of the Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging's (AgeGuide) proposed service design, delivery, and the associated fund distributions, and other activities in which AgeGuide anticipates involvement. This Public Information Document provides an update for the third year of the three-year AgeGuide Area Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2027. This document is intended to outline AgeGuide's plan for allocating funds so the public can review this plan and provide comments and questions at its public hearing.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to provide an open forum for the public to comment on proposed services, expenditures, and other activities as outlined in this document and anticipated to be carried out during the Fiscal Years 2025-2027 Area Plan Cycle. The Public Hearings provide information about AgeGuide's proposed plans, budget, funding formula, and priorities for funding community-based services for older adults and family caregivers.

Public Hearings will be held in person and virtually on the following dates:

Register here: <https://ageguide.typeform.com/to/htdPqIKR>

In-Person

Wednesday, April 1, 2026
10:00a-12:00p
Helen Plum Library
411 S. Main Street, Lombard, IL

Virtual

Thursday, April 2, 2026
1:00-3:00p

If you need special assistance, a translator, closed captioning, or other accommodations, please contact Cristine Ben at (630) 293-5990 prior to the hearing. If you are unable to attend a hearing and would like to comment on this proposed plan, written statements will be received through **April 9, 2026, at 4:00p**. Comments may be faxed, e-mailed, or mailed to the following address:

AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois

Attention: Marla Fronczak, Chief Executive Officer
1910 S. Highland Ave, Suite 100, Lombard, IL 60148
Fax: 630-293-7488; e-mail: info@ageguide.org

A Message from Our Chief Executive Officer

As we prepare for the final year of AgeGuide's 3-year area plan, AgeGuide remains firmly rooted in its simple but powerful mission: to provide thoughtful guidance, meaningful connections, and vital support for all of us on our aging journey. Our Pro-Aging movement raises our collective voices to ensure that everyone can age their way: at home, in the community they love, feeling valued, having choice, and staying connected.

This plan is designed to not only meet today's needs but to prepare for tomorrow's realities. Under the guidance of AgeGuide's Board of Directors and Advisory Council, our funded partners, community organizations, and local leaders are expanding efforts to meet the diverse needs of a growing aging population. This collaboration is vital at the state, regional, and local levels. Under the guidance of AgeGuide's Board of Directors and Advisory Council, a coalition of funded partners, community organizations, and local leaders is expanding efforts to meet the diverse needs of a growing aging population.

Multisector Plan for Aging - EngAging Illinois

AgeGuide and its funded partners made significant contributions to Illinois' 10-year Multi-Sector Plan for Aging (MPA), *EngAging Illinois*, aligning our Area Plan initiatives with the plan's strategies and goals. In partnership with the Illinois Department on Aging, AgeGuide, the aging network, older adults, caregivers, and stakeholders across multiple sectors, will begin building a coordinated, equitable system of aging services for all Illinoisans. This is everyone's plan and we invite you to join us in advancing this shared vision for aging in Illinois.

Community Needs Assessment

In FY2026, AgeGuide completed its Community Needs Assessment activities through surveying and listening to older adults and their caregivers across the region. Guided by community voices and grounded in our values, we will integrate their feedback into shaping our service design and delivery for our next three-year Area Plan. These insights will inform our priorities and strategies to meet local needs and support statewide initiatives.

Advocating Together for Aging Services

As the Older Americans Act once again approaches reauthorization, our message is clear: it must be protected, strengthened, and fully funded so older adults can live with respect, choice, and connection. Without strong public policy and robust funding, essential services like nutrition, transportation, elder justice, and caregiver support cannot reach those who rely on them. When we advocate together, across generations and backgrounds, we create

communities where every older adult matters, every caregiver receives support, and everyone belongs.

Thank you to our funded partners, volunteers, and community members who make this plan possible. Together we will move this plan forward through action, advocacy, and impact.

Sincerely,

Marla Fronczak

Chief Executive Officer, AgeGuide

WHO WE ARE

Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging (AgeGuide), began in 1972 as a model project and was formally designated by the Illinois Department on Aging in 1974. There are over 622 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) nationwide. AgeGuide is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) governed by a Board of Directors. The Board sets policy and makes decisions about programs and is advised by an Advisory Council. Volunteers from the eight-county planning and service area (PSA) comprise both the Board and Advisory Council, and the majority of both bodies' members are age 60 years and older.



AgeGuide is one of 13 Area Agencies in Illinois and operates within the aging network which includes the federal Administration on Community Living (ACL), the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA), and local community-based organizations who work together to serve older adults.

AgeGuide is engaged in its leadership role of developing and enhancing a comprehensive and coordinated community-based service system for older adults, including Elder Rights services and the National Family Caregiver Support Program.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that in 2024, 773,569 persons age 60 years of age and older live in AgeGuide's region. Over 73,565 older adults and their caregivers received OAA services in AgeGuide's eight county PSA in Fiscal Year 2025.



**A WIDE RANGE OF LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS
TO CONSUMERS IN THEIR LOCAL PLANNING & SERVICE AREA (PSA)**

WHAT WE DO



ADVOCACY

AgeGuide advocates for older adults, weighing in on policymaking at the local, state, and national level. We advocate to effect policy change that supports aging at home and in the community with maximum health, independence, and well-being. Our advocacy activities are designed to induce a change in attitude and stereotypes, legislation, and policies around older adults, adults with disabilities, and those who care for them. As advocates for services and funding at the federal and state levels, AgeGuide informs older adults, caregivers, and legislators of the impact of proposed legislation on people and services.



COORDINATION

AgeGuide builds working relationships with other local non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, and aging network partners to develop a comprehensive and integrated service delivery system. We seek input from the communities we serve through our Advisory Council, and participation in community-based collaborations. Organizations funded by AgeGuide provide guidance on services and the changing needs of their communities.



PLANNING & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

AgeGuide leverages federal dollars, building on Older Americans Act (OAA) funding to expand economic support for Home and Community Based Services. The U.S. Administration on Aging estimates that for every \$1 of federal OAA investment, an additional \$3 is leveraged. AgeGuide understands that bringing services to people where they live in their communities helps them save their own resources and government dollars, making this a more sensible approach from a fiscal and human perspective. AgeGuide conducts a tri-annual community needs assessment that informs our planning and program development processes. We assess the needs of older adults, their caregivers and families and use this information to create, improve and/or expand OAA services.



ADMINISTRATION

AgeGuide administers federal and state funding for Older Americans Act services that are available to any person aged 60 or older, their caregivers and families. These services are targeted to older adults in the greatest social and economic need. AgeGuide monitors service delivery to ensure that funded partners provide quality outcomes and that funding is spent appropriately. AgeGuide awards more than \$27 million annually in federal and state funding to more than 35 community-based service organizations. AgeGuide expends no more than the allowed 10% of administration funding to preserve maximum funding for direct service-related costs.

THE PLANNING PROCESS AND ITS OUTCOMES

Summary of the AgeGuide's Planning Process and its Outcomes

In FY24, AgeGuide prepared for the FY2025-2027 Area Plan Cycle by engaging in a 5-step planning process to assess the needs of older adults, caregivers, and their families. The steps, activities, and analysis are outlined below.

Five Step Planning Process

Step 1: Assess the needs of Older Adults, Caregivers, & Their Families

Step 2: Evaluate the Existing Service System

Step 3: Determine Availability of Resources to Meet Needs and Alternative Approaches Available

Step 4: Support Area Plan Initiatives and Service Priorities

Step 5: Modification and Refinement

Step 1: Assess the needs of Older Adults, Caregivers, & Their Families

Community Stakeholders and Partners

AgeGuide enlisted the assistance of the Board of Directors, Advisory Council, staff, and community stakeholders to help develop the Area Plan, which is our guide to distributing federal and state funding to deliver Older Americans Act services to older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. While the list below is extensive, it is just a sample of the AgeGuide partnerships across our region.

Advocate Health Aurora American Society on Aging Aurora Township Senior Citizens Service Committee American Association of Retired Asians (AARA) American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Antioch Area Health Care Accessibility Alliance (AAHAA) Association for Individual Development Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Committee Alzheimer’s Association Greater Illinois Chapter AMITA Health, Saint Joseph Hospital Elgin Aurora Community Resource Team Barrington Area Council on Aging Care for the Underserved Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet Centro De Informacion Chicago Food Justice Rhizome Network Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Coalition of Limited English-Speaking Elders Community Services Council of Will Co. County of Grundy Transit Dorr Township	Downers Grove Township Dundee Township DuPage Hunger Network The DuPage Federation DuPage County Community Services DuPage Co. Health Department DuPage Senior Citizens Council Ela Township ElderCARE Lake County Elgin Hispanic Network Fox Valley Community Services Gail Borden Public Library Geneva Township Senior Center Glen Ellyn Senior Center Grundy Co. Senior Provider Group Grundy Co. Health Dept. Hanul Family Alliance Healthcare and Senior Advisory Council (Rep. Hass) Illinois Aging Together Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging Illinois Coalition on Mental Health and Aging Illinois Cognitive Resource Network/RUSH Illinois Economic Security Project Illinois Family Caregiver Coalition Illinois Migrant Council Illinois Public Health Institute Illinois SNAP Advocates Illinois State Medicaid Policy Illinois State Tax Credit Coalition Independence Health & Therapy Kane Co. Health Department Kankakee Co. Health Dept.	Kendall Co. Health Dept. Kinship Navigator Task Force Lake Co. Health Dept. Legal Aid Chicago Lifescape Community Services Meals on Wheels Northern Illinois Metropolitan Asian Family Servs Metropolitan Family Services McHenry Co. Dept. of Health McHenry Co. Task Force on Aging Milton Township Northern Illinois Food Bank Open Door Health Center of Illinois Open Safe Illinois Coalition Oswegoland Senior Center Pembroke Township Prairie State Legal Services Riverwalk Adult Day Center SAGECare Second Baptist Church, Joliet Spanish Community Center Senior Services Associates Senior Services Coalition Lake Co. Senior Services of Will County Senior Advisory Committee (Senator Villa) Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) TRIADs USAging Waukegan Township White Crane Wellness Center Will Co. Health Dept. Will Grundy Medical Clinic Xilin Association
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Step 2: Evaluate the Existing Service System

Needs Assessment Activities

Methodology & Design

In planning for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2027 Area Plan, AgeGuide completed an extensive Needs Assessment of the community to inform service design and delivery throughout the preceding three-year planning period. AgeGuide took into consideration older adults with low incomes, and those with the greatest economic and social need with particular attention to low-income minority older adults and those with limited English proficiency. In addition, AgeGuide prioritized diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA) to examine the ease at which diverse older adults can access services. To apply this inclusive lens, AgeGuide utilized a template from an award-winning needs assessment model as well as input and guidance from the AgeGuide DEIA Steering Committee and Soar Strategies, our DEIA consultants. The goal was to develop survey and interview instruments to best capture the input of communities of color, non-English speakers, and LGBTQ+ communities. The listening session and survey questions were designed to gain insight on the impact of accessibility of services, healthcare access, and income. Service categories were based on Older Americans Act programs and included:

- Caregiving Support
- Food (Nutrition)
- Housing
- Information
- Social Connectedness
- Transportation

Listening Sessions

In 2023, AgeGuide held 17 community listening sessions, which included over 600 participants, a 130% increase over our previous needs assessment sessions. Overall, AgeGuide spent a total of 26 hours listening to the community. We hosted 4 listening sessions in each of the largest counties, 2 in the next largest, and 1 in smaller counties. We also met with stakeholders both region-wide and in Grundy County. We went into communities to connect with our target audiences - those with the greatest social & economic need. We met at churches, township senior centers, restaurants, and other community sites to reach Limited English-Speakers and people from specific racial and ethnic groups. In addition, AgeGuide held 5 specific listening sessions to capture input from non-English speaking older adults. AgeGuide contracted with Northern Illinois University, Center of Governmental Studies to analyze the data gathered from the listening sessions and surveys. AgeGuide published the completed Community Needs Assessment Findings Report and hosted a virtual findings presentation in March of 2024.

Surveys

AgeGuide also designed and distributed a survey in 2023 to inform the three-year planning process. The survey was specifically constructed to be inclusive and equitable to capture results from our diverse region. The survey was translated into the six most common languages spoken in our region after English. We partnered with diverse community leaders and the Coalition for Limited English-Speaking Elderly (CLESE) to distribute surveys. As a result, over 150 participants completed the translated versions of the survey. Overall, the survey captured input from 1,137 older adult participants, and 76 stakeholders totaling 1,213. This is a 164% increase over the previous needs assessment survey collection.

Participant demographics were as follows:

Survey Respondents Characteristics	
94%	Aged 60+
55%	Live Alone
6%	Veterans
22%	Caregivers
78%	Female
30%	Non-White (12% Asian American, 9% Black, 7% Hispanic/Latino, <1% Native American/Alaska Native, 1% More Than 1 Race)
21%	Speak a Language Other Than English
2%	LGBTQ+

Between the listening sessions and the survey, AgeGuide received over 1,810 responses to the Needs Assessment.

Results

Findings from our community needs assessment indicate that stakeholders, older adults, and caregivers rank healthcare, income, food, and housing as the most important needs. A summary of preliminary findings follows:

Healthcare

More than one-third (35%) of older adults have experienced a challenge in paying for dental or vision care. Stakeholders think one of the biggest challenges related to healthcare for older adults is not being able to pay for medications (66%).

Stakeholders and older adults mention there is a need for assistance with navigating Medicare. Older adults comment that the cost of healthcare is a challenge and that Medicare costs keep going up. Stakeholders state there is a need for dental and vision coverage for older adults. More than one-third (34.6%) of older adults have experienced a challenge in

paying for dental or vision care. 16.4% of older adults have gone without some medication in the last 12 months (8.9%, less than once a month; 4.5% once a month; 1.3% once a week; 1.7% more than once a week).

Income

Almost all (97%) stakeholders think one of the biggest challenges related to income for older adults is not having enough money saved for retirement. Almost half of older adult respondents said they do not have enough money saved for retirement and almost one-third do not have access to retirement planning services or a retirement account.

Many older adults face challenges with debt as 22.5% of older adults have experienced debt repayment challenges.

Food

68.5% of stakeholders believe one of the biggest challenges related to food is the cost. 42.3% of older adults surveyed said they experienced a challenge with the cost of food. Older adult focus group participants also said that the rising cost of food has been a challenge. More than one-half of older adults said they used at least one food assistance program in the last 12 months.

Stakeholders expressed concern that with SNAP funding cuts and the prices in grocery stores “skyrocketing”. Some older adults are not getting enough food. In fact, 10.8% of older adults reported going without food in the last 12 months (5.5%, less than once a month; 2.9%, once a month; 1.3% once a week; 1.1% less than once a week). One-half (49.6%) of older adults reported they usually eat less than three meals a day.

Housing

45% of older adults indicate they have experienced a challenge with housing costs. Most often cited challenges include the high cost of housing including rent, property taxes, lack of affordable housing, accessibility challenges of existing homes, and lack of subsidized housing.

Older adults and stakeholders indicate that subsidized housing is insufficient. They say there are long wait lists, and it sometimes takes several years to get subsidized housing. The majority (88.3%) of older adults agree with the statement “I prefer to live in my home for as long as I can.”

Caregiver Support

More than one-half of stakeholders identify financial challenges (57.3%), lack of affordable home care (54.7%), and caregiver stress (50.7%) as the biggest challenges related to caregiving.

In terms of caregiving demographics, 21.7% of older adults report providing unpaid assistance or care to a family member, friend, or someone who has a health condition or disability. 27.1% of older adults receive assistance or care because of a health condition or disability. 40.7% receive care from a relative and 27.1% receive care from a professional caregiver. 68.0% receive care less than 20 hours per week.

Accessibility

Overall, older adult focus group participants are satisfied with the organization providing aging assistance services. The majority (89.6%) of older adults and caregivers agree (61.3%, strongly agree; 28.3% somewhat agree) they are treated fairly and equitably by the organization providing aging assistance services. Stakeholders state that agencies need more diverse staff that look like the clients, speak the language of the clients, and understand the clients' culture.

Information

More than one-half (52.2%) of older adults get information about services and events from family, friends, and neighbors. 38.8% get information from a senior service agency and 36.7% get information from a senior center.

Stakeholders think one of the biggest challenges related to information for older adults is that information is only available online (56.2%). Stakeholders also believe there isn't enough awareness of available services. Older adults report that increasing awareness of the available community services and resources is an extremely important need. They suggest information about services should be distributed in print format since "not everyone is tech savvy."

Social Connectedness

Physical limitations were one of the biggest identified barriers to social connection. 46.8% of those older adults who identify with a physical/mobility impairment experienced social isolation and lack of connection to others. Stakeholders mention some older adults are "scared to go out" and do not have technology. According to survey responses, the majority of older adults leave their home often or sometimes to do activities asked about in the survey.

Transportation

More than one-half (52.0%) of older adults and caregivers and 41.1% of stakeholders identify car expenses, such as gas and insurance, as a challenge. Respondents state that the currently available transportation options are not adequate; not available in all areas, not reliable, not accessible, and there are not enough drivers/vehicles. Many of the older adults report they rely on family members for transportation.

The majority of older adults have never missed a medical appointment (79.7%) or been unable to participate in activities (71.7%) in the last 12 months because of transportation issues.

Stakeholder and older adult focus group participants mention that transportation is a particular need in rural areas. Wheelchair accessible transportation was also cited as a significant need.

Other Challenges

Stakeholders, survey respondents, and focus group participants comment that older adults or caregivers face the following challenges:

- Lack of knowledge on how to use technology
- Mental health awareness/acceptance
- Inability to fill out forms on their own or lack of assistance with forms needed to apply for services

For more detailed findings, please see the full Community Needs Assessment Findings Report at www.ageguide.org under "Publications".

FY2026 Community Needs Assessment

In FY2026, AgeGuide began preparations for its next 3-year Area Plan cycle by conducting Community Needs Assessment activities through surveying and listening to stakeholders, older adults and their caregivers across the region. Guided by community voices and grounded in our values, AgeGuide will integrate their feedback into shaping our service design and delivery for the upcoming three-year Area Plan. These insights will inform its priorities and strategies that meet local needs and support statewide initiatives.

To kick off the assessment process, AgeGuide met with stakeholders from across the region to gather their input. Next, with help from its funded partners, AgeGuide conducted 14 listening sessions with 450 participants across the region, including at least one session in each of its 8 counties. We met at churches, township senior centers, dining sites, and other community locations to reach Limited English-Speakers and people from specific racial and

ethnic groups. We held 8 sessions that specifically addressed our target populations, utilizing translators and trusted advisors to assist us in gathering information. Hard copy and online surveys were translated into the 8 most commonly spoken languages in our region. AgeGuide received over 1,200 survey responses.

AgeGuide again contracted with Mindy Schneiderman, formerly of Northern Illinois University, Center of Governmental Studies to analyze the data gathered from the listening sessions and surveys. After all the data is analyzed, AgeGuide will publish a Community Needs Assessment Findings Report and host a virtual findings presentation on June 18th.

Preliminary Findings for FY2026 Community Needs Assessment

Initial analysis indicates that many of the needs of the region remain consistent with FY2024 findings. However, the following two areas showed significant increases in 2026:

Caregiver Support

The number of people identifying as caregivers has grown. About 35% of respondents to the Older Adult Survey provide unpaid assistance or care to a family member, friend, or someone who has a health condition or disability compared to 21% in 2023. Slightly more than 40% provide more than 20 hours per week of unpaid care or assistance, up from 28% in 2023.

Healthcare

Almost 25% of older adults have gone without some medication in the last 12 months. This percentage has increased from 16% in 2023.

Further analysis is ongoing and more details will be reported in June 2026.

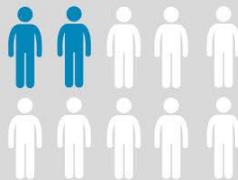
DEMOGRAPHICS OF PSA02

AGEGUIDE'S EIGHT COUNTY REGIONAL POPULATION IS RAPIDLY GROWING

773,569

26% of the State's population of older adults reside in PSA02

OLDER ADULTS



7% INCREASE

in the population of older adults in PSA02 from 2019 to 2024



Within the eight counties:

28 %

of older adults are age 75+ (218,610)

24%

of older adults age 60+ are minorities (183,810)

LIVING ALONE

150,465



20% of older adults age 60+ are living alone.

POVERTY

53,825



7% of older adults age 60+ live at or below the poverty line.

Step 3: Determine Availability of Resources to Meet Needs and Alternative Approaches Available to Meet Needs

AgeGuide will continue to perform the following activities to weigh the need and to identify resource availability:

- Continue to seek input from stakeholders (service providers, older adults, older adults with disabilities, family caregivers and relatives raising children, Advisory Council/Board, and other constituents).
- Review alternative approaches to improve the efficacy and effectiveness of OAA service provision and delivery in our service area.
- Determine the appropriateness of a service in helping older adults in greatest economic and social need (i.e., older adults with one or more of the characteristics in the regional funding formula), most at risk of loss of independence, or most in need of protection of their basic rights.
- Gauge the adequacy of funds to support a level of service that addresses the need effectively and at an acceptable cost.
- Assess the ability of other service providers or systems to address unmet needs.

Step 4: Support for State & Local Initiatives

Staff assembled and reviewed the data derived from the FY24 needs assessment process to form the foundation for the FY25-27 Area Plan. Information garnered from Steps 1, 2, and 3 of these activities and from the individual counties was thoughtfully compiled into a regional perspective to arrive at the following area plan initiatives and service priorities.

Statewide Initiatives

Three statewide initiatives will be prioritized for the FY2025-2027 Area Plan period. The initiatives were chosen based on input and feedback received from older adult community members and caregivers, challenges and priorities raised by the Aging network, community stakeholders, and community needs and priorities identified by IDoA. The AAA must provide a detailed planning, delivery, and/or monitoring plan that meets each Statewide Initiative. Additionally, the plans are required to include how the program development and funded service activities will continue to be targeted to those in “greatest economic and social need.”

Initiative #1: Increase statewide visibility of the Aging Network to connect Illinoisans with supports and services that encourage independence, dignity, and quality of life as we age.

The mission of the AAAs as defined by the Older Americans Act is in part to:

“Be the leader relative to all aging issues on behalf of all older people in the planning and service area. This means that the area agency shall proactively carry out, under the leadership and direction of the State agency, a wide range of functions related to advocacy, planning, coordination, inter-agency linkages, information sharing, brokering, monitoring, and evaluation, designed to lead to the development or enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated community-based systems in, or serving, each community in the planning and service area. These systems shall be designed to assist older people in leading independent, meaningful and dignified lives in their own homes and communities as long as possible.” (45 CFR 1321.53)

To build upon the mission statement, IDoA has selected increasing public visibility as a Statewide Initiative with a focus on raising awareness and sharing information about the availability of aging services and supports. Due to the impacts of the COVID pandemic, as well as the changing ways that individuals and communities consume media and communicate, it has become increasingly difficult to reach the targeted populations that would benefit from OAA-funded programs. A dedicated statewide initiative to increase the visibility of the available programs and services throughout Illinois will increase both the awareness, as well as the utilization of much-needed and sought after services.

AgeGuide’s strategy to increase visibility of the Aging Network includes multiple activities which began in FY25 and will continue through FY27.

- 1. Begin funding Title IIIB and IIIE Public Education Services to support grantee efforts to increase visibility of aging services in the community.**

Update: AgeGuide began funding both IIIB and IIIE Public Education services beginning October 1, 2025. This change was well received by our grantee network, allowing for funding dedicated to staff conducting these efforts and providing an opportunity to undertake innovative strategies to increase awareness. AgeGuide and its grantees identify that increasing awareness of services requires a mixed approach given the various avenues such as digital, print and in-person mechanisms where people receive information. Our network exceeded expectations for these services in FY25, and we anticipate this will continue during the remainder of FY26 and throughout FY27. Grantees are in their communities meeting with older adults and caregivers at fairs,

presentations, and other in-person opportunities where they can promote OAA services. Grantees will continue utilizing multimedia approaches to reach older adults and caregivers through website enhancements, social media posts, digital marketing campaigns, and radio advertising.

2. Expand the reach of AgeGuide’s media presence and outreach to more older adults, caregivers, kinship families, and professionals with information about services through digital ad campaigns, newspaper ads, opinion pieces, press releases, social media, newsletters, blog posts, YouTube videos, and monthly podcasts (The Age Guide).

Update: In FY26, AgeGuide increased its media outreach through eight press releases/Op Eds which were picked up by media outlets as well as releasing 11 podcasts on topics related to Ageism awareness. AgeGuide distributed its monthly newsletter (The Aging Report) and published 4-5 blog posts per month on aging issues. Outreach includes 8 legislative visits with state and federal policy makers, and 9 legislative outreach events. These included 3 regional Advocacy Breakfast Collaboratives, a Caregiver Caucus Breakfast in Springfield, an Advocacy Day in Springfield, and other state and national legislative outreach events. AgeGuide also regularly posted on social media networks, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram, resulting in 1.5M impressions and used social media ads to reach target audiences for campaigns. In FY27, AgeGuide plans to continue these efforts to reach Caregivers and educate legislators on the financial value of investing funding into Caregiver Support Services.

3. Improve access to information at both the AgeGuide and grantee levels through translated program materials and delivery of culturally appropriate, accessible services.

Update: AgeGuide updated its [county-based information sheets](#) in English and multiple other prevalent languages in our region to ensure access to service information. AgeGuide also began utilizing an accessibility tool for its website to increase access for people with disabilities and implemented the Language Line which provides phone and video-based language and ASL interpretation services. In addition, AgeGuide translated its most frequently used publications into Spanish and translated the Senior Medicare Patrol YouTube ads into both Spanish and Gujarati.

AgeGuide continues to partner with the Coalition of Limited English-Speaking Elders (CLESE) to conduct targeted outreach to culturally diverse older adults and caregivers

in its region. AgeGuide expanded its nutrition offerings to include additional culturally appropriate meals.

AgeGuide strengthened access to information by convening bi-monthly meetings of its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) Committee. With guidance from committee members representing its target populations, AgeGuide expanded outreach and promoted its programs using culturally responsive approaches. As a result, we successfully broadened awareness of AgeGuide events among diverse communities. In 2025, 32% of attendees at these events were from diverse populations. In FY27, AgeGuide will work closely with IDOA's Special Assistant for Community Engagement and Equity to ensure the Committee's priorities align with the Department on Aging's community engagement and equity plans.

4. Pilot new and innovative ways to interact and connect with people looking for services through digital marketing and technology solutions.

Update: AgeGuide continues to utilize new and innovative ways to engage with older adults and caregivers. AgeGuide has an established partnership with Connoisseur Media to conduct digital marketing and streaming radio campaigns to raise awareness of our services. AgeGuide regularly utilizes digital marketing for promotion of Medicare and Benefits Access Assistance and in FY26, expanded usage for caregiver services. Connoisseur Media works with AgeGuide to tailor digital campaigns based on our goals and funding availability. Digital marketing is also available in multiple languages. To date, AgeGuide has produced audio campaigns for both streaming radio and YouTube, to highlight Medicare support and the Trualta platform, as well as digital ad campaigns. AgeGuide's campaigns consistently exceed the national average for digital campaign performance. Targeted ads in areas with underserved populations outperformed the national average by 2-3 times. AgeGuide's digital ad campaigns in FY25 and FY26 have thus far received more than 2.7 million impressions. AgeGuide continues using VideoAsk software which utilizes AI and prerecorded messaging to support older adults and caregivers seeking benefits access information.

5. Participate in local community-based activities such as fairs, meetings and presentations.

Update: In FY2025, AgeGuide staff attended and/or presented at 140 locations throughout the region. Staff connected with over 115 legislators, delivered nearly 40 presentations, and participated in over 60 community meetings and senior/community resource fairs. Building on this momentum, FY2026 is already off to a strong start, with AgeGuide staff having attended or presented at 40 community meetings and

senior/community resource fairs. AgeGuide also continues to sponsor the Midweek Matinee at the Woodstock Opera House in McHenry County and its partnership with the Peoples's Resource Center by tabling at their foodbank and assisting participants with accessing services in DuPage County. In addition, AgeGuide has also fostered a relationship with the Illinois Education Association Council of Retirees and has conducted two Aging Network presentations to retired educators who live throughout the region. AgeGuide staff also sit on the ASA Chicagoland planning committee, helping plan and present on regional aging topics. AgeGuide anticipates these efforts to increase through FY26 and into FY27.

6. Continue funding Targeted Outreach to increase access of Limited English Proficient older adults, caregivers, and kinship families to our aging network services.

Update: AgeGuide continues to fund Targeted Outreach through the Coalition of Limited English-Speaking Elders (CLESE) in FY26 and will continue funding in FY27. Its partnership with CLESE is invaluable in connecting older adults and caregivers to our network when Limited English-speaking populations are hesitant to reach out or have a language barrier. CLESE has also helped AgeGuide translate outreach materials and needs assessment surveys into the most prevalent languages in each county.

7. Host advocacy events, site visits, and legislative aide trainings to help older adults collaborate in aging-related advocacy efforts with federal and state legislators.

Update: In January 2026, AgeGuide conducted training for its legislative aides and staffers to inform them of OAA services, resources, and legislative advocacy priorities. AgeGuide plans to host three Advocacy Breakfast Collaboratives across its region this year. One will be held in Aurora, one in DuPage and one will be held virtually to allow full participation in its region. AgeGuide plans to convene 3 events at its funded partners' so legislators can meet with older adult constituents in the community.

AgeGuide will meet with its State and Federal legislators in Springfield and Washington DC this Spring. We will also arrange legislative site visits during Summer Recess for legislators to visit funded partner sites and see aging services in action.

8. Host AgeGuide's annual Aging Summit to highlight aging issues, share potential solutions and advocacy strategies.

This year will mark AgeGuide's fifth annual Aging Summit. This one-day event will be built around livable, equitable communities for all ages. In past years, we've explored themes of longevity, equity, and economic resilience. This year's theme focuses on age-friendly communities with an emphasis on addressing housing challenges for older adults in our region.

9. Expand the Public Health Workforce and increase community outreach.

Update: In FY25, AgeGuide received a subaward from the American Rescue Plan Act via the Illinois Department on Aging to expand the public health workforce. This grant ended September 30, 2026. AgeGuide's Community Health Worker (CHW) continues to increase access to public benefits and caregiver support services throughout its 8-county region. The CHW focuses on building and fostering partnerships with the region's funded partners, local health departments, YMCA's, hospitals, and other community and healthcare partners to share resources, provide service referrals, and assist with service coordination where appropriate. In addition to attending multiple outreach events throughout the region, the CHW has been invited to participate in the following committees and meetings: Overdose Task Force Meeting (Kane Co.), MAPP Access to Food and Nutrition Meeting (Will Co.), Suicide and Injury Prevention Meeting (Kane Co.), Illinois Department of Public Health Ambassador Meeting. The CHW's involvement in these meetings will help AgeGuide learn more about the needs and resources of its region's older adults and caregivers, which will be beneficial in developing the next 3-year Area Plan.

Initiative #2: Drive continuous quality assurance and improvement activities that emphasize person-centered and trauma informed services while maximizing effectiveness of services delivered through the Aging Network.

As the lead agencies in the state and local areas, it is the duty of the State Agency on Aging (IDoA) and the AAAs to ensure the programs and services provided directly and through the community partner network are delivered utilizing person-centered and trauma-informed methods. Over time, Illinois has experienced significant changes in population, including an unprecedented increase in the percentage of older adults in our population. There has also been a significant increase in the number of older adults within racial and ethnic minorities, sexual and gender minorities, and minority religious populations.

Access to accurate, comprehensive, and timely data is vital to making informed decisions about community needs and service prioritization at the local, regional, and state levels. A focus on effectiveness and accuracy of services and programs will ensure maximization of the return on investment for funding and will ensure we are meeting the directives provided through the Older Americans Act and the Administration for Community Living's priorities.

AgeGuide's strategy to drive continuous quality assurance and improvement activities includes:

AgeGuide completes continuous monitoring of service performance. Staff review the performance and spending of grantees quarterly to ensure they are meeting targets and on track to fully expend their grant funding. AgeGuide reviews service performance, including program performance, variances and plans to remedy underperformance, as well as fiscal reporting. AgeGuide program, grants and fiscal staff meet to discuss trends in services, underperformance of 20% or more below the performance standard for the quarter, and disparities in spending. AgeGuide identifies follow-up actions, as needed, based on this assessment including meeting with grantees who are 20% or more below the performance standard to collaborate in addressing their performance issues. AgeGuide staff have created comprehensive training materials and resources for grantees to support their work to ensure accurate reporting and appropriate service delivery. AgeGuide staff work with grantees to ensure client demographics and program performance are entered into the AgingIS database. AgeGuide collects demographics each year on all services to ensure it's serving at least the incidence rate of the target populations as required by our grant agreements. Grantees who consistently do not meet their performance measures are placed on conditional status and receive more intensive support from AgeGuide to rectify conditions assigned to their grant renewal. AgeGuide conducts an on-site program and fiscal monitoring every three years as required by the IDOA's 1,000 Standards. Review of audit reports are completed on an annual basis by AgeGuide staff to ensure sound fiscal practices.

Update:

AgeGuide continues its established quality assurance plan in FY26. In anticipation of the new fiscal year, AgeGuide conducted in-person onboarding training for new grantees and new grantee staff, ensuring they have the information and resources to successfully deliver services and meet reporting requirements. AgeGuide meets with grantees regularly to ensure they are fulfilling the AgingIS reporting requirements. AgeGuide established its FY25-27 monitoring schedule and began FY25 monitoring in October 2024. AgeGuide continues to identify training needed to ensure grantee success. It holds monthly funded partner and quarterly program meetings, and reviews performance and expenses as detailed above. AgeGuide also offers “office hours” for some services, such as benefits access, to provide technical assistance and discuss grantee challenges and best practices. AgeGuide meets with our conditional grantees more frequently to provide individualized support based on their needs. The focus of this time together is to offer additional technical assistance, connect the grantee with community partners, and provide program improvement ideas. Most of AgeGuide’s training materials, including service standards videos, AgingIS training, FAQs and Quick Reference Guides and onboarding trainings are all available, on demand, on AgeGuide’s website. Further, AgeGuide now requires funded partners to develop and implement satisfaction and impact surveys to evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of Older Americans Act services they deliver. Starting FY26 and continuing in FY27, Title IIIC Nutrition partners will administer C-1 Community Dining and C-2 Home delivered Meal satisfaction surveys created by AgeGuide staff and approved by the Administration for Community Living as part of a prior grant deliverable. Nutrition providers will disseminate these surveys in the third quarter of each year. The goal will be to collect regional impact data on the value of these services for participants throughout the region. In addition, AgeGuide conducted satisfaction and impact surveys for its regional Information & Assistance service and Lake County Flexible Community Services program to evaluate program quality and outcomes, and these activities will continue into FY27.

Initiative #3: Increase public awareness and knowledge of caregiver needs, as well as resources and services available throughout the state of Illinois to promote increased caregiver engagement in person-centered, trauma informed, and evidence-based programs and services.

In FY23, IDoA partnered with the AAA network to facilitate twenty in-person and three virtual Caregiver Roundtables across the state of Illinois, to hear from informal family caregivers about the needs and challenges they face, both met and unmet, and to explore additional support that can enhance the caregiving journey.

Conversations so far have articulated the need for these services and the need to increase visibility for these resources. Across sessions, attendees discussed caregiving from a holistic

lens cutting across systems including healthcare, transportation, community supportive services, and individual (both caregiver and care receiver) needs, values, and preferences.

Caregiver training and education were also identified as needed for family caregivers and paid caregivers, including better understanding of chronic and terminal diseases, navigating healthcare systems including palliative care and hospice, physical caregiving (how to lift, transfer, bathe, groom, etc.), available caregiver resources, available resources for older adults, and caring for the caregiver.

In FY25-27, AgeGuide will utilize this Statewide Initiative as its Local Initiative, as allowed by the IDoA. This initiative supports AgeGuide’s caregiver outreach in follow-up to our local initiative for FY22-FY24.

Under this Statewide initiative, AgeGuide continues our provision of caregiver outreach, providing information and referral services along with services and supports through the following activities:

- 1. AgeGuide will begin funding IIIE Public Education services to increase public awareness of services and engage new caregivers and older relative caregivers.**

Update: In alignment with the Statewide initiative, in FY25 AgeGuide began funding Title IIIE Public Education under its current Area Plan cycle. Funding this service provides a strategic focus for our grantees to conduct outreach and public awareness activities. Grantees are embracing this service and documenting their public awareness activities both in AgingIS and through the quarterly caregiver services report. In FY26, several grantees utilized the funding provided through this initiative to hire dedicated staff to support public awareness efforts, including outreach, social media engagement, and collaboration with community partners. Partnerships were established with organizations such as the Alzheimer’s Association, local townships, hospitals, and faith-based organizations to broaden reach and increase community awareness.

- 2. AgeGuide and our grantees will increase awareness of services to kinship families through service on the Kinship Navigator Steering Committee, attendance of the Kinship Navigator Task Force, and increased connection with local child/family serving organizations.**

Update: AgeGuide continues our commitment to increasing the awareness of services available for kinship families through participation in the Kinship Navigator Steering Committee and the Task Force. In FY25, we continued our outreach efforts, connecting

with local schools and child-serving organizations to inform them of services and supports available for kinship families in the aging network. Outreach staff are providing resource bags to schools and organizations for their kinship families. These bags contain program flyers, provider listings, additional community-based resource lists, recommended reading lists, and a grandparents-raising grandchildren book. In FY25, AgeGuide partnered with local organizations to host a Kinship Resource Fair at a local school, providing targeted outreach and resources to identified kinship families. AgeGuide is also partnering with Trualta, an online caregiver training portal to provide free access to caregivers of all kinds, including kinship families. This resource is also shared in the resource bags.

We will continue our outreach efforts through community presentations and hosting outreach events in FY25 and FY26. In FY25, our providers also began utilizing the TCare module designed for kinship families. We are excited to see this expansion and look forward to further promoting the availability of the TCare assessment to kinship families across the region.

To ensure kinship families are included in planning for the next three-year cycle, we held a community listening session specifically to gather their input on needs and challenges. This feedback will be incorporated into our needs assessment and future planning.

3. AgeGuide will continue participating in the IL Family Caregiver Coalition to develop comprehensive advocacy and awareness of caregiver services across the state.

Update: AgeGuide staff continue to participate in the IL Family Caregiver Coalition. AgeGuide staff worked closely with key Coalition members to analyze quantitative data from the TCARE datalab and qualitative responses from our region's caregivers to develop impact infographics and show the return on investment that Family Caregiver Support Services provide to sustain State funding for these services in Illinois.

4. AgeGuide will continue to host its annual Caregiver Seminar in November to educate the public on topics surrounding caregivers and kinship families.

Update: AgeGuide hosted its FY26 Caregiver Seminar in November 2025, focusing on supporting caregivers of persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Our speaker, Dr. Beth Nolan, presented an overview of Teepa Snow's *A Positive Approach to Care*. Dr. Nolan's presentation was followed by a brief overview of

services and supports available in our state and region for caregivers of persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and presentations by TCare and Trualta and how their platforms support these families. The FY27 Caregiver Seminar will focus on caregivers with special attention to sharing resources for caregivers of veterans.

5. Promote the regionwide availability of Tailored Care (TCare) which is an evidenced-based assessment tool that pinpoints a caregiver's unique areas of stress and develops targeted interventions for the caregiver.

Update: AgeGuide continues to promote the availability of TCare across our region. AgeGuide grantees continue utilizing the TCare module available for kinship families and were retrained on how to access the module for caregivers of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through a new partnership with Disabled American Veterans (DAV), TCARE referrals can now be made for caregivers of veterans, with dedicated DAV Caregiver Specialists providing direct support and navigation. AgeGuide regularly shares our TCare outcomes with stakeholders and legislators to promote not only the availability of the service but also its effectiveness in supporting caregivers. We are excited to offer this valuable service to kinship families to ensure they are connected to the services and supports, needed to confidently parent again. See infographic below for more information.

6. Increase support for caregivers through educational opportunities.

Update: In our ongoing commitment to supporting caregivers and improving the quality of care for individuals with dementia, AgeGuide is partnering with leading organizations to expand training opportunities for both caregivers and our aging network grantees.

In November 2024, AgeGuide began our 2-year partnership with Trualta, an online learning platform for caregivers. Trualta provides 24/7 on demand, user friendly training for caregivers of all kinds, on a variety of topics from managing stress, supporting care recipients with chronic disease-including people with dementia, falls prevention, and caring for children and people with disabilities. Caregivers can also take advantage of online caregiver support and peer group communities to further enhance their caregiving journey at <https://ageguide.trualta.com>. During our first year of platform usage, we have enrolled 250 caregivers on the platform and are on pace to meet our goal of 500 caregivers enrolled by November 2026.

In addition to our collaboration with Trualta, AgeGuide began our partnership with Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care (PAC), launched in November 2024. This initiative focuses on building capacity within our network to provide better support for

people with dementia and their caregivers. Our caregiver resource and counseling center specialists became certified in A Positive Approach to Care, improving their ability to support caregivers through training and education and one one-on-one coaching through the difficulties of caring for people with dementia. In addition to certification, our network also has access to PACs online learning platform and Champion courses to expand our knowledge on working with persons with dementia.

To support regional caregivers, AgeGuide provides targeted educational programming focused on cultivating problem-solving skills and effective stress management.

Through our ongoing partnership with WellMed, we provide specialized training for caregiver counseling center specialists in the *Stress-Busting for Caregivers of Dementia and Chronic Illness*.

7. Increase the number of trauma-informed organizations providing services to caregivers and older persons.

Update: In November 2025, AgeGuide hosted a *Person-Centered Trauma-Informed Training* for our funded partners. The session, conducted by Furrunnecia Newberry, LCPC, explored trauma, trauma response, and practical ways aging network staff and volunteers can apply a trauma-informed approach when supporting older adults, caregivers, and families. Ms. Newberry also shared self-care techniques and several resources for those interested in learning more about trauma in a more body-based and culturally competent, yet clinical way. The training was recorded and will be available for viewing on AgeGuide's website.

FY25 TAILORED CARE SUPPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

CAREGIVER ACTIVITY IN ALL 8 COUNTIES

755 TOTAL ASSESSMENTS

898
**CASES
CREATED**

368
**FOLLOW
UPS**

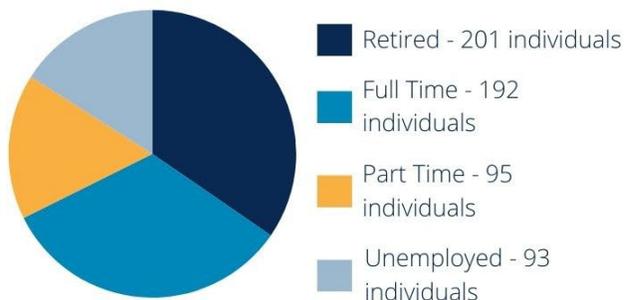
1,017
**CARE
PLANS**

DEMOGRAPHICS FOR ALL 8 COUNTIES

Caregiver by Race



Caregiver Employment Status



Caregiver by Gender



OUTCOMES FROM THE TCARE PROGRAM

Stress Burden

Negative state of mind from the caregiving situation



MAINTAINED
83% 304 Individuals

Depression

Conditions associated with the elevation or lowering of a person's mood



MAINTAINED
57% 104 Individuals

Uplifts

Positive outcomes that the caregiver gets after care plan



MAINTAINED
62% 228 Individuals



(800) 528-2000 · info@ageguide.org · www.AgeGuide.org
Serving DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake,
McHenry & Will Counties

AgeGuide's Service Priorities

These are the services that AgeGuide provides or funds for older adults and their caregivers in its PSA, from the many services that are allowed under the funding provisions of the Older Americans Act. The following list does not indicate the relative importance of one service over another, but rather service priorities designed to address the issues of aging holistically.

Title III-B Supportive Services

Aging and Disability Resource Network Access Package

- **Information & Assistance (I&A):** Provides individuals with current information on long-term services and support and connects people with resources that can help them such as accessing transportation, benefits, utility assistance, homemaker services etc.
- **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.
- **Options Counseling:** Person-centered, interactive, decision support process to make informed choices about long-term services and supports.
- **Flexible Community Services:** Financial assistance for the purchase of various services such as medical care and supplies, environmental and material aids-such as rent/mortgage, food, minor home modifications, and community access services such as transportation, not otherwise covered by insurance or other programming. FCS services are available for people aged 60+ or people 18-59 with a disability.

Other Supportive Services

- **Targeted Outreach:** Outreach focusing on minority and Limited English Proficient older adults and caregivers to facilitate the use of existing services and benefits.
- **Transportation:** Assistance with scheduling and providing door-to-door curb-to-curb, fixed and/or unfixed route transportation service including volunteer transportation.
- **Friendly Visiting:** Regular in person, virtual visits and/or phone calls by volunteers to socially isolated older adults to provide companionship and social contact with the community.

Community Connection Collaboratives: An intentional bundling of three services designed to support older adults in gaining or maintaining their health while fostering social connections.

- **Education:** Group-oriented lectures, classes, or workshops provide individuals with opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills suited to their interests and capabilities.

- **Health Screenings and Evaluations:** Assist individuals in identifying, detecting, and evaluating their health needs or potential needs.
- **Recreation:** Group activities which foster the health and social well-being of individuals.

Title III-C Nutrition Programs

Congregate Meals (C-1): Meal served to an older person, in a center or at a restaurant, strategically located to maximize access by older people within a community and to promote socialization.

- **Grab and Go options** are also available for older adults who attend scheduled social activities, however, are not able to stay for the meal.

Home Delivered Meals (C-2): Meal served to older people who are homebound due to physical or mental impairment and unable to adequately provide their own meals.

- **Emergency Shelf-Stable Meals:** Meals provided to congregate, and home delivered meal participants to ensure that each participant has a minimum of five days of shelf-stable meals in the event of emergencies, weather-related conditions, etc.
- **Food Box Option:** Bi-monthly grocery delivery program offered to homebound older adults who can cook meals for themselves. The program has limited availability in AgeGuide's planning and service area.

Title III-D Health Promotions Programs

- **Health Promotions Programs:** Evidence-based programs are multi-session educational and self-efficacy based workshops that promote better health and wellness among older people. Strategies employed within these programs build life skills emphasizing self-care and management. These programs also promote socialization, reduce isolation through group classes and exercise activities. Only programs that are accepted as highest-tiered evidence-based programs by any operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can be considered under Title III-D. This includes programs listed on ACL's Aging and Disability Evidence-Based Programs and Practices.

Title III-E Family Caregiver Support Program Services

The National Family Caregiver Support Program serves family and friends who care for people aged 60 and over or people with Alzheimer's disease at any age. The program also supports grandparents and other non-parent relatives over 55 who are caring for children under 19 or adults 19-59 years old with a disability.

Caregiver Resource Center Services (CRC)

- **Public Education:** A service for caregivers that provides the public and individuals with information on resources and services available to the individuals within their communities.
- **Case Management/Assistance:** Provides Tailored Caregiver Assessment and Referral (TCARE) assessments for caregivers to develop a care plan and determine if Respite and/or Gap-Filling services might be needed. Also, assists caregivers obtain access to other services and resources available in their communities.
- **Respite:** Provides temporary, substitute supports or living arrangements for care receivers to provide a brief period of relief or rest for primary caregivers.
- **Gap-Filling:** Provides flexible funding and includes emergency response services and items not covered by insurance nor paid by any other means.

Caregiver Counseling Center Services (CCC)

- **Counseling:** Provides advice, guidance, and life coaching to an individual caregiver or relative raising children. Counseling assists with role identity, permission to seek help, decision-making and solving problems relating to their caregiving roles.
- **Caregiver Training:** Provides education to caregivers either individually or in a group. Caregiver training is designed to inform caregivers about self-care skills and/or to instruct them in skills to care for the care receiver.
- **Support Groups:** Provides for the organization of one or more group settings to provide advice, guidance, and support to caregivers on an ongoing basis.

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Services

- **ADRD Supportive Gap:** Financial assistance for people of any age with dementia (diagnosed or undiagnosed), and/or their caregivers, for services and supports such as respite, assistive technology, home modifications, and other eligible services.

Title III-B and Title VII Elder Rights Services

- **Long Term Care Ombudsman:** Resident-directed advocacy program which protects and improves the quality of life for Long-term Care facility residents by working to resolve problems related to the health, safety, welfare, and rights of individuals.

- **Adult Protective Services (APS):** Provides investigation, intervention, and follow-up services to victims of alleged abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of people 60 years of age and older and people 18–59 years of age with a disability. Title VII funding supports APS programs through funding for Fatality Review Teams, Multidisciplinary Teams and staff training needs.
- **Legal Services:** Includes arranging for and providing assistance in resolving civil legal matters, protecting legal rights, providing legal advice, community legal education and research concerning legal rights and responsibilities by an attorney at law or a person under the supervision of an attorney.

Service Definition	FY27 Projected Persons	FY27 Projected Units
Title III-B Access Services		
Options Counseling	955	2,290
Information and Assistance	45,980	81,276
Outreach	370	370
Transportation	2,150	19,345
Public Education	6,200	62
Title III-B In Home Services		
Friendly Visiting	467	16,900
Title III-B Community Services		
Education	1,882	18,821
Health Screening	1,480	2,959
Recreation	1,980	9,215
Legal Assistance	1,354	8,965
Flexible Community Services	320	320
Title III-B/Title VII Ombudsman		
Ombudsman	33,309	33,309
Title VII Elder Abuse Community Services		
Elder Abuse	N/A	N/A
Title C-1 Community Services		
Congregate Meals	11,300	156,800
Title C-2 In Home Services		
Home Delivered Meals	9,400	1,313,000
Title III-D Health Promotions		
Health Promotions Programs	305	3,940
Title III-E Assistance Services		
Case Management	6,896	206,888
Information and Assistance	875	875
Public Education	2,400	24
Title III-E Counseling/Training/Education		
Counseling	342	2,056
Support Groups	320	1,003
Training and Education	588	7,644
Title III-E Respite		
Respite	396	19,806
Title III-E Supplemental Services		
Gap Filling	621	622
ARD Supportive Gap Filling	105	105

AgeGuide Direct Services and Waiver Justification

AgeGuide proposes to continue its provision of Program Development, Coordination and Advocacy services and is requesting \$1,092,609 of Title IIIB funding to support region-wide activities in FY27.

Program Development

Update: Beginning in FY25 and through FY26, AgeGuide has been conducting community needs assessment activities across its region. These efforts included distributing surveys and hosting listening sessions to gather input from stakeholders, community leaders, older adults, and caregivers. The feedback collected is currently being analyzed and will be shared with the public during a virtual presentation on June 18. These findings will inform the development of its next three-year Area Plan. AgeGuide staff are also preparing for the Public Hearings on the FY2027 Area Plan, scheduled for April 1-2, 2026.

When the community needs assessment identifies a need for a new service, AgeGuide may launch a pilot program, enhance or expand an existing program, or collaborate with key community leaders and organizations to address service gaps and barriers. This year, AgeGuide has supported the seamless transition to a new nutrition provider in McHenry County, which involved extensive onboarding and coordinated transition planning with both the outgoing and incoming providers.

In November of FY26, AgeGuide offered a Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed Vicarious Trauma training to help funded partners recognize and address compassion fatigue and secondary traumatic stress. In FY27, AgeGuide will continue to provide a variety of technical assistance to support partners in delivering high-quality services including

Provide Technical Assistance to Funded Partners:

- AgeGuide plans to partner with Billy Rogers, Illinois LGBTQ State Advocate, to provide OUTSAFE trainings to its funded partners, staff, and Board and Advisory Council members in FY26 and FY27.
- mandatory monthly funded partner meetings,
- quarterly service-specific meetings,
- and special conditions meetings to support partners who need additional technical support with service design, delivery, reporting or fiscal processes.

In FY27, AgeGuide plans to:

- Enhance Memory Cafes throughout the region,
- Pilot a Home Delivered Meal Grab and Go program that will transition into community dining.
- Pilot Title III E Caregiver legal services to assist caregivers with their needs.

Coordination

Update: AgeGuide works closely with its funded and community partners to build strong relationships with service providers and funding agencies.

- In FY26 the Nutrition Team collaborated with the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) to increase awareness of nearby community dining sites for older adults picking up monthly food boxes. Informational flyers placed in the boxes highlighted local dining locations, hours, and invitations to upcoming events. This partnership increased participation in community dining, strengthened social connections, and provided nutritious meals to food insecure older adults.
- hosted an Aging and Disability Collaborative event with organizations serving older adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This event strengthened relationships, encouraged information sharing, and ensured that older adults with ID/DD are connected to the benefits and resources for which they qualify.
- led the region's first coordinated strategy uniting Health Departments and the Aging Network to enhance social connection across the lifespan. Through quarterly roundtables and two focused workgroups, AgeGuide has provided the structure and momentum needed to move shared goals into action. Beginning in FY26 and continuing through FY27, partners will analyze regional data and explore opportunities to develop an intergenerational approach designed to increase social connection. The goal is to create a model that can be replicated across the region.

Advocacy

Updates: AgeGuide strives to ensure that older adults receive the services and benefits to which they are entitled.

- **AgeGuide's YouTube channel:** Received 266,130 views from three Senior Medicare Patrol educational ads. The Medicare How-To series also continues to perform well, with more than 600 views of the English version and 408 views of the Spanish version.
- **Action Alerts:** Provided more than 3,400 Action Alert letters were sent by 596 advocates. These advocacy efforts will continue throughout FY26 and FY27.
- **The Age Guide Podcast:** Produced successful 11 podcasts that have earned more than 5,000 listens. In FY25, the podcast focused on raising awareness about ageism, its impact, and strategies to confront it. In FY26, the focus expanded to healthy aging, the importance of social connection, rethinking healthcare, and other key topics. Each episode features timely insights from nationally recognized experts, and this work will continue into FY27.
- **Legislative Advocacy: Aide Kickoff** to share the Illinois Area Agencies on Aging's (I4A's) federal and state legislative priorities.

- **Advocacy Breakfast Collaboratives**, which provide a forum to discuss the impact of Older Americans Act services and encourage legislators to prioritize these programs in state and federal budgets. These advocacy events will continue in FY27.
- **Ageing Summit**, bringing together more than 200 aging-network professionals, older adults, and thought leaders to explore key issues that shape how people age in their communities. This year's theme is focused on housing and how we can create communities where every older adult has a safe, affordable, and accessible home and feels supported, and valued. This important convening will also continue in FY27.

AgeGuide also proposes to continue to provide Title III-B/E Information & Assistance and Title III-D Health Promotion & Disease Prevention and requests Direct Service Waivers to directly provide these services in FY27.

Title III-B/ Title III-E Information & Assistance

AgeGuide provides a variety of region-wide Information & Assistance activities to help older adults, family caregivers, people with disabilities, and kinship families connect with local services and resources. AgeGuide and its network serve as a visible, accessible, consumer-focused, integrated access point where individuals of all ages, incomes, and disabilities can receive information and assistance, assessment of needs, options counseling, referral assistance in completing benefits applications, and follow-up to ensure that referrals and services are accessed.

AgeGuide intends to continue to perform the following activities:

- Maintain a staff person who is a certified Aging and Disabilities Community Resource Specialist (CRS A/D).
- Assist individuals requesting information and resources through phone calls, email, chat and in-person assistance.
- Connect individuals through warm transfers to AgeGuide's network of funded partners when more in-depth assistance is needed and offer additional resources as necessary.
- Assist with applications for IDoA's Benefit Access program and provide objective insurance counseling and assistance to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers through the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP).
- Respond to inquiries from family caregivers and kinship relatives requesting training, education, and supportive services.
- Utilize a client software system, iCarol, to collect and maintain information on client demographics and needs to support reporting, quality assurance, and assessment activities.

- Maintain an information and assistance resource directory in iCarol which supports the public Illinois Aging Services resource website (<https://www.agingis.com/csdpublic/>).
- Produce region-wide resource materials in multiple languages and accessible formats promoting Aging Network services for distribution across the eight-county region at senior centers, hospitals, faith-based organizations, libraries, etc.

AgeGuide Direct Service Waiver Justification:

As of this writing, AgeGuide funds ten Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) Information & Assistance (I&A) partners and eight Caregiver Resource Center Access Assistance partners at the local level. However, AgeGuide determined that it should also directly provide Information & Assistance as organizations, businesses, and government entities consider Agencies on Aging the most efficient and manageable place to start. AgeGuide has also demonstrated that it is effective in meeting the needs of caregivers through its delivery of caregiver information and its representation of the regional caregiver partner network. AgeGuide’s 800 number and website continue to be an effective means of access in our area for statewide and federal initiatives. The Elder Care Locator (USAgging) and the IDoA Helpline direct callers seeking information to AgeGuide. Many of these callers are then connected to the ADRN partners and Caregiver partners as they continue to be the primary entities for coordination of services and resources to support older adults, caregivers, and kinship families in their communities. This creates “no wrong door” access to long-term support service information and assistance for older adults, their families, and people with disabilities with a special emphasis on caregivers and kinship families. AgeGuide continues to be in an essential position to provide I&A services as it is a well-known and respected organization whose only interest is to represent the aging network across all eight counties. AgeGuide can offer regional information, as well as information about services provided in the other PSAs.

Projected number of persons: 4,235; Projected units: 4,375

AgeGuide is seeking continued approval for FY2025-2027 and is requesting \$225,000, shared among Title III-B and III-E funds to support region-wide Information & Assistance activities.

Title III-D Health Promotion Service:

AgeGuide proposes to continue to provide Title III-D direct service. AgeGuide is in a unique position to provide Title III-D Health Promotion activities more efficiently through its regional coordination and its active participation in statewide healthy aging and falls prevention collaborations. Providing and delivering evidence-based programs region-wide requires

support for the training, program costs, and licensing fees. AgeGuide intends to continue to perform the following activities:

- Facilitate program coordination, supplying program materials in bulk, and distributing program resources for overall partner operations.
- Hold program licensing and certifications for Bingocize, Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP), Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP), Tomando Control de su Salud (Spanish CDSMP), A Matter of Balance, Fit & Strong, Stress-Busting for Family Caregivers of People with Dementia (English and Spanish versions), National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP), Stress-Busting for Family Caregivers of People with Chronic Illnesses and Tai Ji Quan-Moving for Better Balance (TJQMBB).
- Retain Master trained staff in A Matter of Balance and Stress-Busting for Family Caregivers.
- Recruit and train additional leaders through grantees and professional partnerships.
- Monitor program fidelity to maintain program adherence ensuring quality assurance for all participants.
- Participate in statewide healthy aging initiatives and collaborations, the Illinois Falls Prevention Coalition, and Illinois Pathways to Health ACL grant.

AgeGuide Direct Service Waiver Justification:

Provision of these activities by AgeGuide is necessary to assure an adequate, equitable supply of health promotion programs across the region and to target these limited resources to better serve high risk populations.

To leverage the impact of available funding and reach the most participants, providers may operate these programs and receive training support under AgeGuide’s licensing agreements. AgeGuide will focus heavily on recruiting and training additional leaders through our relationships with grantees and professional partnerships. AgeGuide will continue to assist our Title III-D funded providers in facilitating programs, providing support to all leaders in the areas of program fidelity, recruiting and retaining leaders, tracking, and preparing workshops, and completion of all required reports to retain licensure. AgeGuide will continue to assist its funded providers in outreach and marketing of their Title III-D programs to overcome barriers in recruiting participants to their programs.

Projected number of persons: 45; Projected units: 300

AgeGuide is seeking continued approval for FY2025-2027 and is requesting \$60,000 for III-D Health Promotion Program Activities.

Step 5: Modification and Refinement

AgeGuide recognizes the need to both preserve and enhance effective programs and services funded today, and to look ahead to how its service design can evolve to be of the greatest benefit to its communities in the future. If there is a need for modification and/or refinement to a service, AgeGuide will take the following steps:

- Identify any modification or refinement by the applicable fiscal year and date submitted.
- Describe what intervention caused the AAA to change its Area Plan.
- Identify the modifications to the Area Plan because of the intervention.

With information from results of AgeGuide's Needs Assessment, IDOA's Caregiver Needs Assessment, and the Statewide Initiatives established by IDOA, AgeGuide made the following service delivery changes in FY25 which will continue through the FY25-27 Area Plan Cycle:

1. Discontinuation of Title III-B Outreach to fund Title III-B Public Education.
2. Integrate Title III-B Telephone Reassurance activities into Title III-B Friendly Visiting.
3. Discontinuation Title III-B Counseling.
4. Modifications to Title III-B Service Shares, including increases for Title III-B Friendly Visiting, III-B Legal, and III-B Community Connection Collaboratives.
5. Baseline allocation for all Title III-D providers and utilization of the county funding formula to allocate the remaining funds.
6. Discontinuation of AgeGuide direct service Title III-E Music and Memory and Sing Along programs.
7. Discontinuation of Title III-E Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia funding for Stressbusters for Family Caregivers Programs.
8. Decrease Title III-E Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia funding for Supportive Gap services.
9. Adjust the Title III-E Caregiver Resource Center Service Share to increase III-E Assistance and decrease III-E Respite.
10. Adjust the Title III-E Caregiver Counseling Center Service Share to increase funding for III-E Training and Education and decrease III-E Support Groups.

Further, after thoughtful review, AgeGuide discontinued its III-B Tech and Education (*Tablets to Seniors*) direct service prior to the start of FY26. A combination of factors contributed to this decision, including the expansion of the Department on Aging's Illinois Care Connections program which provides technology and assistive devices to older adults living in the community. AgeGuide will continue with these changes in FY27.

Additional Services for Older Adults

AgeGuide receives funds outside of traditional Older Americans Act programs and these responsibilities fall into two categories: 1) Additional Services for Older Adults and 2) Special Projects – Public/Private Collaborations.

Adult Protective Services

AgeGuide is the Regional Administering Agency (RAA) for the IL Adult Protective Services (APS) program in PSA 02 under an Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) grant. AgeGuide supports five Adult Protective Service Provider Agencies (APSPAs) who investigate reports of alleged abuse, neglect, exploitation, and self-neglect for adults 60+ and people with disabilities ages 18-59. AgeGuide assists IDOA with quality assurance and compliance activities and support programs by providing technical assistance to program staff. Staff participate in the Illinois Adult Protective Services Advisory Council. APSPAs are paid directly by IDoA to conduct investigations and/or case management. AgeGuide funds APSPAs for Multi-Disciplinary Teams (M-Teams) activities, Fatality Review Teams, and training through Title VII funds. In FY27, AgeGuide anticipates approximately \$61,000 in funding under this grant to perform the RAA activities.

Employment Programs

AgeGuide receives State Senior Employment Specialist Program (SESP) funding to assist seniors 55 and older with job referrals and coordination with National Able Network, State Employment Offices, and Workforce Boards. The Senior Community Service Employment (SCSEP) is a community service and work-based job training program for adults 55 and older. The program provides training for low-income, unemployed older adults. Eligible participants also have access to employment assistance through American Job Centers. This program can be used as a supplement to Social Security income or as an opportunity for socialization. In FY27, AgeGuide anticipates \$16,662 in funding.

Illinois Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The USDA Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) awards grants to provide low-income seniors with \$25 worth of vouchers that can be exchanged for eligible foods at participating farmers' markets and roadside stands. Eligible older adults are 60+ years old with household incomes of no more than 185% of the Federal poverty income guidelines. AgeGuide has administered the SFMNP in Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry Counties with the help of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Joliet (Kankakee County), Kendall County Health Department, Senior Services Associates (Kendall County), Fremont Township, Moraine Township, Patricia A. Jones Center (Lake County), Senior Services Associates and Door Township (McHenry County). The purpose of SFMNP is to:

1. Promote the routine consumption of fruits and vegetables as a part of the daily diet.
2. Provide low-income older adults with access to locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey, and herbs.
3. Increase the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities through farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agricultural programs.
4. Aid in the development of new and additional farmers markets, roadside stands, and community support agricultural programs.

The SFMNP and AgeGuide will work with senior network providers to distribute coupons to eligible older adults in Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry Counties. Redeeming the vouchers is the responsibility of the participant, and timely redemption is essential to the overall success of the program.

Medicare Assistance Activities

Medicare increasingly relies on the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) and in Illinois, the Senior Health Assistance Program (SHAP), which funds local Medicare assistance efforts statewide.

SHIP uses a small professional staff and a large corps of highly trained volunteers to provide objective local assistance to Medicare enrollees and people approaching Medicare eligibility. SHIP staff help navigate Medicare enrollment, cost and benefit explanation, and the availability of financial assistance programs for low-income participants; along with many other questions related to Medicare and Medicaid. Funds provided by the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) supplement SHAP funds and concentrate primarily on benefits for low-income Medicare enrollees.

Medicare enrollees and people approaching Medicare eligibility often need assistance on when and how to enroll; the choices they have for Part D drug plans, Medicare Advantage plans, and supplemental policies; the costs and benefits of various parts of Medicare; the availability of financial assistance for low-income participants; Medicare's relationship to other forms of health insurance; and sources of information and assistance about Medicare. The Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) providers in AgeGuide's region are both SHIP and SHAP/MIPPA sites. Funding for these activities varies each year.

Benefits Access Applications

AgeGuide and its Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) grantees receive funding to assist older adults and people with disabilities in completing Benefit Access Applications (BAA) through the Illinois Department on Aging. Benefit Access Applications are submitted to the Illinois Department on Aging for license plate discounts and Ride Free transit cards.

AgeGuide and the ADRN grantees completed a total of 4061 applications in State fiscal year 2025. The Illinois Department on Aging awards AgeGuide approximately \$83,500 for this grant based on a \$25 per submitted application rate. AgeGuide and the ADRN grantees received payment based on applications submitted until the grant was exhausted. AgeGuide and ADRN Grantees are required to be SHAP sites to receive this funding.

Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)

With the leadership of a Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) coordinator and the support of the State Grantee, volunteers with the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) are working to ensure fewer people become victims of healthcare fraud. SMP is an ACL federal initiative that recruits and trains volunteers to help people recognize and report healthcare billing errors and potential fraud. The primary goal of this program is to *“Protect, Detect, and Report”* Medicare and Healthcare fraud.

The Illinois SMP Program is administered by AgeOptions. AgeGuide has a direct service grant to partner in the delivery of the program in the counties we serve. These activities include training and hosting volunteers to provide outreach and education in our community, including presenting to groups, hosting exhibits at community events and senior fairs. In FY27, AgeGuide anticipates receiving \$20,000 in funding to perform the above activities. In FY26, AgeGuide received an SMP Special Project grant in the amount of \$5,000 to create and run YouTube videos in English, Spanish and Gujarati to increase awareness of SMP. AgeGuide plans to apply for the SMP Special Project funding in FY27.

Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children Program (State Grant)

According to the Illinois Department on Aging, there are 211,919 children in Illinois under 18 living in a grandparent-headed household. One main reason for the increase in kinship families is substance abuse and alcoholism that has created a need for grandparents to step in and parent their grandchildren. Grandparents raising grandchildren over the age of 55 are eligible to receive OAA funded services. Unfortunately, relatives under the age of 55 are not eligible to receive OAA services. Therefore, there are very few resources to assist them. In FY26, AgeGuide continued to assist younger grandparents with financial assistance. If awarded funding in FY27, AgeGuide plans to continue our supportive efforts to this specific population to provide safe, stable, and loving homes for children being raised by grandparents. Services such as counseling, legal assistance, respite, and gap-filling will be provided to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren under the age of 55 through this program. It is unknown at the writing of this document how much funding will be available. In FY26, AgeGuide was awarded \$19,000.

Dementia Friendly Illinois

Dementia Friendly Illinois is now part of the Area Plan funding AgeGuide receives. This funding focuses solely on establishing Dementia Friendly Communities in our Planning and Service Area. AgeGuide supports this initiative by helping local municipalities in becoming Dementia Friendly and offering online training for individuals and businesses to understand dementia and how to support people when encountering them in various community sectors such as in public transportation, healthcare settings, restaurants, retail locations, etc. In FY25 and FY26, the following communities in AgeGuide's region received Dementia Friendly designation: Downers Grove (DuPage County) and Tinley Park (Will and Cook Counties). In FY27, AgeGuide is working with Antioch (Lake County), Aurora (Kane County), and Lombard (DuPage County) to obtain designation.

Special Projects – Public/Private Collaboration

Illinois Veteran Directed Care

The Illinois Veteran Directed Care (VDC) Program was established following the 2009 initiative that enabled Veterans Administration Medical Centers (VAMCs) to offer home and community-based support services through the Veterans Directed Home & Community-Based Services Program (VDHCBS). This program is now nationally known as the Veteran Directed Care (VDC) Program.

The VDC Program provides eligible Veterans who are at risk of nursing home placement with flexible, cost-effective services that support their health and independence. As a consumer-directed model, VDC allows Veterans to develop a person-centered service plan that reflects their individual needs, goals, and preferences. This approach helps Veterans remain safely in their homes and communities while receiving the level of support they require.

AgeGuide serves as an administrative partner to the VAMCs by delivering options counseling services and person-centered guidance to enrolled veterans. AgeGuide collaborates closely with VDC Program Directors at participating VAMCs to ensure each Veteran's service plan is coordinated, responsive, and tailored to their healthcare and social support needs. AgeGuide provides services across all counties within our planning and service area as well as expanding service areas in Illinois and Indiana as long as the Veteran is enrolled with one of our affiliated VAMCs.

Veterans enrolled in VDC may use their individualized budget to hire caregivers of their choice (including certain family members), purchase approved goods and services that support their care needs, and make home modifications that promote safety and accessibility. This flexibility—combined with comprehensive support from AgeGuide—

ensures that veterans can direct their own care in ways that best enhance their daily living and independence.

AgeGuide currently partners with five Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC) to deliver VDC services including: Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, Edward J. Hines VAMC, Jesse Brown VAMC, Illiana Danville VAMC, and the Northern Indiana VAMC. Currently, AgeGuide partners with CoAction in Indiana and Age Central in Peoria, Illinois, through a Hub-and-Spoke model. Under this model AgeGuide delivers services in our planning and service area as well as providing training, oversight, and administrative support to partner agencies who provide options counseling to veterans residing in their respective service areas.

Quality of life remains a central focus of the VDC Program. When surveyed 95% of Veterans reported satisfaction with the program overall. All (100%) agreed that VDC improved the quality of life of their primary caregivers, helped them remain safely in their homes, and increased their overall independence. Additionally, 90% of surveyed Veterans stated that program services helped prevent placement in a long-term care facility.

AgeGuide's Aging Summit

Next year will mark AgeGuide's 5th Aging Summit. In past years, we've explored themes of longevity, equity, economic resilience and brain health. This is an annual event built around timely and important topics related to aging. In past years, we've explored themes of longevity, equity, and economic resilience.

With over 220 attendees in FY2025, we met and exceeded all of our goals for the Aging Summit. The first goal was to have at least 25% of attendees stay to participate in the bonus Dementia Friendly Champion training. This goal was met and exceeded with 32% of overall attendees becoming Dementia Champions. The second goal was to have at least 15% of the attendees who identified demographically as part of the older Americans Act target population including, individuals who were 75 years of age or older, were limited English speakers, or people of color. This goal was also met.

Next year's theme is about building a future where every older adult has a safe, affordable, and accessible home in a community where they are supported, connected, and valued. This Summit brings together partners across sectors to advance real solutions that preserve, improve, and expand housing options for older adults. The event is dedicated to housing solutions that support aging at home and in the communities we love.

FY26 RESOURCES & FUNDING PRACTICES

AgeGuide Resources

Anticipated Older Americans Act, State General Revenue and Other Federal Funds

By authorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA), the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) provides funds to AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois from the Administration on Community Living (ACL), in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. These funds are to be used in the eight-county planning and service area that includes DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties for the purposes described below:

Federal Older Americans Act Resources

Title III-B: Administration and Social Services, including IDoA determined set-aside for Ombudsman

Title III-C1: Administration and Congregate (Community Dining) Meals

Title III-C2: Administration and Home Delivered Meals

Title III-D: Evidence-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Title III-E: Administration and National Family Caregiver Support Program

Title VII: Administration and Adult Protective Services and Ombudsman Training and Support

Illinois State General Revenue Funds

- **Title III Match:** Administration and Home Delivered Meals, Information & Assistance, Friendly Visiting, or other Area Plan Services.
- **Home Delivered Meals:** Mandated IDoA-determined set-aside for Home Delivered Meals
- **Community-Based Services:** Information & Assistance, Transportation, or other community-based services, including special set-asides for state initiatives.
- **Caregiver Support Services:** Caregiver services including Assistance including Tailored Care (TCARE), Gap, Respite, Training & Education including Trualta, Counseling, and Support Groups.
- **Long Term Care Ombudsman:** Resolve problems related to the health, safety, welfare, and rights of individuals who live in Long-Term Care facilities.
- **Senior Health Assistance Program (SHAP):** Support and counseling for Medicare beneficiaries to enroll in Part D and other benefits.

- **Adult Protective Services (APS) Program Regional Administration Agency (RAA):** AgeGuide performs regional administrative agency responsibilities to support the Adult Protective Services program.
- **Senior Employment Specialist Program:** Advocacy and referrals to Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) grantees in our region.
- **Illinois Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children (GRG):** Provides counseling, legal assistance, respite, and gap-filling services to grandparents and other relatives to support grandchildren and to provide safe, stable, and loving homes.
- **Dementia Friendly:** Statewide initiative to establish communities equipped to support people living with dementia and their caregivers through education, awareness, and resources.

Other Federal Resources

- **Nutrition Services Incentive Program Funds:** Support for Congregate and Home Delivered Meals based on prior year count of meals served.
- **Medicare Improvements for Patients & Providers (MIPPA):** Outreach and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries to apply for benefit programs.
- **Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP):** Health insurance counseling service for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers.
- **Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP):** Prevent, detect, and report Medicare and Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse.
- **Senior Farmer's Market Program:** Federally funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is jointly coordinated by Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) & Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), Bureau of Family Nutrition. Additional nutrition program to provide older adults with vouchers to spend at Illinois Farmer's Markets

Federal & State Resources and Policy Implications

Federal and State resources affect public policies, which in turn affect the services that are available to address the needs of the community. The rapidly growing and diverse aging population created an increased demand for services provided under the Older Americans Act and the federal entitlement programs of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Planning for and serving our aging population is an investment in the well-being of all Americans because our services benefit people of all ages and abilities.

FY26 Federal Budget

Source: US Aging [US Aging's appropriations chart](#).

On February 3, 2026 Congress passed the FY26 budget. FY26 funding levels are as follows:

Key Older Americans Act (OAA) FY26 funding levels:

- \$414 million for **Home & Community-Based Supportive Services**
- \$1.1 billion for **Nutrition Services**
- \$209 million for the **National Family Caregiver Support Program**
- \$26.3 million for **Evidence-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention**
- \$26.7 million for **Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program**

Impact of Loss of Federal Relief Funds

From 2022-2024 AgeGuide received an additional \$10M from Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) relief funds. These funds allowed the aging network to invest in special projects, innovations, outcome data enhancements, and other much-needed service expansions to meet the needs of the growing aging population in our region. However, this funding ended in FY25. With the lack of comparable new investments from the Federal and state levels, the aging network is no longer able to maintain this enhanced service delivery.

When ARPA funds were initially allocated, Area Agencies on Aging and our funded partners were understandably concerned about the temporary nature of these funds and the risk of increasing their level of service for a limited time. However, we were assured that by investing these resources and showing impact and value, we could expect increased investments to support aging services reversing the tide of the decade-long history of disinvestment. AgeGuide and its network utilized these relief funds to hire needed staff, expand services, and extend its outreach to serve more older adults. Services were expanded to target populations including those older adults who live alone, are at or below the poverty level, are 75 years of age or older, limited-English speaking, and are minorities. Now that ARPA funding has ended, programs have begun to scale back services, even though the need is still there. If funding isn't increased to previous ARPA levels, older adults across our region and the state, who have come to rely on vital Older Americans Act services, will go unserved.

Congress will soon be making 2027 fiscal year appropriation decisions and it is essential we continue to advocate for investment in essential aging services.

FY27 Proposed State Budget

Source: <https://budget.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/budget/documents/budget-book/fy2027-budget/Fiscal-Year-2027-Operating-Budget.pdf>.

On February 18, 2026, Governor JB Pritzker shared his FY2027 operating budget. The \$2.2 million budget for the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) includes a \$166.8 million increase

in funding for the Community Care Program (CCP) to accommodate caseload and utilization growth. The recommended budget also includes a \$3.3 million increase in funding for Adult Protective Services to accommodate improvements in service quality and caseload increases. This budget serves as a starting point and final numbers for an approved FY27 budget are not yet available.

FY26 State Budget Overview

Funding Source*	FY26 Enacted	FY27 Proposed Budget	Change From FY26 \$	Change From FY26 %
General Revenue Fund (GRF)	\$1,824.6	\$1,999.0	-\$174.4	9.6%
Federal*	\$212.8	\$213.1	\$316.8	.15%
Other State	\$13.4	\$13.7	\$0.3	2.2%
Total **	\$2,050.7	\$2,225.8	\$175.1	8.5%

*Federal funding is in thousands. All other numbers are in millions

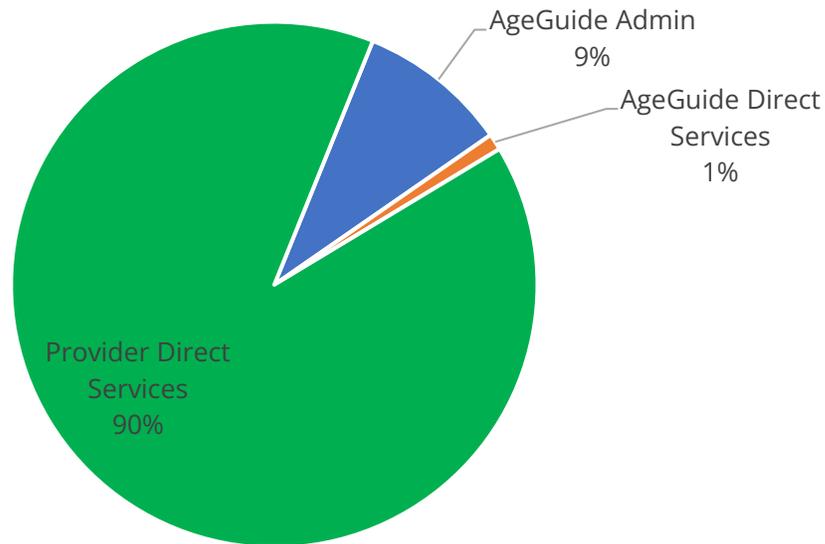
**Totals may not be exact due to rounding

Dissemination of Federal and State Resources

AgeGuide Administrative Activities

AgeGuide administers federal and state funding for Older Americans Act services that are available to any person aged 60 or older, their caregivers and families. These services are targeted to older adults in greatest social and economic need. AgeGuide closely monitors service delivery to ensure that funded partners provide quality outcomes, and funding is spent appropriately. AgeGuide awards more than \$27 million annually in federal and state funding to more than 35 community-based service organizations. The Older Americans Act restricts agency administration costs to 10% of the Title III allocation, per Letter 27AP2, and permits Area Agencies on Aging to provide “administratively related direct services” of advocacy, coordination, and program development.

FY2027 Projected Expenditures



AgeGuide receives Federal and State funding (\$1,803,565) from the Department of Aging strictly for the administrative function of the agency. The operational budget includes personnel, benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, occupancy, telecommunications, training and education, and miscellaneous costs in accordance with the Grants Accountability Transparency Act (GATA).

For FY26, the Illinois Department on Aging caps AgeGuide's use of "administratively related direct services: solely for the agency's administrative functions at \$3,624,203. The AgeGuide allocation for Title III administratively related direct service is \$1,092,609 and is 30% of the maximum cap for FY27 set by the Illinois Department of Aging.

AgeGuide's allocation for Title III-B Administrative Related Direct Service includes Advocacy (\$571,934), Coordination (\$255,718), and Program Development (\$264,417) activities and will be performed as a cost of supportive services proportionate with the requirements for administrative-related direct services.

Funding Allocation Process and Associated Policies & Practices

AgeGuide's funding allocation process applies to services funded under Titles III and VII of the Federal Older Americans Act and State General Revenue Funds provided by the Illinois General Assembly. These funds are subject to regulations stipulated by Federal and State mandates.

Allocating Funds Across the Region: County Funding Formulas

Regional Funding Formula

AgeGuide’s regional funding formula determines the distribution of most of AgeGuide’s resources among the PSA’s eight counties. The funding formula has three purposes:

- To reflect the language and fulfill the intent of the Older Americans Act;
- To respond to changing populations and demographic factors in the region;
- To minimize disruption in existing services.

The formula uses five demographic measurements: each county’s population aged 60+ and 75+, its minority population aged 60+, its population aged 60+ with incomes at or below 100% of the federal poverty level, and its population aged 60+ who live alone. The formula’s sixth factor, known as Fixed Cost, gives additional weight to the counties with the smallest senior populations.

Each county’s formula share is the sum of these six factors, described in the table below.

Weight	Factor	Calculation
20%	60+ Population	20% of the county's percentage of the region's population aged 60+
20%	75+ population	20% of the county's percentage of the region's population aged 75+.
15%	Minority population	15% of the county's percentage of the region's minority population aged 60+. "Minority" includes all non-whites plus white Hispanics; in other words, everyone except non-Hispanic whites.
30%	Seniors below poverty	30% of the county's percentage of the region's population aged 60+ with incomes under 100% of the federal poverty level
10%	Living Alone	10% of the county's percentage of the region's population aged 60+ who live alone.
5%	Fixed Cost	5% of the county's percentage of the weighted population aged 60+ of counties whose population aged 60+ is no more than 4.0% of the region's total population aged 60+. Currently Grundy, Kankakee, and Kendall Counties qualify for this factor.

A county’s formula share determines its percentage of most federal and state funds that AgeGuide distributes. Some other funds are available on a regionwide drawdown basis, and

some on the basis of applications for funding under specific terms based on additional funding received.

AgeGuide’s longstanding policy is that its funding formula uses the most current data and estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. However, the formula is not updated once a fiscal year has begun, even if more recent demographic data becomes available. If more recent census data becomes available after this document is prepared, before the start of the new fiscal year, AgeGuide will make adjustments insofar as possible.

The method of determining the Regional Funding share remains consistent with that used in previous Area Plans. AgeGuide will continually assess the appropriateness of the changes in the factors during FY25-27 Area Plan Cycle.

FY26 Regional Funding Formula

County	60+ Population		75+ Population		Minority Population 60+		60+ Pop Below 100% Poverty		60+ Living Alone		Fixed Cost	Formula
	#	Share	#	Share	#	Share	#	Share	#	Share	Share	Share
DuPage	222,649	28.78%	65,155	29.80%	53,845	29.29%	15,451	28.71%	44,710	29.71%	0.00%	27.69%
Grundy	11,237	1.45%	3,100	1.42%	857	0.47%	506	0.94%	2,655	1.76%	33.33%	2.77%
Kane	112,583	14.55%	32,138	14.70%	29,913	16.27%	7,775	14.44%	22,100	14.69%	0.00%	14.09%
Kankakee	26,902	3.48%	7,876	3.60%	4,675	2.54%	2,531	4.70%	6,380	4.24%	33.33%	5.30%
Kendall	21,679	2.80%	5,699	2.61%	5,128	2.79%	873	1.62%	3,480	2.31%	33.33%	3.88%
Lake	159,165	20.58%	44,894	20.54%	40,845	22.22%	11,959	22.22%	31,970	21.25%	0.00%	20.35%
McHenry	72,974	9.43%	19,823	9.07%	8,182	4.45%	4,530	8.42%	13,700	9.11%	0.00%	7.80%
Will	146,380	18.92%	39,925	18.26%	40,365	21.96%	10,200	18.95%	25,470	16.93%	0.00%	18.11%
Region	773,569	100%	218,610	100%	183,810	100.00%	53,825	100%	150,465	100%	0.00%	100.00%
WEIGHT	20%		20%		15%		30%		10%		5%	100.00%

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2024 ACS 5-year estimates for 60+ ,75+, and Poverty
 ACL Special Tabulation from the American Community Survey 2018-2022 for 60+ Living Alone
 U.S. Census Population Estimates: 2024 County Characteristics for 60+ Minority

Health Factor Funding Formula

The Health Factor Funding Formula began as a special pilot formula for FY22-24 III-C Nutrition Services and III-D Health Promotion Services. The Health Factor Funding Formula uses all the factors described above in the Regional Funding Formula; and in addition, uses a “Health Factor” based on county-level health rankings. The Health Factor Funding Formula will continue to be used for FY25-27 for III-C Nutrition and III-D Health Promotion services.

County	60+ Population		75+ Population		Minority Population 60+		60+ Pop Below 100% Poverty		60+ Living Alone		Fixed Cost	Health Factor		Formula Share
	#	Share	#	Share	#	Share	#	Share	#	Share	Share	Rating	Share	
DuPage	222,649	28.78%	65,155	29.80%	53,845	29.29%	15,451	28.71%	44,710	29.71%	0.00%	1	9.09%	27.20%
Grund	11,237	1.45%	3,100	1.42%	857	0.47%	506	0.94%	2,655	1.76%	33.33%	1	9.09%	2.96%
Kane	112,583	14.55%	32,138	14.70%	29,913	16.27%	7,775	14.44%	22,100	14.69%	0.00%	1	9.09%	13.96%
Kankakee	26,902	3.48%	7,876	3.60%	4,675	2.54%	2,531	4.70%	6,380	4.24%	33.33%	4	36.36%	6.12%
Kendall	21,679	2.80%	5,699	2.61%	5,128	2.79%	873	1.62%	3,480	2.31%	33.33%	1	9.09%	4.04%
Lake	159,165	20.58%	44,894	20.54%	40,845	22.22%	11,959	22.22%	31,970	21.25%	0.00%	1	9.09%	20.06%
McHenry	72,974	9.43%	19,823	9.07%	8,182	4.45%	4,530	8.42%	13,700	9.11%	0.00%	1	9.09%	7.80%
Will	146,380	18.92%	39,925	18.26%	40,365	21.96%	10,200	18.95%	25,470	16.93%	0.00%	1	9.09%	17.86%
Region	773,569	100%	218,610	100%	183,810	100%	53,825	100%	150,465	100%	0.00%	11	100%	100.00%
WEIGHT	17.5%		20%		15%		30%		10%		5%	2.5%		100%

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2024 ACS 5-year estimates for 60+ ,75+, and Poverty
 ACL Special Tabulation from the American Community Survey 2018-2022 for 60+ Living Alone
 U.S. Census Population Estimates: 2024 County Characteristics for 60+ Minority
 2025 Illinois County Health Rankings report used for Health Factor

Ombudsman Funding Formula

AgeGuide uses a special formula to distribute Ombudsman funds among its eight counties. The formula is not adjusted during the fiscal year.

- 50% of funds are distributed according to the Regional Funding Formula, as described in the Regional Funding Formula section of this document;
- 50% of funds are distributed based on the county’s total number of licensed Assisted Living facilities and Supportive Living units in each county in proportion to the totals of these beds and units in the eight-county region.

Since October 2017, the Regional Ombudsman Programs were also required to visit residents aged 18+ in Medically Complex Facilities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (MC/DD). The most current Bed Count has not yet been released. The chart below shows the Ombudsman Funding Formula for FY26; the formula will be updated when the latest data is released.

County	Nursing Facility or Skilled Care	Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Developmental/ Intellectual Disabilities	Sheltered care facilities	Assisted Living Facilities	Supportive Living Facilities	Medically Complex Facilities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities	50% Based on Bed Count	50% of County Funding Formula	Standard County Funding Formula	Ombud County Funding Formula
DuPage	5,520	64	479	3,217	371	156	0.156878	0.137657	27.53%	29.45%
Grundy	265	0	0	60	160	0	0.007342	0.014123	2.82%	2.15%
Kane	2,855	112	253	1,369	985	0	0.086084	0.073087	14.62%	15.92%
Kankakee	989	112	79	304	167	0	0.027713	0.027090	5.42%	5.48%
Kendall	184	0	0	169	87	0	0.006108	0.019313	3.86%	2.54%
Lake	3,899	290	119	2,224	689	0	0.112857	0.101816	20.36%	21.47%
McHenry	1,032	96	60	1,164	223	0	0.036836	0.038649	7.73%	7.55%
Will	2,392	80	0	1,518	299	0	0.066183	0.088266	17.65%	15.44%
Region	17,136	754	990	10,025	2,981	156	25539.00		100.00%	100.00%

Data Source: IDPH Facilities Report

Allocating Funds by Service: Service Shares

Service Formula Shares

Once resources have been allocated to counties using the County Share Funding Formula, resources are then distributed to services using a Service Share Formula. The Service Share Formulas are developed to distribute resources within specific service categories.

Service Categories

In an attempt to direct limited resources to the most needed services, AgeGuide’s Advisory Council and Board of Directors established two service categories:

- 1. Mandatory Services:** These services are mandated by IDOA and must be funded in the region:
 - Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) Access Services: Information & Assistance & Options Counseling
 - In-Home Services: (AgeGuide funds Friendly Visiting to fulfill this requirement)
 - Legal Assistance
 - Congregate Meals
 - Home Delivered Meals
 - Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
 - Caregiver Services: Access Assistance, Supplemental Gap-Filling, Respite, Counseling, and Training & Education
 - Ombudsman Services: Titles III-B, VII, and LongTerm Care Ombudsman

- Adult Protective Services: Title VII Training, M Team, and Fatality Review Team
- Illinois GRF, Senior Health Assistance Program (SHAP)
- Medicare Improvements for Patients & Providers (MIPPA)

2. Optional Services: These services are not mandated by IDOA. AgeGuide opts to fund these services based on needs assessment outcomes:

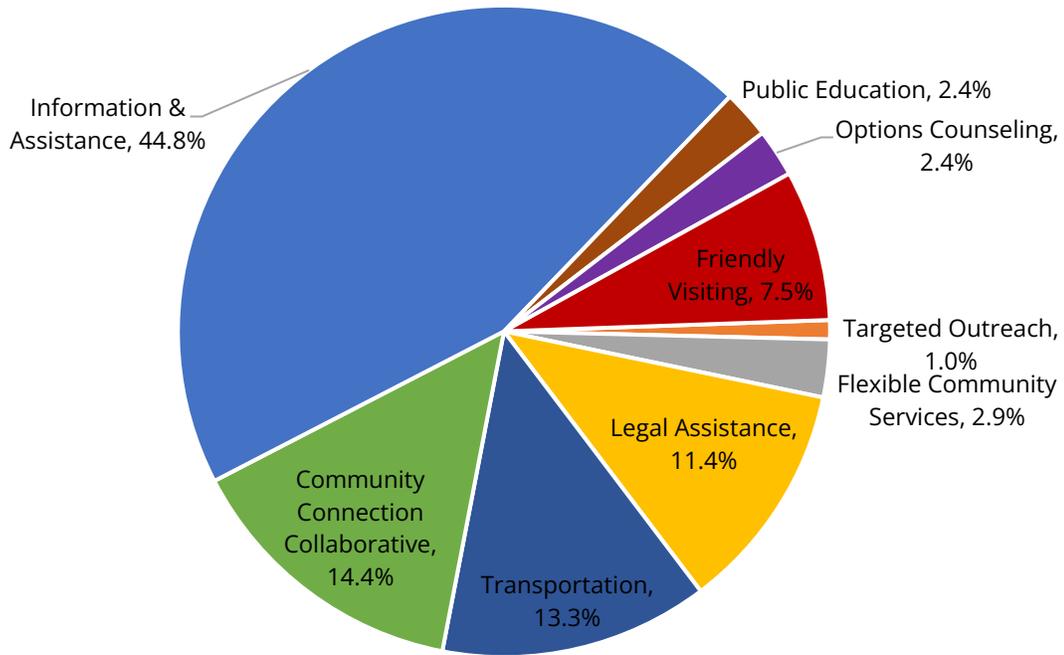
- Public Education
- Community Connection Collaborative: Health Screening, Education, and Recreation
- Targeted Outreach
- Flexible Community Services
- Transportation
- Specific Caregiver Services including Support Groups and Public Education

FY25-27 Service Share Formulas

AgeGuide has developed service share formulas for those specific Titles where funding may be used for multiple services. For III-C, III-D, and Ombudsman, no specific service share formula is used. For these funding sources, all available funding is devoted to those specific programs. Service Share Formulas have been developed for Titles III-B and Titles III-E.

1. III-B Service Share Formula

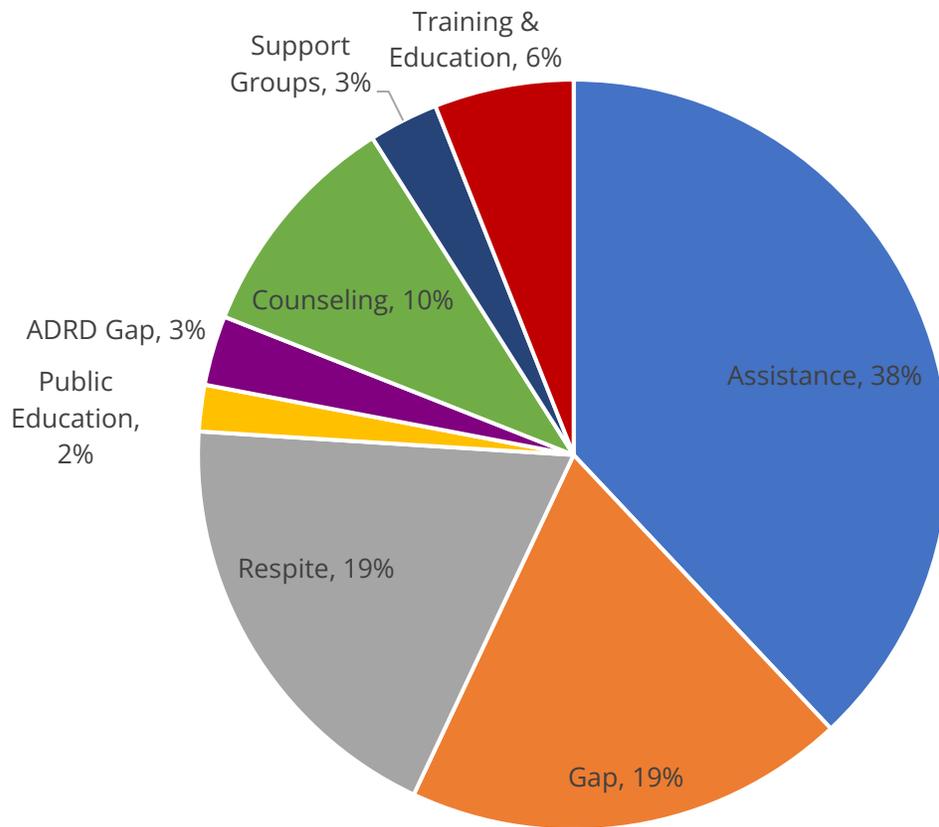
Funds from Title III-B are used for the following services: Legal Assistance, Transportation, Community Connection Collaborative (Education, Recreation, and Health Screening), Information & Assistance, Public Education, Friendly Visiting, Options Counseling, Targeted Outreach, and Flexible Community Services. Title III-B funding is allocated to these services using the following percentages for FY2025-2027:



2. Titles III-E Service Share Formula

Title III-E funds Family Caregiver Support Services, including 8 separate services: Assistance, Respite, Gap-Filling, Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Gap-Filling, Public Education, Individual Counseling, Training & Education, and Support Groups.

These 8 services are divided into 2 service bundles: Caregiver Resource Center and Caregiver Counseling Center. Title III-E funding is allocated to these programs according to the following percentages:



Service Allocation Principles

Adjustments to the funding allocations will be made at least annually, and within a fiscal year when necessary to reflect changes in the funds available to AgeGuide for service grants and contract awards. ***In addition to the general rule of distributing funds according to County Formula Shares and Service Shares, the following principles apply:***

Funding Levels

Each county has an established service delivery system in place. The distribution of available resources is designed to provide as little disruption to the existing system as possible and to accurately reflect the increases or decreases that may have occurred in the funding or service environment.

All Services are assigned a Service Share Funding Level.

- **Service Share:** the *percentage* of funding that is allocated to a specific service. A county's service share for a specific service is determined using the Service Share Formulas described above.

- **Service Share Funding Level:** the *dollar* amount allocated for a specific county and service. This is determined by multiplying a county's Service Share by the total funding amount available in the county.

In establishing Titles III, VII, and GRF service funding plans, AgeGuide considers the following criteria:

- The appropriateness of a service in helping older adults in greatest economic and social need (i.e., older adults with one or more of the characteristics in the regional funding formula), most at risk of loss of independence, or most in need of protection of their basic rights;
- The adequacy of funds to support a level of service that addressed the need effectively at an acceptable cost; and
- The ability of other service providers or systems to address those needs.

Fund Allocations Greater Than Fund Requests

In the event that allocations exceed the level of funds requested in a county, these excesses will be reallocated to the county's funded services within that title.

When Resources Increase

When AgeGuide resources increase, AgeGuide will evaluate the need in the region and may use one or all of the methods below to distribute the funding. These principles apply to Federal and State funds for III-B, III-C, III-D, III-E, and VII.

1. If services in a county are funded below the previous year's funding level, AgeGuide will prioritize new resources to fund each service fully.
2. When new funds are not sufficient to bring all services to at least the funding level from the previous year, AgeGuide will distribute any new funds to services in proportion to their share of the deficit.
3. When services are already funded at or above their previous year's funding levels, additional funds will be distributed among the services according to the County Funding Formulas and the Service Share Formulas.
4. Identify and pilot new Special Projects or other services to meet the needs of the Region. For Congregate and Home Delivered Meal services, AgeGuide may award the funds to expand the delivery of shelf-stable, weekend, special diet, or other meals.
5. Allow service providers to submit applications for additional funding, including justification for why additional funding is needed.

When increasing allocations for a provider, AgeGuide will additionally consider the provider's current spending and program performance to ensure increases are allocated appropriately.

When Resources Decline

When resources decline, AgeGuide may use one or all of the methods below to distribute the funding. These principles apply to Federal and State funds for IIIB, IIIC, IIID, IIIE, and VII.

1. Reduce or remove one-time or special project funds before existing grants are reduced.
2. Identify areas of underspending, underperformance, or reduced need, and implement proportional reductions in funding.
3. Distribute the reduction in funding among all services according to the County Funding Formula and the Service Share Formulas.

Information on a Variety of Funding Opportunities

If new sources of funds are received for the rest of this Area Plan cycle, AgeGuide's Board of Directors will determine the services, sub areas, and funding levels at that time.

Minimum Percentage Waiver Requests

IDoA requires that a minimum percentage of Federal Title III-B funds be set aside for the following services:

- Access Services: 33.1%
- In-Home Services: .04%
- Legal Services: 3.2%

Area Agencies on Aging that are unable to meet these minimum requirements are required to submit a waiver request.

This Public Hearing Document does not include a waiver request for the IDoA minimum percentage requirements. AgeGuide's FY27 funding plan exceeds the requirements for these services and therefore does not need to request a waiver from this requirement.

Home Delivered Meals (HDMs) Funding & Unmet Needs

AgeGuide and its Title III-C grantee agencies recognize and appreciate the increased support of the home-delivered meals program by the Illinois General Assembly. Since FY98, there has been a specific set-aside fund for the provision and expansion of home-delivered meals. This service has grown over the years and this additional funding has enabled our grantees to

provide more meals to more people for a longer period of time in a broader service area. AgeGuide will advocate for continued, consistent funding to provide home-delivered meals for homebound older adults residing in the PSA who need meals. Consistent funding provides for stable programs that can focus on providing reliable, quality meal services, and offers peace of mind to home delivered meal participants that their meals will continue without interruption. Delays in receiving funds for home delivered meals strain the financial resources of providers and make operating consistently at full capacity challenging.

AgeGuide's priority is to use its services, especially home-delivered meals, to maintain the dignity and independence of all older people in need. As such, AgeGuide and its funded partners will provide hot, cold, frozen, or emergency shelf-stable meals to homebound older people residing in the eight-county region. In addition, AgeGuide funds four programs offering ethnic home delivered meals to service specific cultural communities. AgeGuide, in conjunction with its nutrition providers and Care Coordination Units, will continue to closely monitor those areas of its Planning and Service Area (PSA) at risk of developing waiting lists.

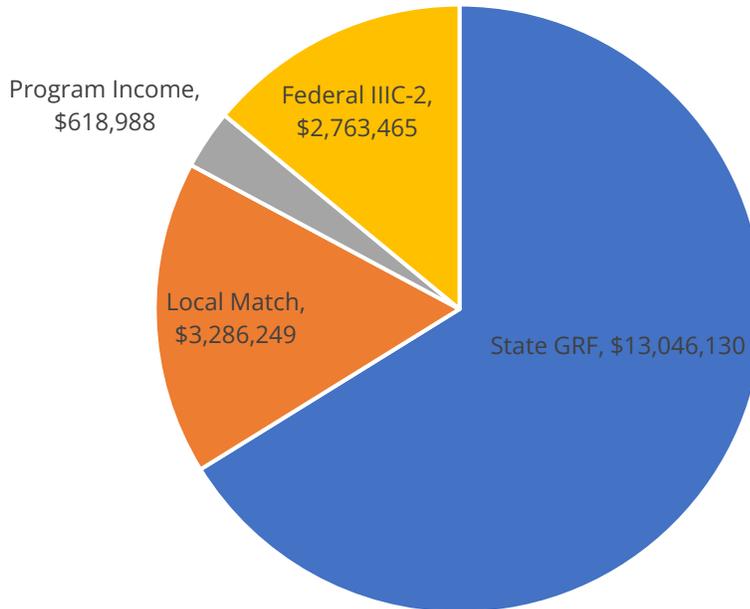
- In FY25, 1,261,918 meals were delivered to 8,884 homebound older adults in the PSA.
- AgeGuide's eight-county region currently has one nutrition partner utilizing a waitlist due to staff shortages which have resulted in delays in processing HDM clients.
- AgeGuide continues to work with its nutrition providers and Care Coordination Units to address the waiting list in its Planning and Service Area.
- Nutrition providers provide weekend meals to those clients most in need as determined by the Illinois Department on Aging's Nutrition Referral Assessment for home delivered meals throughout the region.
- In FY27: 1,313,000 home delivered meals are projected to be provided to 9,400 homebound older adults in the PSA.
- In many cases, home delivered meals are the first contact older adults have with available services and supports that enable them to live in their own homes, achieve better health, and feel less isolated. Nationally, the benefits of increased nutritional intake from home delivered meals translate into improved health.
- According to the 2025 Meals on Wheels America Fact Sheet:
 - For many home delivered meal recipients, the person delivering the meal is often the only person they will see that day.
 - 79% of home delivered meal recipients say the meals help improve their health.
 - 84% of home delivered meals recipients say the service helps them feel more secure.
 - 91% of home delivered meal recipients say meals help them live independently.
 - 97% of local providers believe there are seniors in their community who need meals who they are not currently serving

- 61% of local programs are confident that they could serve more older adults, if the new participants came with more funding.

The home delivered meal program is a community effort bringing meal providers, volunteers, and other community organizations together to improve the quality of life for older adults and their caregivers. Research has shown that **daily** delivery of meals increases the overall improvement of health and helps older adults live independently. The home delivered meal program also represents an essential service for many caregivers, by helping them to maintain their own health and well-being.

Throughout the eight-county PSA, nutrition providers strive to develop a network of volunteers and staff to provide consistent delivery Monday through Friday. Continued adequate funding and consistent cash flow are critical to keep this extensive network operating to deliver meals and the many associated benefits of better health and improved quality of life.

Anticipated FY27 Home Delivered Meals Funding



FY26 Home Delivered Meals Status

County	Units Served YTD	Persons Receiving Meals	Waiting List
DuPage	73,975	1,571	0
Grundy	9,305	132	0
Kane	39,120	729	0
Kankakee	32,315	575	88
Kendall	10,182	194	0
Lake	53,892	1,035	0
McHenry	19,619	444	0
Will	57,993	1,030	0
Total	296,401	* 5,710	88

*Unduplicated persons

FY27 Funding Projections

The following page includes projected FY27 Area Plan revenues and expenditures.

Older Americans Act allocations are based on Area Agency on Aging Letter #27AP2, which is the Illinois Department on Aging's projected allocation letter for FY27. State General Revenue planning allocations are based on the Governor's FY26 budget for Aging. Federal projected allocations are based on the FY25 final budget.

Please note: these allocation amounts are tentative. The projected allocations may change as the final FFY2027 federal and state budgets are negotiated and enacted.

PROJECTED ALLOCATIONS: Letter 27AP2

REVENUES

FEDERAL ALLOCATIONS		
Title IIIB		\$2,877,643
Title IIIC-1		\$3,563,289
Title IIIC-2		\$2,763,465
Title IIID		\$173,402
Title IIIE		\$1,422,316
Title VII Elder Abuse		\$35,889
Title VII Ombudsman		\$175,166
Title IIIB Ombudsman		\$159,077
Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)		\$684,046
Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA)		\$159,351
Carryover		\$517,637
	FEDERAL TOTAL	\$12,531,281
STATE GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS (Governor's Budget)		
Title III Match		\$494,005
Community Based Services		\$3,266,104
Home Delivered Meals		\$13,046,130
Caregiver Support Services		\$1,086,930
Long Term Care Provider Fund Ombudsman		\$1,303,079
Senior Health Assistance Program (SHAP)		\$394,925
	STATE TOTAL	\$19,591,173
TOTAL REVENUE		\$32,122,454

EXPENDITURES

AGEGUIDE OPERATIONS		
Federal & State Admin		\$1,850,183
Program Development, Coordination & Advocacy		\$1,092,609
AGEGUIDE DIRECT SERVICES		
IIIB: Aging & Disability Resource Network Services		\$413,573
IIIB: Education Direct Service		\$61,830
IIID: Health Promotion Direct Services		\$60,000
IIIE: Caregiver Information & Assistance Direct Service		\$70,000
PROVIDER DIRECT SERVICES		
Title IIIB Community Services		\$6,027,769
Title IIIC-1 Congregate Meals		\$2,269,191
Title IIIC-2 Home Delivered Meals		\$15,511,965
Title IIID Health Promotion Programs		\$113,402
Title IIIE Caregiver Services		\$2,507,294
Title VII APS Services		\$38,641
Ombudsman Services		\$1,598,339
SHAP & MIPPA		\$507,658
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$32,122,454

Outstanding Leadership

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AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois does not discriminate in admission to programs or in treatment of employment in programs or activities, in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the U.S. Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the Age Discrimination Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the U.S. and Illinois constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint with the IL Department of Aging. For information, call 800-252-8966 (Voice/TDD), or contact the Agency on Aging at 815-939-0727 or 800-528-2000 www.ageguide.org.



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