

Connecticut's Elderly Nutrition Program

BACKGROUND AND FRAMING



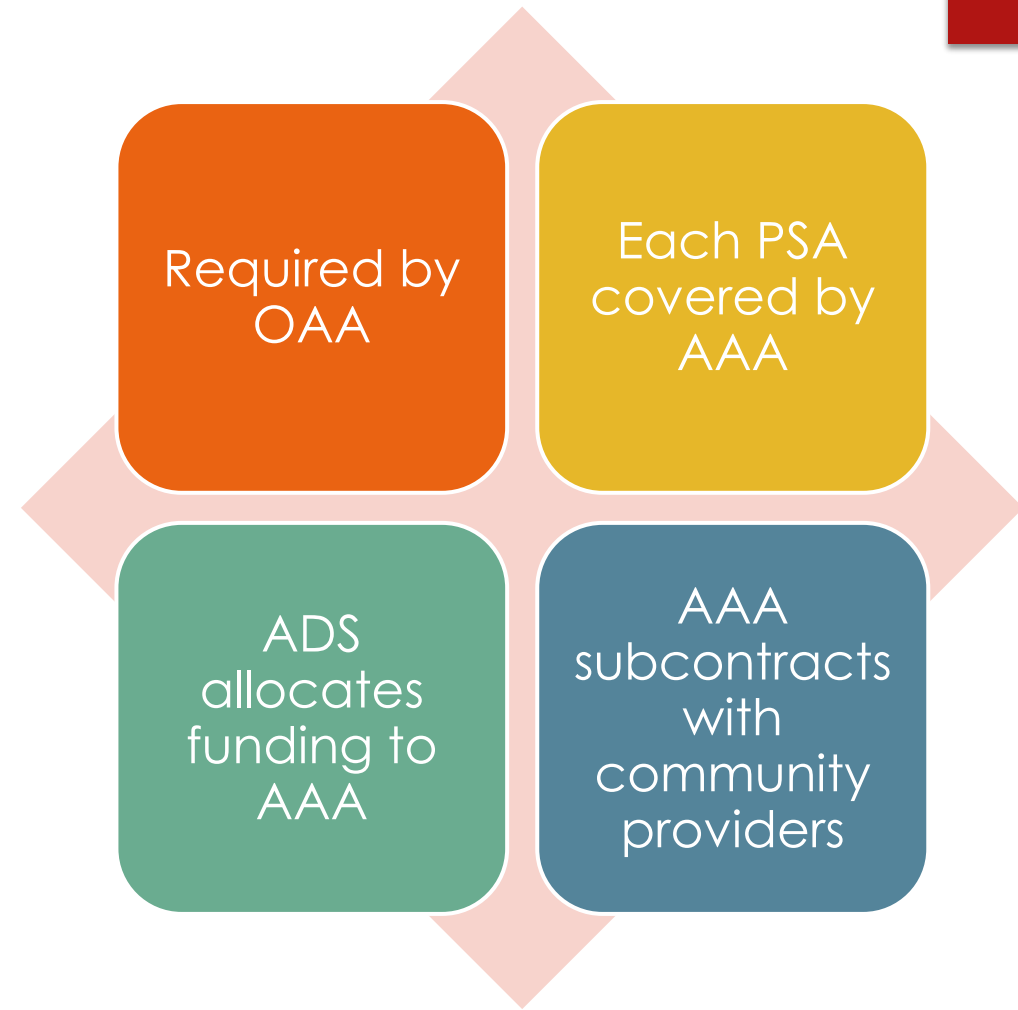
What is the Elderly Nutrition Program?

- ▶ Typically, when we hear “Elderly Nutrition Program” we’re referring to the Older Americans Act Title III C funded program
- ▶ “Meals on Wheels” is used colloquially, but may not refer *only* to Title III providers
- ▶ Purpose of the program is to reduce hunger and food insecurity, promote socialization, and promote health and well-being of older adults
- ▶ Many local providers also provide meals through Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) or Medicaid waiver programs – Access Agencies and DSS are best positioned to discuss

Older Americans Act (OAA)

- ▶ OAA was created to provide services that assist older adults to stay in their homes and community settings
- ▶ OAA dictates much of how the program is run
- ▶ Title III funds home and community-based services including social services, nutrition, health promotion programs and caregiver supports
- ▶ Nutrition program funded under Title IIIC of OAA
- ▶ Four components
 - ▶ Home Delivered Meals (HDM) – C2
 - ▶ Congregate Meals – C1
 - ▶ Nutrition Education
 - ▶ Nutrition Counseling

Planning and Service Areas



Eligibility

Age 60 and over

Spouse of an eligible individual receiving meals

Individual under 60 with a disability who lives in a housing building where congregate meals are served

OAA Target Populations



GREATEST
ECONOMIC NEED



GREATEST SOCIAL
NEED

OAA and CT State Regulations

Providers required to serve 1 meal per day,
5 days per week unless not feasible

Some HDM clients
request fewer days
per week of service

Some congregate
sites in rural areas
cannot feasibly serve
5 days per week

Some underutilized
congregate sites
cannot feasibly serve
5 days per week

Some HDM providers may provide over and
above 1 meal per day, 5 days per week

Funding



Federal

State

COVID Relief Funds

Federal Funding (October – September)

Title IIIC1:
Congregate
Meals

Title IIIC2: Home
Delivered Meals
("Meals on
Wheels")

Nutrition
Services
Incentive
Program

Social Services
Block Grant

State Funding (July – June)

- ▶ State required to partially match federal funds
- ▶ State budget dictates amount available for allocation
- ▶ Increased allocations over the past few years and into SFY25
- ▶ One “Nutrition” pot of money – not broken down between HDM and congregate

Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) **\$4.7M**

Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) **\$1.6M**

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) **\$4.4M**

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) **\$7M**

State American Rescue Plan Act Funds

\$3M for Meals
on Wheels
providers SFY22

\$2.25M for
Elderly Nutrition
SFY24

Allocations

- ▶ The goal of allocations is to allocate funding **equitably** across the state
- ▶ Intrastate Funding Formula used for Federal allocation
- ▶ Blended formula used for State allocation based on statute

Funding Flow

- ▶ Federal funds
- ▶ State funds
- ▶ Beginning of the new Federal Fiscal Year and Continuing Resolutions
- ▶ Offset between FFY and SFY
- ▶ Payments to AAAs

Federal Funding Flow

- ▶ If no federal budget approval, has Continuing Resolution been authorized?
- ▶ Once CR or budget approved, ADS must wait for Notice of Awards to be issued by ACL
- ▶ Once Notice of Award received, ADS Fiscal prepares allocation charts
- ▶ Allocation charts sent to AAAs and AAAs can begin requesting funds
- ▶ AAAs submit payment requests and expenditure reports to ADS
- ▶ ADS Fiscal processes and makes payments through state system (CORE)

State Funding Flow

- ▶ State Budget enacted
- ▶ Funds allocated to ADS for “Elderly Nutrition”
- ▶ State Nutrition Funds can be requested by AAAs Quarterly
 - ▶ AAA submits payment request and expenditure reports to ADS - SUA
 - ▶ ADS Fiscal processes and makes payments through state system (CORE)
- ▶ If and when “special” funds are allocated (i.e. state ARPA funds):
 - ▶ Allocation plan created in accordance with legislative intent, if defined
 - ▶ Requires approval of allocation plan by OPM
 - ▶ Requires Allocation Implementation to go to OPM
 - ▶ Requires new coding from OPM

ADS - State Unit on Aging Role

Administration of Funds

Contracts with Area Agencies on Aging

Oversight of program

- Menu approvals
- Nutrition Education approvals
- Site and HDM route inspection and monitoring
- Program monitoring

Liaison to department, Commissioner, legislature, federal government

Federal and state reporting

Compliance with federal, state, and program regulations

State Plan on Aging