



Administration for Community Living

Administration on Aging

National Information & Referral Support Center

HHS-2021-ACL-AOA-EESC-0075

05/24/2021

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Additional Overview Content/Executive Summary	2
I. Funding Opportunity Description	3
II. Award Information	6
III. Eligibility Information	7
1. Eligible Applicants	7
2. Cost Sharing or Matching	7
3. Responsiveness and Screening Criteria	8
IV. Application and Submission Information	9
1. Address to Request Application Package	9
2. Content and Form of Application Submission	11
Letter of Intent	11
Project Narrative	11
Summary/Abstract	12
Problem Statement	12
Goals and Objectives	12
Proposed Intervention	12
Special Target Populations and Organizations	12
Outcomes	12
Project Management	13
Evaluation	13
Dissemination	13
Organizational Capability	14
Budget Narrative/Justification	14
Work Plan	14
Letters of Commitment from Key Participating Organizations and Agencies	14
3. Submission Dates and Times	14
4. Intergovernmental Review	16
5. Funding Restrictions	16
6. Other Submission Requirements	16
V. Application Review Information	17
1. Criteria	17
2. Review and Selection Process	19

3. Anticipated Announcement Award Date	20
VI. Award Administration Information	20
1. Award Notices	20
2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements	20
3. Reporting	21
4. FFATA and FSRS Reporting	21
VII. Agency Contacts	21
VIII. Other Information	21
The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-13)	21
Appendix	21
Instructions for Completing Required Forms	22
Budget Narrative/Justification- Sample Format	32
Instructions for Completing the Project Summary/ Abstract	37

ACL Center:

Administration on Aging

Funding Opportunity Title:

National Information & Referral Support Center

Funding Opportunity Number:

HHS-2021-ACL-AOA-EESC-0075

Primary CFDA Number:

93.048

Due Date for Letter of Intent:

04/14/2021

Due Date for Applications:

05/24/2021

Date for Informational Conference Call:

Applications that fail to meet the application due date will not be reviewed and will receive no further consideration. You are strongly encouraged to submit your application a minimum of 3-5 days prior to the application closing date. Do not wait until the last day in the event you encounter technical difficulties, either on your end or, with <https://www.grants.gov>. Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours to notify you of a successful submission.

Executive Summary
Additional Overview Content/Executive Summary

Since 1991, the Administration on Aging (AoA) within the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) has supported the National Information & Referral Support Center (the Support Center). The Support Center was established to assist the aging network of State Agencies on Aging, Area Agencies on Aging, Tribal organizations, and local aging information and referral/assistance (I&R/A) providers enhance the quality and professionalism of their

information and assistance systems. Since 2003, the Support Center has expanded its reach by providing technical assistance and training to organizations in the aging and disability networks.

The Support Center provides technical assistance, training, product development and consultation to assist I&R/A systems strengthen their programs. Since inception the Support Center has played a critical and important role in the evolution and professional advancement of aging and disability I&R.

To assist aging and disability I&R programs respond to current and emerging issues, ACL will fund a new Cooperative Agreement to continue the Support Center as a resource for aging and disability I&R programs.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Overview

Since 1991, the Administration on Aging (AoA) within the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) has supported the National Information & Referral Support Center (the Support Center). The Support Center was established to assist the aging network of State Agencies on Aging, Area Agencies on Aging, Tribal organizations, and local aging information and referral/assistance providers enhance the quality and professionalism of their information and assistance systems. Since 2003, the Support Center has expanded its reach by providing technical assistance and training to organizations in the aging and disability networks.

Background

Information and Referral/Assistance (I&R/A) is a vital component of many of the programs supported by the ACL. The Older Americans Act (OAA) funds a range of programs that offer services and opportunities for older adults and their caregivers, especially those at risk of losing their independence. I&R/A has been a core service of the OAA since 1973. The OAA requires State and Area Agencies on Aging to provide for the establishment or maintenance of I&R/A in sufficient numbers to assure that all older persons in the State or within a planning and service area will have access. There are currently over 2400 I&R providers in the aging network. I&R programs provide direct services to older persons through over 11.9 million contacts annually.

Since 2003, Aging and Disability Resource Centers have supported state efforts to develop more efficient, cost-effective, and consumer-responsive systems of providing information and access to long-term services and supports, which often are referred to as “No Wrong Door” (NWD) systems. I&R/A is an important component to the success of these programs. Information and referral is a core service for the over 400 Centers for Independent Living in the United States.

The Support Center provides training, technical assistance, product development and consultation to assist aging and disability I&R systems strengthen their programs. Since inception the Support Center has played a critical and important role in the evolution and advancement of aging and disability I&R including annual and ongoing training opportunities. A key effort was the expansion of specialized I&R/A certifications. In 2002, the Support Center worked with the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) to

develop the Certification for I&R Specialists in Aging (CIRS-A) certification. In 2015, the Support Center worked with AIRS to introduce the Certification for I&R Specialists in Aging and Disability (CIRS –A/D) to recognize the evolution of the field. In January 2019, AIRS announced new names for the credentials that comprise its certification program. The Certified Information & Referral Specialist for Aging/Disabilities (CIRS-A/D), is now the Community Resource Specialist - Aging/Disabilities (CRS-A/D). The Support Center currently offers CRS-A/D training and information to organizations and individuals interested in credentialing.

Trends continue to make I&R/A increasingly important to older persons, people with disabilities and their families. Today, individuals face myriad choices and decisions about health, housing, transportation, caregiving, and other long-term services and supports (LTSS). Navigating these various systems can be very frustrating and confusing for consumers. The current COVID pandemic has further highlighted the critical need for timely, informed, and accurate information and assistance. I&R/A programs also need to address the increasingly more diverse aging population with the growing number of racial/ethnic elders.

In addition to the trends highlighted above, advances in technology, such as smartphones, online chat, web conferencing, and virtual assistant technologies such as Alexa, have expanded the ways individuals expect to access and receive information. I&R/A is now far more than just a telephone interaction. Aging and disability programs need to ensure they invest in and utilize innovative technologies, such as APIs, to improve the access and efficiency of their I&R/A services and programs.

To assist aging and disability I&R programs respond to these current and emerging issues, ACL will fund one new Cooperative Agreement to continue the Support Center as a resource for aging and disability I&R/A programs. The Support Center will continue to serve as a central source of information, resources, technical assistance and training to aging and disability I&R/A programs. The Support Center will provide technical assistance, training and information to aging and disability I&R programs to enhance their effectiveness to better serve older adults, persons with disabilities and their families.

Key functions of the Center

The applicant should propose a strategy for meeting the training and technical assistance aging and disability I&R/A. Activities should include:

- **Examining the I&R/A Field** - The Support Center will examine and document the current state of aging and disability I&R/A programs and systems to determine priorities for training and technical assistance.
- **Coordinating a National Symposium** – The Support Center will coordinate one national in-person training event in each project year to focus on foundational and trending issues in aging, disability, and I&R/A. Event can be held in conjunction with another training event such as the annual AIRS I&R Training and Education Conference.
- **Conducting at National/Regional Conferences** – The Support Center should look for opportunities to conduct trainings at national and regional conferences.

- **Conducting Virtual Trainings** – The Support Center should utilize a variety of modalities (e.g. online course, webinars, podcasts) to support web-based learning solutions to design and deliver cost-effective training courses that expand the knowledge base of I&R/A professionals working in the aging and disability networks.
- **Supporting Community Resource Specialist - Aging/Disabilities Certification** – The Support Center will continue to be a source of training and information for professionals interested in CRS-A/D Certification.
- **Providing Technical Assistance and Consultation Services** - The Support Center must develop a technical assistance strategy to provide ongoing technical assistance to aging and disability networks on I&R/A and other related issues.
- **Maintaining a Website** – The Support Center should maintain a state-of-the art Support Center website, which serves as a comprehensive source of information for aging and disability I&R/A programs.
- **Promoting Best Practices** - The Support Center will collect and promote models and best practices in I&R/A and make them available on the Support Center Web site. Emphasis should be placed on how aging and disability I&R/A programs can:
 - Effectively use technology to better link state and local resources as well as better serve older adults, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers;
 - Better prepare I&R/A programs in emergency preparedness situation such as (COVID 19) and natural disasters; and
 - Develop and enhance their programs to better ensure racial/ethnic equity in accessing aging and disability programs and services.
- **Collaborating and Partnering:** The Support Center will represent the interests of aging and disability I&R/A with other national entities including national organizations and federal agencies representing older adults, individuals with disabilities and diverse populations. Specifically, the Support Center should:
 - Work with AIRS on activities of mutual interest to enhance the professionalism of aging and disability I&R/A systems;
 - Collaborate with relevant ACL resources center and other ACL grantees to advance and support the advancement of I&R/A; and
 - Work with the Eldercare Locator by serving on the Eldercare Locator Advisory Committee, promoting the service, and providing training as needed to service staff.
- **Advisory Committee and Discussion Group**

The Support Center will convene an Advisory Committee, in consultation with ACL, to provide insight and guidance on the direction of the center. Committee should include representatives from State and Area Agencies on Aging, ADRCs, Centers for Independent Living and other organizations as appropriate to enhance the quality of I&R/A systems, service delivery and professionalism of personnel.

Statutory Authority

The Older Americans Act of 1965 as Amended

II. Award Information

Funding Instrument Type:

CA (Cooperative Agreement)

Estimated Total Funding:

\$ 1,125,000

Expected Number of Awards:

1

Award Ceiling:

\$ 225,000

Per Budget Period

Award Floor:

\$ 200,000

Per Budget Period

Length of Project Period:

60-month project period with five 12-month budget periods

Additional Information on Project Periods and Explanation of 'Other'

ACL plans to fund one award for up to \$225,000 per year for a total project period of five (5) years, contingent upon availability of federal funds. This is a new cooperative agreement and ACL will be substantially involved in the Support Center's activities. The terms and conditions for this cooperative agreement are as follows and will be incorporated by reference in the Notice of Award (NOA).

The ACL will carry out the following activities for the cooperative agreement noted above:

- ACL Project Officer will perform the day-to-day Federal responsibilities of managing a grant and will work with the grantee to ensure that the necessary requirements for the grant are met.
- Assist the grantee project leadership in understanding the policy concerns and/or priorities of ACL by conducting periodic briefings and by carrying out ongoing consultations.
- Work cooperatively with the grantee to clarify the programmatic and budgetary issues to be addressed by the project. If issues are identified, work with the grantee to revise the project work plan, detailing expectations for major activities and products during the 60 month grant.
- Provide technical advice to the grantee on the provision of technical support and associated tasks related to the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of this grant.
- Review and provide technical advice on grantee work products.
- Provide consultation to the grantee in identifying emerging issues as they relate to the goals and objectives of this grant program.

- Work with the grantee on the development and implementation of evaluation and quality assurance systems to ensure that performance is measured and continuous improvement occurs.
- Attend and participate in major project events as appropriate.

The grantee will execute the responsibilities of the cooperative agreement as listed below:

- Collaborate with the ACL in any in-scope modifications and execution of the work plan, initially within 45 days of the award.
- Evaluate the impact of overall project activities and ensure quality assurance systems are in place.
- Share information with ACL, national, state, and local partner organizations and other entities as appropriate.
- Submit resumes of potential key staff hires as detailed under HHS grants prior approval requirements.
- Fulfill all of the requirements of the grant initiative as detailed in this program announcement.

Once a cooperative agreement is in place, requests to modify or amend it or the work plan may be made by ACL or the awardee at any time as long as it stays within the original confines of the proposed project description. Major changes may affect the integrity of the competitive review process. Modifications and/or amendments of the Cooperative Agreement or work plan shall be effective upon the execution of an award notice. When an award is issued the cooperative agreement terms and conditions from the program announcement are incorporated by reference unless ACL is authorized under the Terms and Conditions of award, 45 CFR Part 75, or other applicable regulation or statute to make unilateral amendments.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Domestic public or private non-profit entities including state and local governments, Indian tribal governments and organizations (American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native American), faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, hospitals, and institutions of higher education.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement:

Yes

For awards that require matching or cost sharing by statute, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources (at or above the statutory requirement) in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards. The applicant will be held accountable for all proposed non-federal resources as shown in the Notice of Award (NOA). A recipient's failure to provide the statutorily required matching or cost sharing amount (and any voluntary committed amount in excess) may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.

For awards that do not require matching or cost sharing by statute, recipients are not expected to provide cost sharing or matching. However, recipients are allowed to voluntarily propose a commitment of non-federal resources. If an applicant decides to voluntarily contribute non-federal resources towards project costs and the costs are accepted by ACL, the non-federal resources will be included in the approved project budget. The applicant will be held accountable for all proposed non-federal resources as shown in the Notice of Award (NOA). **A recipient's failure to meet the voluntary amount of non-federal resources that was accepted by ACL as part of the approved project costs and that was identified in the approved budget in the NOA, may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

Under this ACL program, ACL will fund no more than 75% of the project's total cost, which means the applicant must cover at least 25% of the project's total cost with non-federal resources. In other words, for every three (3) dollars received in federal funding, the applicant must contribute at least one (1) dollar in non-federal resources toward the project's total cost. This "three-to-one" ratio is reflected in the formula included under Item 18 in the "Instructions for Completing Requested Forms." You can use this formula to calculate your minimum required match. A common error applicants make is to match 25% of the federal share, rather than 25% of the project's total cost.

There are two types of match: 1) non-federal cash and 2) non-federal in-kind. In general, costs borne by the applicant and cash contributions of any and all third parties involved in the project, including sub-grantees, contractors and consultants, are considered matching funds. Volunteered time and use of facilities to hold meetings or conduct project activities may be considered in-kind (third party) donations. Examples of non-federal cash match includes budgetary funds provided from the applicant agency's budget for costs associated with the project. ACL encourages you to not exceed the minimum match requirement. Applications with a match greater than the minimum required will not receive additional consideration under the review. Match is not one of the responsiveness criteria as noted in Section III, 3 Application Screening Criteria.

3. Responsiveness and Screening Criteria

Application Responsiveness Criteria

Applications that do not address the intent of the Notice of Funding Opportunity that is outlined in the Funding Opportunity Description Section of HHS-2021-ACL-AOA-EESC-0075, will be administratively eliminated and will receive no further consideration.

Application Screening Criteria

All applications will be screened to assure a level playing field for all applicants. Applications that fail to meet the three screening criteria described below will not be reviewed and will receive no further consideration.

In order for an application to be reviewed, it must meet the following screening requirements:

- 1. Applications must be submitted electronically via <https://www.grants.gov> by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, by the due date listed in section IV.3 Submission Dates and Times.*

2. *The Project Narrative section of the Application must be **double-spaced**, on 8.5" x 11" plain white paper with **1" margins** on both sides, and a **standard font size of no less than 11 point, preferably Times New Roman or Arial.***
3. *The Project Narrative must not exceed 20 pages. **Project Narratives that exceed 20 pages** will have the additional pages removed and only the first 20 pages of the Project Narrative will be provided to the merit reviewers for funding consideration. **NOTE:** The Project Work Plan, Letters of Commitment, and Vitae of Key Project Personnel are not counted as part of the Project Narrative for purposes of the 20-page limit.*

Unsuccessful submissions will require authenticated verification from <https://www.grants.gov> indicating system problems existed at the time of your submission. For example, you will be required to provide an <https://www.grants.gov> submission error notification and/or tracking number in order to substantiate missing the application deadline."

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package

Application materials can be obtained from <https://www.grants.gov> or <https://www.acl.gov/grants/applying-grants>.

Please note, ACL requires applications for all announcements to be submitted electronically through <http://www.grants.gov> in Workspace. Grants.gov Workspace is the standard way for organizations and individuals to apply for federal grants in Grants.gov. An overview and training on Grants.gov Workspace can be found here at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html>

The [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) registration process can take several days. If your organization is not currently registered, please begin this process immediately. For assistance with <https://www.grants.gov>, please contact them at support@grants.gov or 800-518-4726 between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

- At the <https://www.grants.gov> website, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, including the hours of operation. ACL strongly recommends that you do not wait until the application due date to begin the application process because of the time involved to complete the registration process.
- All applicants must have a DUNS number (<https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/>) and be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM, www.sam.gov) and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete, and should a grant be made, throughout the life of the award. Effective June 11, 2018, when registering or renewing your registration, you must submit a notarized letter appointing the authorized Entity Administrator. Please be sure to read the FAQs located at www.sam.gov to learn more. Applicants should allot sufficient time prior to the application deadline to finalize a new, or renew an existing registration. This action should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application or receive an award. Maintain documentation (with dates) of your efforts to register or renew at least two weeks before the deadline. See the

SAM Quick Guide for Grantees at:

<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/help/samQUserGuides.jsf>.

Note: Once your SAM registration is active, allow 24 to 48 hours for the information to be available in Grants.gov before you can submit an application through Grants.gov. This action should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application or receive an award.

- Note: Failure to submit the correct EIN Suffix can lead to delays in identifying your organization and access to funding in the Payment Management System.
- Effective October 1, 2010, HHS requires all entities that plan to apply for and ultimately receive federal grant funds from any HHS Operating/Staff Division (OPDIV/STAFFDIV) or receive subawards directly from the recipients of those grant funds to:
 1. Register in SAM prior to submitting an application or plan;
 2. Maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application or plan under consideration by an OPDIV; and
 3. Provide its DUNS number in each application or plan to submit to the OPDIV.

Additionally, all first-tier subaward recipients must have a DUNS number at the time the subaward is made.

- Since October 1, 2003, The Office of Management and Budget has required applicants to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for federal grants or cooperative agreements. It is entered on the SF-424. It is a unique, nine-digit identification number, which provides unique identifiers of single business entities. The DUNS number is free and easy to obtain.
- Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 866-705-5711.
- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information included on the SF424 and all necessary assurances and certifications. In accordance with the Federal Government's efforts to reduce reporting burden for recipients of federal financial assistance, the general certification and representation requirements contained in the Standard Form 424B (SF-424B) – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs, and the Standard Form 424D (SF-424D) – Assurances – Construction Programs, have been standardized federal-wide. Effective January 1, 2020, the updated common certification and representation requirements will be stored and maintained within SAM. Organizations or individuals applying for federal financial assistance as of January 1, 2020, must validate the federally required common certifications and representations annually through SAM located at SAM.gov.
- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement from <https://www.grants.gov> that contains <https://www.grants.gov> tracking number. The Administration for Community Living will retrieve your application form from <https://www.grants.gov>.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Community Living

Sherri Clark
Administration on Aging
Phone Number: (202) 795-7327
E-mail: sherri.clark@acl.hhs.gov

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Letter of Intent

Number Of Days from Publication 20

04/14/2021

Applicants are requested, but not required, to submit a letter of intent to apply for this funding opportunity to assist ACL in planning for the application independent review process. The purpose of the letter of intent is to allow our staff to estimate the number of independent reviewers needed and to avoid potential conflicts of interest in the review. Letters of intent should be sent to:

Sherri Clark
Aging Services Program Specialist
sherri.clark@acl.hhs.gov

Project Narrative

The Project Narrative must be double-spaced, on 8.5" x 11" paper with 1" margins on both sides, and a standard font size of no less than 11 point, preferably Times New Roman or Arial. You can use smaller font sizes to fill in the Standard Forms and Sample Formats. The suggested length for the Project Narrative is 11 to 20 pages; 20 pages is the maximum length allowed. Project Narratives that exceed 20 pages will have the additional pages removed and only the first 20 pages of the Project Narrative will be provided to the merit reviewers for funding consideration. The Project Work Plan, Letters of Commitment, and Vitae of Key Personnel are not counted as part of the Project Narrative for purposes of the 20-page limit, but all of the other sections noted below are included in the limit.

The sample components of the Project Narrative counted as part of the 20 page limit include:

- Summary/Abstract
- Problem Statement
- Goal(s) and Objective(s)
- Proposed Intervention
- Special Target Populations and Organizations
- Outcomes
- Project Management
- Evaluation
- Dissemination
- Organizational Capability

Summary/Abstract

This section should include a brief (265 words maximum) description of the proposed project, including: goal(s), objectives, outcomes, and products to be developed. Detailed instructions for completing the summary/abstract are included in the “Instructions for Completing the Project Summary/Abstract.”

Problem Statement

This section should describe, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, the nature and scope of the particular problem or issue the proposed intervention is designed to address, including how the project will potentially affect older adults and /or people with disabilities, their families and caregivers and the health care and social services systems.

Goals and Objectives

This section should consist of a description of the project’s goal(s) and major objectives. Unless the project involves multiple, complex interventions, we recommend you have only one overall goal.

Proposed Intervention

This section should provide a clear and concise description of the intervention you are proposing to use to address the problem described in the “Problem Statement.” You should also describe the rationale for using the particular intervention, including factors such as: “lessons learned” for similar projects previously tested in your community, or in other areas of the country; factors in the larger environment that have created the “right conditions” for the intervention (e.g., existing social or economic factors that you’ll be able to take advantage of, etc.). Also note any major barriers you anticipate encountering, and how your project will be able to overcome those barriers. Be sure to describe the role and makeup of any strategic partnerships you plan to involve in implementing the intervention, including other organizations, supporters, and/or consumer groups.

Special Target Populations and Organizations

This section should describe how you plan to involve organizations in a meaningful way in the planning and implementation of the proposed project. This section should also describe whether, and if so, how the proposed intervention will target disadvantaged populations, including limited-English speaking populations, those of greatest economic need and those of greatest social need.

Outcomes

This section of the project narrative must clearly identify the measurable outcome(s) that will result from the project. **(NOTE: ACL will not fund any project that does not include measurable outcomes).** This section should also describe how the project’s findings might benefit the field at large, (e.g., how the findings could help other organizations throughout the nation to address the same or similar problems.) List measurable outcomes in the optional work plan grid (“Project Work Plan – Sample Template”) under “Measurable Outcomes” in addition to any discussion included in the narrative along with a description of how the project might benefit the field at large.

A “measurable outcome” is an observable end-result that describes how a particular intervention benefits consumers. It demonstrates the functional status, mental well-being, knowledge, skill, attitude, awareness or behavior.) It can also describe a change in the degree to which consumers exercise choice over the types of services they receive, or whether they are satisfied with the way a service is delivered. Additional examples include: a change in the responsiveness or cost-effectiveness of a service delivery system; a new model of support or care that can be replicated in the ACL network; new knowledge that can contribute to the field of community living; a measurable increase in community awareness; or a measurable increase in persons receiving services. A measurable outcome is not a measurable “output”, such as: the number of clients served; the number of training sessions held; or the number of service units provided.

You should keep the focus of this section on describing what outcome(s) will be produced by the project. You should use the Evaluation section noted below to describe how the outcome(s) will be measured and reported.

Your application will be scored on the clarity and nature of your proposed outcomes, not on the number of outcomes cited. It is totally appropriate for a project to have only ONE outcome that it is trying to achieve through the intervention reflected in the project’s design.

Project Management

This section should include a clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities of project staff, consultants and partner organizations, and how they will contribute to achieving the project’s objectives and outcomes. It should specify who would have day-to-day responsibility for key tasks such as: leadership of project; monitoring the project’s on-going progress, (i.e., measure of performance towards the goals stated in the funding opportunity announcement and for your specific intervention/activities) preparation of reports; communications with other partners and ACL. It should also describe the approach that will be used to monitor and track progress on the project’s tasks and objectives.

Evaluation

This section should describe the specific outcomes (e.g., changes in clients, organizations, and/or communities) expected as a result of this funding as well as method(s), techniques and tools that will be used to: 1) determine whether the proposed intervention achieved its anticipated outcome(s), and 2) document the “lessons learned” – both positive and negative - from the project that will be useful to people interested in replicating the intervention, if it proves successful.

Dissemination

This section should describe the method that will be used to disseminate the project’s results and findings in a timely manner and in easily understandable formats, to parties who might be interested in using the results of the project to inform practice, service delivery, program development, and/or policy-making, including and especially those parties who would be interested in replicating the project.

Organizational Capability

Each application should include an organizational capability statement and vitae for key project personnel. The organizational capability statement should describe how the applicant agency (or the particular division of a larger agency which will have responsibility for this project) is organized, the nature and scope of its work and/or the capabilities it possesses. It should also include the organization's capability to sustain some or all project activities after federal financial assistance has ended.

This description should cover capabilities of the applicant agency not included in the program narrative, such as any current or previous relevant experience and/or the record of the project team in preparing cogent and useful reports, publications, and other products. If appropriate, include an organization chart showing the relationship of the project to the current organization. Please attach short vitae for key project staff only. Neither vitas nor an organizational chart will count towards the narrative page limit. Also include information about any contractual organization(s) that will have a significant role(s) in implementing project and achieving project goals.

Budget Narrative/Justification

The Budget Narrative/Justification can be provided using the format included in the document, "Budget Narrative/Justification – Sample Format." Applicants are encouraged to pay particular attention to this document, which provides an example of the level of detail sought. A combined multi-year Budget Narrative/Justification, as well as a detailed Budget Narrative/Justification for each year of potential grant funding is required.

Work Plan

The Project Work Plan should reflect and be consistent with the Project Narrative and Budget. It should include a statement of the project's overall goal, anticipated outcome(s), key objectives, and the major tasks / action steps that will be pursued to achieve the goal and outcome(s). For each major task / action step, the work plan should identify timeframes involved (including start- and end-dates), and the lead person responsible for completing the task. Please use the "Project Work Plan - Sample Template" format as a reference and resource, if desired.

Letters of Commitment from Key Participating Organizations and Agencies

Include confirmation of the commitments to the project (should it be funded) made by key collaborating organizations and agencies in this part of the application. Any organization that is specifically named to have a significant role in carrying out the project should be considered an essential collaborator. For applications submitted electronically via <http://www.grants.gov>, signed letters of commitment should be scanned and included as attachments. Applicants unable to scan the signed letters of commitment may fax them to the ACL Office of Grants Management at 202-357-3467 by the application submission deadline. In your fax, be sure to include the funding opportunity number and your agency name.

3. Submission Dates and Times

Number Of Days from Publication 60

05/24/2021

Date for Informational Conference Call:

Applications that fail to meet the application due date will not be reviewed and will receive no further consideration. You are strongly encouraged to submit your application a minimum of 3-5 days prior to the application closing date. Do not wait until the last day in the event you encounter technical difficulties, either on your end or, with <http://www.grants.gov>. Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours to notify you of a successful submission.

In addition, if you are submitting your application via Grants.gov, you must (1) be designated by your organization as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and (2) register yourself with Grants.gov as an AOR. Details on these steps are outlined at the following Grants.gov web page: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>.

After you electronically submit your application, you will receive from Grants.gov an automatic notification of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. (This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only)

If you are experiencing problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726. You must obtain a Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number and must keep a record of it.

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, please contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice and provide a written explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number. ACL will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

Note: We will not consider your application for further review if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

If for any reason (including submitting to the wrong funding opportunity number or making corrections/updates) an application is submitted more than once prior to the application due date, ACL will only accept your last validated electronic submission, under the correct funding opportunity number, prior to the Grants.gov application due date as the final and only acceptable application

Unsuccessful submissions will require authenticated verification from <http://www.grants.gov> indicating system problems existed at the time of your submission. For example, you will be required to provide an <http://www.grants.gov> submission error notification and/or tracking number in order to substantiate missing the cut off date.

Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) will automatically send applicants a tracking number and date of receipt verification electronically once the application has been successfully received and validated in <http://www.grants.gov>.

NOTE: There will be no Informational Conference Call for this Funding Opportunity Announcement. Questions regarding this announcement can be referred to Sherri.Clark@acl.hhs.gov.

4. Intergovernmental Review

This program is not subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

5. Funding Restrictions

The following activities are not fundable:

- *Construction and/or major rehabilitation of buildings*
- *Basic research (e.g. scientific or medical experiments)*
- *Continuation of existing projects without expansion or new and innovative approaches*

Note: *A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report has raised considerable concerns about grantees and contractors charging the Federal Government for additional meals outside of the standard allowance for travel subsistence known as per diem expenses. Executive Orders on Promoting Efficient Spending (E.O. 13589) and Delivering Efficient, Effective and Accountable Government (E.O. 13576) have been issued and instruct Federal agencies to promote efficient spending. Therefore, if meals are to be charged in your proposal, applicants should understand such costs must meet the following criteria outlined in the Executive Orders and HHS Grants Policy Statement:*

- *Meals are generally unallowable except for the following:*
 - *For subjects and patients under study (usually a research program);*
 - *Where specifically approved as part of the project or program activity, e.g., in programs providing children's services (e.g. Head Start);*
 - *When an organization customarily provides meals to employees working beyond the normal workday, as a part of a formal compensation arrangement,*
 - *As part of a per diem or subsistence allowance provided in conjunction with allowable travel; and*
 - *Under a conference grant, when meals are necessary and integral part of a conference, provided that meal costs are not duplicated in participants' per diem or subsistence allowances. (Note: conference grant means the sole purpose of the award is to hold a conference.)*

The following updated sections 2 CFR 200.216 “Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment” became **effective on or after August 13, 2020**.

Recommended Actions for any recipient that has received a loan, grant, or cooperative agreement **on or after August 13, 2020**:

- Develop a compliance plan to implement 2 CFR 200.216 regulation.
- Develop and maintain internal controls to ensure that your organization does not expend federal funds (in whole or in part) on covered equipment, services or systems.
- Determine through reasonable inquiry whether your organization currently uses “covered telecommunication” equipment, services, or systems and take necessary actions to comply with the regulation as quickly as is feasibly possible.

6. Other Submission Requirements

The following activities are not fundable:

- *Construction and/or major rehabilitation of buildings*
- *Basic research (e.g. scientific or medical experiments)*
- *Continuation of existing projects without expansion or new and innovative approaches*

Note: *A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report has raised considerable concerns about grantees and contractors charging the Federal Government for additional meals outside of the standard allowance for travel subsistence known as per diem expenses. Executive Orders on Promoting Efficient Spending (E.O. 13589) and Delivering Efficient, Effective and Accountable Government (E.O. 13576) have been issued and instruct Federal agencies to promote efficient spending. Therefore, if meals are to be charged in your proposal, applicants should understand such costs must meet the following criteria outlined in the Executive Orders and HHS Grants Policy Statement:*

- *Meals are generally unallowable except for the following:*
 - *For subjects and patients under study (usually a research program);*
 - *Where specifically approved as part of the project or program activity, e.g., in programs providing children’s services (e.g. Head Start);*
 - *When an organization customarily provides meals to employees working beyond the normal workday, as a part of a formal compensation arrangement,*
 - *As part of a per diem or subsistence allowance provided in conjunction with allowable travel; and*
 - *Under a conference grant, when meals are necessary and integral part of a conference, provided that meal costs are not duplicated in participants' per diem or subsistence allowances. (Note: conference grant means the sole purpose of the award is to hold a conference.)*

V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Applicants must document all of their source material. If any text, language and/or materials are from another source, the applicant must make it clear the material is being quoted and where the text comes from. The applicant must also cite any sources when they obtain numbers, ideas, or other material that is not their own. If the applicant fails to comply with this requirement, regardless of the severity or frequency of the plagiarism, the reviewers shall reduce their scores accordingly even to the degree of issuing no points at all.

Applications are scored by assigning a maximum of 100 points across the desired review criteria:

- Project Relevance & Current Need
- Approach
- Budget
- Project Impact
- Organizational Capacity

Project Relevance and Need

Maximum Points: 10

- Is the proposal relevant to the intent, goals, and objectives of this funding announcement, as described in Section I of this Funding Opportunity Announcement?
- Does the proposed project clearly and adequately identify the current issues surrounding aging and disability information and referral?

Approach

Maximum Points: 40

- Is the intervention clearly defined? Does it reflect a coherent and feasible approach for successfully providing training and technical assistance to advance aging and disability information & referral? Are achievable outcomes identified? Does the project take into account barriers and opportunities that exist in the larger environment that may impact on the project's success? Does the intervention optimize the use of potential partnerships with other organizations and/or consumer groups, as appropriate?
- Has the applicant stated clear and meaningful goals and objectives for the proposed strategy? Are the goals and objectives reasonable and likely to be achieved?
- Is the project work plan clear and comprehensive? Does it include sensible and feasible timeframes for the accomplishment of tasks presented? Does the work plan include specific objectives and tasks that are linked to measurable outcomes? Does the proposal include a clear and coherent management plan? Are the roles and responsibilities of project staff, consultants and partners clearly defined and linked to specific objectives and tasks? Are the qualifications of the project staff, consultants and/or partners, and the proposed level of effort adequate to carry out the project?
- Will the dissemination plan get relevant and easy to use information in a timely manner to parties that might be interested in making use of them?

Budget

Maximum Points: 15

- **Does the application include a budget and budget narrative for all years of the proposed project? (Failure to include budgets and budget narratives with the application will result in a score of “zero” for this section).**
- Is the budget justified with respect to the adequacy and reasonableness of resources requested? Are budget items clearly delineated and consistent with work plan objectives? (i.e., a clear and strong relationship between the stated objectives, project activities, the work expected to be performed, and what it will cost)?
- Is the time commitment of the proposed director and other key project personnel sufficient to assure proper direction, management, and timely completion of the project?

Project Impact

Maximum Points: 15

- Are the proposed outcomes quantifiable and measurable, consistent with the definition of a project outcomes as described in Section III of the funding opportunity announcement and as contained in “Project Work Plan –Sample Template?” Are the expected project benefits, results, and impact clear, realistic, and consistent with the objectives and purpose of the project, as well as with the funding opportunity? Are the anticipated outcomes of the proposed project likely to be achieved, and will they significantly benefit aging and disability networks in providing effective I&R/A programs?

- Does the project evaluation reflect a thoughtful and well-designed approach that will be able to successfully measure whether or not the project has achieved its proposed outcome(s)? Does the plan include the qualitative and/or quantitative methods necessary to reliably measure outcomes? Is the evaluation also designed to capture “lessons learned” from the overall effort that might be of use to the field?

Organizational Capacity

Maximum Points: 20

- **Does the applicant demonstrate the required national-level experience and expertise necessary to fully execute the activities sought under this opportunity? If “no,” the applicant will receive a score of “zero” for this section.**
- Do the proposed project director(s), key staff, and consultants have the background, experience, and other qualifications required to carry out their designated roles? Do they demonstrate experience serving state-wide, regional, and national audiences and stakeholders?
- Is the applicant agency significantly and meaningfully involved in carrying out the project? Are the proposed project director(s), key staff, and consultants dedicating an appropriate amount of time to fulfill their obligations to the project? Are Letters of Commitment from participating organizations included, as appropriate, and do they express the clear commitment and areas of responsibility of those organizations, consistent with the work plan description of their intended roles and contributions?

2. Review and Selection Process

As required by 2 CFR Part 200 of the Uniform Guidance, effective January 1, 2016, ACL is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), <https://www.fapiis.gov> before making any award in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$150,000) over the period of performance. An applicant may review and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency has previously entered into FAPIIS. ACL will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR Section 200.205 Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants ([https:// www.ecfr.gov/ cgi-bin/ text-idx?node=se2.1.200_1205&rgn=div8](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?node=se2.1.200_1205&rgn=div8)).

An independent review panel of at least three individuals will evaluate applications that pass the screening and meet the responsiveness criteria if applicable. These reviewers are experts in their field, and are drawn from academic institutions, non-profit organizations, state and local governments, and federal government agencies. Based on the Application Review Criteria as outlined under section V.1, the reviewers will comment on and score the applications, focusing their comments and scoring decisions on the identified criteria.

Final award decisions will be made by the Administrator, ACL. In making these decisions, the Administrator will take into consideration: recommendations of the review panel; reviews for

programmatic and grants management compliance; the reasonableness of the estimated cost to the government considering the available funding and anticipated results; and the likelihood that the proposed project will result in the benefits expected.

3. Anticipated Announcement Award Date

Award notices to successful applicants will be sent out prior to the project start date.

The anticipated project period start date for this announcement is: 08/01/2021

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive an electronic Notice of Award. The Notice of Award is the authorizing document from the U.S. Administration for Community Living authorizing official, Office of Grants Management. Acceptance of this award is signified by the drawdown of funds from the Payment Management System. Unsuccessful applicants are generally notified within 30 days of the final funding decision and will receive a disapproval letter via e-mail. Unless indicated otherwise in this announcement, unsuccessful applications will not be retained by the agency and will be destroyed.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The award is subject to HHS Administrative Requirements, which can be found in 45 CFR Part 75 and the Standard Terms and Conditions, included in the Notice of Award as well as implemented through the HHS Grants Policy Statement.

Recipients of federal financial assistance (FFA) from HHS must administer their programs in compliance with federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and, in some circumstances, religion, conscience, and sex. This includes ensuring programs are accessible to persons with limited English proficiency. The HHS Office for Civil Rights provides guidance on complying with civil rights laws enforced by HHS. Please see the appendix for this announcement to review the entire policy and guidelines.

A standard term and condition of award will be included in the final notice of award; all applicants will be subject to a term and condition that applies the terms of 48 CFR section 3.908 to the award and requires the grantees inform their employee in writing of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. 4712 in the predominant native language of the workforce.

Applicants may follow their own procurement policies and procedures when contracting with Project Funds, but You must comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.326. Additionally, when using Project Funds to procure supplies and/or equipment, applicants are encouraged to purchase American-manufactured goods to the maximum extent practicable. American-manufactured goods are those products for which the cost of their component parts that were mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States exceeds 50 percent of the total cost of all their components. For further guidance regarding what constitutes an American-manufactured good (also known as a domestic end product), see 48 C.F.R. Part 25.

3. Reporting

Reporting frequency for performance and financial reports, as well as any required form or formatting and the means of submission will be noted within the terms and conditions on the Notice of Award.

4. FFATA and FSRS Reporting

The Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires data entry at the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (<http://www.FSRS.gov>) for all sub-awards and sub-contracts issued for \$25,000 or more as well as addressing executive compensation for both grantee and sub-award organizations.

For further guidance please follow this link to access ACL's Terms and Conditions: <https://www.acl.gov/grants/managing-grant#>

VII. Agency Contacts

Project Officer

First Name:

Sherri

Last Name:

Clark

Phone:

202-795-7327

Office:

Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services

Grants Management Specialist

First Name:

Sherlonda

Last Name:

Blue

Phone:

202-795-7310

Office:

Office of Grants Management

VIII. Other Information

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-13)

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The project description and Budget Narrative/Justification is approved under OMB control number 0985-0018. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed and reviewing the collection information.

Appendix

Accessibility Provisions for All Grant Application Packages and Funding Opportunity Announcements

Recipients of federal financial assistance (FFA) from HHS must administer their programs in compliance with federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and, in some circumstances, religion, conscience, and sex. This includes ensuring programs are accessible to persons with limited English proficiency. The HHS Office for Civil Rights provides guidance on complying with civil rights laws enforced by HHS. Please see <https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-providers/provider-obligations/index.html> and <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/understanding/section1557/index.html>.

- Recipients of FFA must ensure that their programs are accessible to persons with limited English proficiency. HHS provides guidance to recipients of FFA on meeting their legal obligation to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to their programs by persons with limited English proficiency. Please see <https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/special-topics/limited-english-proficiency/fact-sheet-guidance/index.html> and <https://www.lep.gov>. For further guidance on providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services, recipients should review the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care at <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=53>.
- Recipients of FFA also have specific legal obligations for serving qualified individuals with disabilities. Please see <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/understanding/disability/index.html>.
- HHS funded health and education programs must be administered in an environment free of sexual harassment. Please see <https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/sex-discrimination/index.html>; <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/shguide.html>; and <https://www.eeoc.gov/sexual-harrassment>.
- Recipients of FFA must also administer their programs in compliance with applicable federal religious nondiscrimination laws and applicable federal conscience protection and associated anti-discrimination laws. Collectively, these laws prohibit exclusion, adverse treatment, coercion, or other discrimination against persons or entities on the basis of their consciences, religious beliefs, or moral convictions. Please see <https://www.hhs.gov/conscience/conscience-protections/index.html> and <https://www.hhs.gov/conscience/religious-freedom/index.html>.

Please contact the HHS Office for Civil Rights for more information about obligations and prohibitions under federal civil rights laws at <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/about-us/contact-us/index.html> or call 1-800-368-1019 or TDD 1-800-537-7697.

Instructions for Completing Required Forms

This section provides step-by-step instructions for completing the four (4) standard Federal forms required as part of your grant application, including special instructions for completing Standard Budget Forms 424 and 424A. Standard Forms 424 and 424A are used for a wide variety of Federal grant programs, and Federal agencies have the discretion to require some or all of the information on these forms. ACL does not require all the information on these Standard Forms. Accordingly, please use the instructions below in lieu of the standard instructions attached to SF 424 and 424A to complete these forms.

a. Standard Form 424

1. **Type of Submission:** (REQUIRED): Select one type of submission in accordance with agency instructions.

- Preapplication
- Application
- Changed/Corrected Application – If ACL requests, check if this submission is to change or correct a previously submitted application.

2. **Type of Application:** (REQUIRED) Select one type of application in accordance with agency instructions.

- New
- Continuation
- Revision

3. **Date Received:** Leave this field blank.

4. **Applicant Identifier:** Leave this field blank

5a **Federal Entity Identifier:** Leave this field blank

5b. **Federal Award Identifier:** For new applications leave blank. For a continuation or revision to an existing award, enter the previously assigned Federal award (grant) number.

6. **Date Received by State:** Leave this field blank.

7. **State Application Identifier:** Leave this field blank.

8. **Applicant Information:** Enter the following in accordance with agency instructions:

a. Legal Name: (REQUIRED): Enter the name that the organization has registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), formally the Central Contractor Registry. Information on registering with SAM may be obtained by visiting the Grants.gov website (<https://www.grants.gov>) or by going directly to the SAM website (www.sam.gov).

b. Employer/Taxpayer Number (EIN/TIN): (REQUIRED): Enter the Employer or Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN or TIN) as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, we encourage the organization to include the correct suffix used to identify your organization in order to properly align access to the Payment Management System.

c. Organizational DUNS: (REQUIRED) Enter the organization's DUNS or DUNS+4 number received from Dun and Bradstreet. Information on obtaining a DUNS number may be obtained by visiting the Grants.gov website (<https://www.grants.gov>). Your DUNS number can be verified at <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/>.

d. Address: (REQUIRED) Enter the complete address including the county.

e. Organizational Unit: Enter the name of the primary organizational unit (and department or division, if applicable) that will undertake the project.

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application: Enter the name (First and last name required), organizational affiliation (if affiliated

with an organization other than the applicant organization), telephone number (Required), fax number, and email address (Required) of the person to contact on matters related to this application.

9. Type of Applicant: (REQUIRED) Select the applicant organization “type” from the following drop down list.

A. State Government B. County Government C. City or Township Government D. Special District Government E. Regional Organization F. U.S. Territory or Possession G. Independent School District H. Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education I. Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Federally Recognized) J. Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Other than Federally Recognized) K. Indian/Native American Tribally Designated Organization L. Public/Indian Housing Authority M. Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) N. Nonprofit without 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) O. Private Institution of Higher Education P. Individual Q. For-Profit Organization (Other than Small Business) R. Small Business S. Hispanic-serving Institution T. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) U. Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs) V. Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions W. Non-domestic (non-US) Entity X. Other (specify)

10. Name of Federal Agency: (REQUIRED) Enter U.S. Administration for Community Living

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number/Title: The CFDA number can be found on page one of the Program Announcement.

12. Funding Opportunity Number/Title: (REQUIRED) The Funding Opportunity Number and title of the opportunity can be found on page one of the Program Announcement.

13. Competition Identification Number/Title: Leave this field blank.

14. Areas Affected by Project: List the largest political entity affected (cities, counties, state etc.)

15. Descriptive Title of Applicant’s Project: (REQUIRED) Enter a brief descriptive title of the project (This is not a narrative description).

16. Congressional Districts Of: (REQUIRED) 16a. Enter the applicant’s Congressional District, and 16b. Enter all district(s) affected by the program or project. Enter in the format: 2 characters State Abbreviation – 3 characters District Number, e.g., CA-005 for California 5th district, CA-012 for California 12th district, NC-103 for North Carolina’s 103rd district. If all congressional districts in a state are affected, enter “all” for the district number, e.g., MD-all for all congressional districts in Maryland. If nationwide, i.e. all districts within all states are affected, enter US-all. See the below website to find your congressional district:

<https://www.house.gov/>

17. Proposed Project Start and End Dates: (REQUIRED) Enter the proposed start date and final end date of the project. **If you are applying for a multi-year grant, such as a 3 year grant project, the final project end date will be 3 years after the proposed start date.** In general, all start dates on the SF424 should be the 1st of the month and the end date of the last day of the month of the final year, for example 7/01/2014 to 6/30/2017. The Grants Officer can alter the start and end date at their discretion.

18. Estimated Funding: (REQUIRED) If requesting multi-year funding, enter the full amount requested from the Federal Government in line item 18.a., as a multi-year total. For example and illustrative purposes only, if year one is \$100,000, year two is \$100,000, and year three is \$100,000, then the full amount of federal funds requested would be reflected as \$300,000. The amount of matching funds is denoted by lines b. through f. with a combined federal and non-federal total entered on line g. Lines b. through f. represents contributions to the project by the applicant and by your partners during the total project period, broken down by each type of contributor. The value of in-kind contributions should be included on appropriate lines, as applicable.

NOTE: Applicants should review cost sharing or matching principles contained in Subpart C of 45 CFR Part 75 before completing Item 18 and the Budget Information Sections A, B and C noted below.

All budget information entered under item 18 should cover the total project period. For sub-item 18a, enter the federal funds being requested. Sub-items 18b-18e is considered matching funds. The dollar amounts entered in sub-items 18b-18f must total at least 1/3 of the amount of federal funds being requested (the amount in 18a). For a full explanation of ACL's match requirements, see the information in the box below. For sub-item 18f (program income), enter only the amount, if any, that is going to be used as part of the required match. Program Income submitted as match will become a part of the award match and recipients will be held accountable to meet their share of project expenses even if program income is not generated during the award period.

There are two types of match: 1) non-federal cash and 2) non-federal in-kind. In general, costs borne by the applicant and cash contributions of any and all third parties involved in the project, including sub-grantees, contractors and consultants, are considered **matching funds**. Examples of **non-federal cash match** includes budgetary funds provided from the applicant agency's budget for costs associated with the project. Generally, most contributions from sub-contractors or sub-grantees (third parties) will be non-federal in-kind matching funds. Volunteered time and use of third party facilities to hold meetings or conduct project activities may be considered in-kind (third party) donations.

NOTE: Indirect charges may only be requested if: (1) the applicant has a current indirect cost rate agreement approved by the Department of Health and Human Services or another federal agency; or (2) the applicant is a state or local government agency. State governments should enter the amount of indirect costs determined in accordance with HHS requirements. **If indirect costs are to be included in the application, a copy of the approved indirect cost agreement or cost allocation plan must be included with the application. Further, if any sub-contractors or sub-grantees are requesting indirect costs, a copy of the latest approved indirect cost agreements must also be included with the application, or reference to an approved cost allocation plan.**

19. Is Application Subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12372

Process? Please refer to IV. Application and Submission Information, 4. Intergovernmental Review to determine if the ACL program is subject to E.O. 12372 and respond accordingly.

20. **Is the Applicant Delinquent on any Federal Debt?** (Required) This question applies to the applicant organization, not the person who signs as the authorized representative. If yes, include an explanation on the continuation sheet.

21. **Authorized Representative:** (Required) To be signed and dated by the authorized representative of the applicant organization. Enter the name (First and last name required) title (Required), telephone number (Required), fax number, and email address (Required) of the person authorized to sign for the applicant. A copy of the governing body's authorization for you to sign this application as the official representative must be on file in the applicant's office. (Certain federal agencies may require that this authorization be submitted as part of the application.)

Standard Form 424A

NOTE: Standard Form 424A is designed to accommodate applications for multiple grant programs; thus, for purposes of this ACL program, many of the budget item columns and rows are not applicable. You should only consider and respond to the budget items for which guidance is provided below. Unless otherwise indicated, the SF 424A should reflect a multi-year budget.

Section A - Budget Summary

Line 5: Leave columns (c) and (d) blank. Enter TOTAL Federal costs in column (e) and total non federal costs (including third party in-kind contributions and any program income to be used as part of the grantee match) in column (f). Enter the sum of columns (e) and (f) in column (g).

Section B - Budget Categories

Column 1: Enter the breakdown of how you plan to use the Federal funds being requested by object class category.

Column 2: Enter the breakdown of how you plan to use the non-Federal share by object class category.

Column 5: Enter the total funds required for the project (sum of Columns 1 and 2) by object class category.

Section C - Non-Federal Resources

Column A: Enter the federal grant program.

Column B: Enter in any non-federal resources that the applicant will contribute to the project.

Column C: Enter in any non-federal resources that the state will contribute to the project.

Column D: Enter in any non-federal resources that other sources will contribute to the project.

Column E: Enter the total non-federal resources for each program listed in column A.

Section D - Forecasted Cash Needs

Line 13: Enter Federal forecasted cash needs broken down by quarter for the first year only.

Line 14: Enter Non-Federal forecasted cash needs broken down by quarter for the first year.

Line 15: Enter total forecasted cash needs broken down by quarter for the first year.

Note: This area is not meant to be one whereby an applicant merely divides the requested funding by four and inserts that amount in each quarter but an area where thought is given as to how your estimated expenses will be incurred during each quarter. For example, if you have initial startup costs in the first quarter of your award reflect that in quarter one or you do not expect to have contracts awarded and funded until quarter three, reflect those costs in that quarter.

Section E – Budget Estimates of Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project (i.e. subsequent years 2, 3, 4 or 5 as applicable).

Column A: Enter the federal grant program

Column B (first): Enter the requested year two funding.

Column C (second): Enter the requested year three funding.

Column D (third): Enter the requested year four funding, if applicable.

Column E (forth): Enter the requested year five funding, if applicable.

Section F – Other Budget Information

Line 21: Enter the total Indirect Charges

Line 22: Enter the total Direct charges (calculation of indirect rate and direct charges).

Line 23: Enter any pertinent remarks related to the budget.

Separate Budget Narrative/Justification Requirement

Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grant programs are REQUIRED to provide a combined multi-year Budget Narrative/Justification, as well as a detailed Budget Narrative/Justification for each year of potential grant funding. A separate Budget Narrative/Justification is also REQUIRED for each potential year of grant funding requested.

For your use in developing and presenting your Budget Narrative/Justification, a sample format with examples and a blank sample template have been included in these Attachments. In your Budget Narrative/Justification, you should include a breakdown of the budgetary costs for all of the object class categories noted in Section B, across three columns: Federal; non-Federal cash; and non-Federal in-kind. Cost breakdowns, or justifications, are required for any cost of \$1,000 or for the thresholds as established in the examples. The Budget Narratives/Justifications should fully explain and justify the costs in each of the major budget items for each of the object class categories, as described below. Non-Federal cash as well as, sub-contractor or sub-grantee (third party) in-kind contributions designated as match must be clearly identified and explained in the Budget Narrative/Justification. The full Budget Narrative/Justification should be included in the application immediately following the SF 424 forms.

Line 6a: **Personnel:** Enter total costs of salaries and wages of applicant/grantee staff. Do not include the costs of consultants, which should be included under 6h Other.

In the Justification: Identify the project director, if known. Specify the key staff, their titles, and time commitments in the budget justification.

Line 6b: **Fringe Benefits:** Enter the total costs of fringe benefits unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate.

In the Justification: If the total fringe benefit rate exceeds 35% of Personnel costs, provide a breakdown of amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs, such as health insurance, FICA, retirement, etc. A percentage of 35% or less does not require a breakdown but you must show the percentage charged for each full/part time employee.

Line 6c: **Travel:** Enter total costs of all travel (local and non-local) for staff on the project. **NEW:** Local travel is considered under this cost item not under Other. Local transportation (all travel which does not require per diem is considered local travel). Do not enter costs for consultant's travel - this should be included in line 6h.

In the Justification: Include the total number of trips, number of travelers, destinations, purpose (e.g., attend conference), length of stay, subsistence allowances (per diem), and transportation costs (including mileage rates).

Line 6d: **Equipment:** Enter the total costs of all equipment to be acquired by the project. For all grantees, "equipment" is nonexpendable tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit. If the item does not meet the \$5,000 threshold, include it in your budget under Supplies, line 6e.

In the Justification: Equipment to be purchased with federal funds must be justified as necessary for the conduct of the project. The equipment must be used for project-related functions. Further, the purchase of specific items of equipment should not be included in the submitted budget if those items of equipment, or a reasonable facsimile, are otherwise available to the applicant or its subgrantees.

Line 6e: **Supplies:** Enter the total costs of all tangible expendable personal property (supplies) other than those included on line 6d.

In the Justification: . For any grant award that has supply costs in excess of 5% of total direct costs (Federal or Non-Federal), you must provide a detailed break down of the supply items (e.g., 6% of \$100,000 = \$6,000 – breakdown of supplies needed). If the 5% is applied against \$1 million total direct costs (5% x \$1,000,000 = \$50,000) a detailed breakdown of supplies is not needed. Please note: any supply costs of \$5,000 or less regardless of total direct costs does not require a detailed budget breakdown (e.g., 5% x \$100,000 = \$5,000 – no breakdown needed).

Line 6f: **Contractual:** Regardless of the dollar value of any contract, you must follow your established policies and procedures for procurements and meet the minimum standards established in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR's) mentioned below. Enter the total costs of all contracts, including (1) procurement contracts (except those which belong on other lines such as equipment, supplies, etc.). Note: The 33% provision has been removed and line item budget detail is not required as long as you meet the established procurement standards. Also include any awards to organizations for the provision of technical assistance. Do not include payments to individuals on this line. Please be advised: A subrecipient is involved in financial assistance activities by receiving a sub-award and a subcontractor is involved in procurement activities by receiving a sub-contract. Through the recipient, a subrecipient performs work to accomplish the public purpose authorized by law. Generally speaking, a sub-contractor does not seek to accomplish a public benefit and does not perform substantive work on the project. It is merely a vendor providing goods or services to directly benefit the recipient, for example procuring landscaping or janitorial services. In either case, you are encouraged to clearly describe the type of work that will be accomplished and type of relationship with the lower tiered entity whether it be labeled as a subaward or subcontract.

In the Justification: Provide the following three items – 1) Attach a list of contractors indicating the name of the organization; 2) the purpose of the contract; and 3) the estimated dollar amount. If the name of the contractor and estimated costs are not available or have not been negotiated, indicate when this information will be available. The Federal government reserves the right to request the final executed contracts at any time. If an individual contractual item is over the small purchase threshold, currently set at \$100K in the CFR, you must certify that your procurement standards are in accordance with the policies and procedures as stated in 45 CFR Part 75 for states, in lieu of providing separate detailed budgets. This certification should be referenced in the justification and attached to the budget narrative.

Line 6g: **Construction:** Leave blank since construction is not an allowable costs for this program.

Line 6h: **Other:** Enter the total of all other costs. Such costs, where applicable, may include, but are not limited to: insurance, medical and dental costs (i.e. for project volunteers this is different from personnel fringe benefits), non-contractual fees and travel paid directly to individual consultants, postage, space and equipment rentals/lease, printing and publication, computer use, training and staff development costs (i.e. registration fees). If a cost does not clearly fit under another category, and it qualifies as an allowable cost, then rest assured this is where it belongs.

Note: A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report number 11-43, has raised considerable concerns about grantees and contractors charging the Federal government for additional meals outside of the standard allowance for travel subsistence known as per diem expenses. If meals are to be charged towards the grant they must meet the following criteria outlined in the Grants Policy Statement:

- *Meals are generally unallowable except for the following:*
- *For subjects and patients under study(usually a research program);*
- *Where specifically approved as part of the project or program activity, e.g., in programs providing children's services (e.g., Headstart);*
- *When an organization customarily provides meals to employees working beyond the normal workday, as a part of a formal compensation arrangement;*
- *As part of a per diem or subsistence allowance provided in conjunction with allowable travel; and*
- *Under a conference grant, when meals are a necessary and integral part of a conference, provided that meal costs are not duplicated in participants' per diem or subsistence allowances (Note: the sole purpose of the grant award is to hold a conference).*

In the Justification: Provide a reasonable explanation for items in this category. For example, individual consultants explain the nature of services provided and the relation to activities in the work plan or indicate where it is described in the work plan. Describe the types of activities for staff development costs.

Line 6i: **Total Direct Charges:** Show the totals of Lines 6a through 6h.

Line 6j: **Indirect Charges:** Enter the total amount of indirect charges (costs), if any. If no indirect costs are requested, enter "none." Indirect charges may be requested if: (1) the applicant has a current indirect cost rate agreement approved by the Department of Health and Human Services or another federal agency; or (2) the applicant is a state or local government agency. **State governments should enter the amount of indirect costs determined in accordance with DHHS requirements.** An applicant that will charge indirect costs to the grant must enclose a copy of the current rate agreement. Indirect Costs can only be claimed on Federal funds, more specifically, they are to only be claimed on the Federal share of your direct costs. Any unused portion of the grantee's eligible Indirect Cost amount that are not claimed on the Federal share of direct charges can be claimed as un-reimbursed indirect charges, and that portion can be used towards meeting the recipient match.

Line 6k: **Total:** Enter the total amounts of Lines 6i and 6j.

Line 7: **Program Income:** As appropriate, include the estimated amount of income, if any, you expect to be generated from this project that you wish to designate as match (equal to the amount shown for Item 15(f) on Form 424). **Note:** Any program income indicated at the bottom of Section B and for item 15(f) on the face sheet of Form 424 will be included as part of non-Federal match and will be subject to the rules for documenting completion of this pledge. If program income is expected, but is not needed to achieve matching funds, **do not** include that portion here or on Item 15(f) of the Form 424 face sheet. Any anticipated program income that will not be applied as grantee match should be described in the Level of Effort section of the Program Narrative.

c. Standard Form 424B – Assurances (required)

This form contains assurances required of applicants under the discretionary funds programs administered by the Administration for Community Living. Please note that a duly authorized representative of the applicant organization must certify that the organization is in compliance with these assurances.

d. Certification Regarding Lobbying (required)

This form contains certifications that are required of the applicant organization regarding lobbying. Please note that a duly authorized representative of the applicant organization must attest to the applicant’s compliance with these certifications.

Proof of Nonprofit Status (as applicable)

Non-profit applicants must submit proof of non-profit status. Any of the following constitutes acceptable proof of such status:

- A copy of a currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate.
- A statement from a State taxing body, State attorney general, or other appropriate State official certifying that the applicant organization has a non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals.
- A certified copy of the organization’s certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status.

Indirect Cost Agreement

Applicants that have included indirect costs in their budgets must include a copy of the current indirect cost rate agreement approved by the Department of Health and Human Services or another federal agency. This is optional for applicants that have not included indirect costs in their budgets.

Budget Narrative/Justification- Sample Format

NOTE: Applicants requesting funding for a multi-year grant program are REQUIRED to provide a detailed Budget Narrative/Justification for EACH potential year of grant funding requested.

Object Class Category	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Cash	Non-Federal	TOTAL	Justification
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			In-Kind		
Personnel	\$47,700	\$23,554	\$0	\$71,254	<p>Federal Project Director (name) = .5 FTE @ \$95,401/yr = \$47,700</p> <p>Non-Fed Cash Officer Manager (name) = .5FTE @ \$47,108/yr = \$23,554</p> <p>Total 7 1,254</p>
Fringe Benefits	\$17,482	\$8,632	\$0	\$26,114	<p>Federal Fringe on Project Director at 36.65% = \$17,482 FICA (7.65%) Health (25%) Dental (2%) Life (1%) Unemployment (1%)</p> <p>Non-Fed Cash Fringe on Office Manager at 36.65% = \$8,632 FICA (7.65%) Health (25%) Dental (2%) Life (1%) Unemployment (1%)</p>
Travel	\$4,707	\$2,940	\$0	\$7,647	<p>Federal Local travel: 6 TA site visits for 1 person Mileage: 6RT @ .585 x 700 miles \$2,457 Lodging: 15 days @ \$110/day \$1,650</p>

					Per Diem: 15 days @ \$40/day \$600 Total \$4,707 Non-Fed Cash Travel to National Conference in (Destination) for 3 people Airfare 1 RT x 3 staff @ \$500 \$1,500 Lodging: 3 days x 3 staff @ \$120/day \$1,080 Per Diem: 3 days x 3 staff @ \$40/day \$360 Total \$2,940
Equipment	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	No Equipment requested OR: Call Center Equipment Installation = \$5,000 Phones = \$5,000 Total \$10,000
Supplies	\$3,700	\$5,670	\$0	\$9,460	Federal 2 desks @ \$1,500 \$3,000 2 chairs @ \$300 \$600 2 cabinets @ \$200 \$400 Non-Fed Cash 2 Laptop computers \$3,000 Printer cartridges @ \$50/month \$300

					<p>Consumable supplies (pens, paper, clips etc...)</p> <p>@ \$180/month</p> <p>2,160</p> <p>Total \$9,460</p>
Contractual	\$30,171	\$0	\$0	\$30,171	<p>(organization name, purpose of contract and estimated dollar amount)</p> <p>Contract with AAA to provide respite services:</p> <p>11 care givers @ \$1,682 = \$18,502</p> <p>Volunteer Coordinator = \$11,669</p> <p>Total \$30,171</p> <p><i>If contract details are unknown due to contract yet to be made provide same information listed above and:</i></p> <p>A detailed evaluation plan and budget will be submitted by (date), when contract is made.</p>
Other	\$5,600	\$0	\$5,880	\$11,480	<p>Federal</p> <p>2 consultants @ \$100/hr for 24.5 hours each = \$4,900</p> <p>Printing 10,000 Brochures @ \$.05 = \$500</p> <p>Local conference registration fee (name conference) = \$200</p> <p>Total \$5,600</p> <p>In-Kind</p> <p>Volunteers</p> <p>15 volunteers @ \$8/hr for 49 hours = \$5,880</p>
Indirect Charges	\$20,934	\$0	\$0	\$20,934	<p>21.5% of salaries and fringe = \$20,934</p>

					IDC rate is attached.
TOTAL	\$140,294	\$40,866	\$5,880	\$187,060	

Budget Narrative/Justification - Sample Template

NOTE: Applicants requesting funding for a multi-year grant program are REQUIRED to provide a detailed Budget Narrative/Justification for EACH potential year of grant funding requested.

Object Class Category	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Cash	Non-Federal In-Kind	TOTAL	Justification
Personnel					
Fringe Benefits					
Travel					
Equipment					
Supplies					
Contractual					
Other					
Indirect Charges					
TOTAL					

Project Work Plan - Sample Template

NOTE : Applicants requesting funding for a multi-year grant program are REQUIRED to provide a Project Work Plan for EACH potential year of grant funding requested.

Goal:

Measurable Outcome(s):

* Time Frame (Start/End Dates by Month in Project Cycle)

Major Objectives	Key Tasks	Lead Person	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	7*	8*	9*	10*	11*	12*
1.														
2.														
3.														

families across age and disability spectrums by expanding and coordinating existing respite systems in Delaware. The **objectives** are: 1) to improve lifespan respite infrastructure; 2) to improve the provision of information and awareness about respite service; 3) to streamline access to respite services through the Delaware ADRC; 4) to increase availability of respite services. Anticipated **outcomes** include: 1) families and caregivers of all ages and disabilities will have greater options for choosing a respite provider; 2) providers will demonstrate increased ability to provide specialized respite care; 3) families will have streamlined access to information and satisfaction with respite services; 4) respite care will be provided using a variety of existing funding sources and 5) a sustainability plan will be developed to support the project in the future. The expected **products** are marketing and outreach materials, caregiver training, respite worker training, a Respite Online searchable database, two new Caregiver Resource Centers (CRC), an annual Respite Summit, a respite voucher program and 24/7 telephone information and referral services.