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FY25 Aging-In-Place Grant

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Purpose:

The Maryland Department of Aging is pleased to announce a competitive funding opportunity for grant awards under the Aging-In-Place Program, in accordance with the State of Maryland Human Services Article §10-1201. This funding opportunity aligns with the Department's commitment to supporting Marylanders to live in their own homes and communities safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level.

Like the rest of the country, Maryland is home to a population of older adults which will grow considerably over the next several decades. There are 1.4 million people in Maryland over the age of sixty and by 2030 nearly one out of every five Marylanders will be 60 years of age or older (census.gov). The majority of older adults want to age in their homes or have limited alternatives, due to the high cost of institutional or assisted living options. Additionally, older adults face the pressing public health concern of social isolation and loneliness, as outlined in [the U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community](#).

This funding opportunity is part of the Department's strategy to increase the resources and capacity for local Area Agencies on Aging, Senior Villages, and nonprofit organizations serving older Marylanders and their caregivers to provide high-quality services and supports, develop social connection and community engagement, and foster the cultivation of social capital, enabling older Marylanders to thrive in their communities.

A Senior Village is a local, member-driven, nonprofit organization that:

- Fosters social connections through activities and events;
- Coordinates volunteer help at home using a neighbor-helping-neighbor model;
- Is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



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Successful applicants will propose projects that:

1. *Preserve Familiarity and Independence*, allowing older adults to maintain identity and independence in familiar environments, which can trigger positive memories and improve quality of life.
2. *Provide Mental Stimulation and Engagement*, encouraging mental stimulation through familiar routines, social interactions, and activities that challenge the mind, which are crucial for delaying cognitive decline and promoting well-being.
3. *Reduce Emotional Stress*, by minimizing the life disruptions, stress and anxiety that come with transitioning to new living environments, thus maintaining emotional well-being in a comforting and known environment.
4. *Provide the opportunity* to live in a supported community.

Services to be funded through this opportunity may include:

- In-home personal care services
- Integration and education of services to maintain living in the community;
- Psychological, economic, or functional assistance;
- Increasing awareness of and equitable access to resources;
- Supportive services and care coordination;
- Social isolation reduction and engagement programs;
- Affordable transportation;
- Assistance with home modifications or repairs to improve safety, mobility, and accessibility; and The opportunity to live in a Senior Village.

Preference will be given to projects that:

- Incorporate volunteers in the planning and delivery of programs or services;
- Serve individuals who belong to historically underserved communities, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; Persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality;
- Propose multi-sector or multigenerational collaboration;



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- Establish new Villages or expand existing Villages into marginalized communities;
- Focus on AAA and Villages partnerships to enhance collaboration to expand capacity, extend reach, enhance effectiveness, and improve outcomes for older adults.

Funding Level:

The total funding available is \$100,000. At least 20% of the funding appropriated shall be used to support senior villages (see definition above).

Eligible Applicants:

Applicants are non-profit organizations and Area Agencies on Aging in good standing with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

Project Term:

The grant will run from the time of award, anticipated to be July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. All expenditures must be incurred by June 30, 2025.

Cost Sharing or Match Requirement:

The Department of Aging will fund no more than 50% of a project's total cost. Applicants must cover at least 50% of the project's total cost with non-state resources.

Cost sharing is defined as follows: for every one dollar received in state funding, the applicant must contribute at least one dollar in non-state resources toward the proposed project's total cost. Applicants have the option to demonstrate matching capacity through the utilization of in-kind services.

As an example, a site with no physical location may utilize libraries or community centers as meeting spaces. Additionally, volunteer hours contributed by community members could be counted as in-kind services.

Application Criteria:

A successful application will be accepted from a non-profit organization or an Area Agency on Aging that expands an existing program or establishes an aging-in-place program providing services to Maryland seniors.

Projects will be evaluated by a panel to determine projects that are most advantageous to the state. Inclusion criteria includes:



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- Applicant is eligible.
- Funding request is within the allowable amount.
- Sufficient match is provided.
- The project incorporates one or more of the allowable services.

Selection criteria includes:

- Effective alignment with the purpose and proposed activities outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- A clear problem statement, based on data.
- Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goals and objectives.
- Clear outcomes measurement.
- Relevant experience or competence and sufficient organizational capacity.
- The extent to which the identified preferences are incorporated.

Application Instructions:

Applicants must submit a project narrative of no more than 5 pages, including the following criteria:

1. Description of Organization—Provide a brief overview of the organization’s purpose and current services.
2. A Problem Statement—Outline the unmet needs your program or service will address.
3. Project Description—Discuss the program or service you will provide to address your problem statement. Please clearly identify how your proposed project incorporates the preferences identified in the Funding Opportunity section, if relevant.
4. Outcomes—Identify the anticipated outcomes of the project and how these outcomes will be evaluated and demonstrated. Applicants are encouraged to outline the use of following evaluation tools to measure relevant outcomes:
 - Social isolation/Loneliness: [DeJong Gierveld Loneliness Scale](#)
 - Cognitive decline: [The AD: 8 Washington University Dementia Screening Test](#)
 - Dementia Knowledge: [Dementia Knowledge Assessment Tool](#)
 - Caregiver burden: [Zarit Burden Interview \(ZBI-12\)](#)
 - Quality of Life: [Older People's Quality of Life questionnaire \(OPQOL-brief\)](#)



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- Social Determinants of Health: [Access Your Needs](#)

5. Organizational Capacity and Project Management—Provide an overview of how you will accomplish your project, including who will conduct the day-to-day management of activities.

6. Sustainability – Describe your next steps for sustaining services after the grant period.

Required components not counted in the 5-page limit:

- Budget Narrative and Justification (administrative costs must be separated from service costs and the provided template must be used.)
- Project Workplan (Please see Work Plan Template below)
- Letters of Support from all partner organizations (Only needed for organizations partnering with other entities)
- Cover Letter: Please provide the following information: Links to each requirement are found below.
 - a. Point of Contact: Name, Email, Phone Number
 - b. Organization Name
 - c. Organization Address
 - d. [SDAT Verification](#) (Please include Business Name and Department ID associated with SDAT)
 - e. [SAMS Unique Identifier number.](#)
- [W-9 form](#)

Submission Deadline:

To be considered, applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm EST on Wednesday, May 31, 2024:

- Electronically to Chelsead.wheeler1@maryland.gov.

Questions:

Submit questions electronically to Chelsead.wheeler1@maryland.gov.

Please feel free to call or text Mon-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm (443) 801-9792.

Links that will help you with writing your RFP (Request For Proposal)

- [Introduction to Grant Writing](#)
- [Grant Writing Basics](#)



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Template of a Work Plan:

A work plan typically includes the following elements:

1. **Objective or Goal:** Clearly state the overarching purpose or outcome the work plan aims to achieve. This provides direction and clarity to everyone involved.
2. **Tasks or Activities:** Break down the objective into specific tasks or activities that need to be completed. These should be actionable and measurable.
3. **Timeline or Schedule:** Establish deadlines for each task or activity. This helps in managing time effectively and ensures progress toward the goal within the desired timeframe.
4. **Responsibilities:** Assign responsibilities to individuals or teams for each task or activity. Clearly define who is accountable for what, fostering accountability and clarity in roles.

Objective	Task	Lead	Timeline	Notes