

**Request for Proposal
Application Information**

Fiscal Year 2024

*Evidence-Based Disease Prevention
Elder Abuse Prevention
National Family Caregiver Support
Merit Award*



**Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency, Inc.
Region 9 Area Agency on Aging**

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*Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau), and the Region 9 AAA Local Policies are available on the NEMCSA website under Senior Services > Doing Business with Us > Working with Us, or www.osapartner.net

REGION 9 AREA AGENCY ON AGING
APPLICATION INFORMATION
FISCAL YEAR 2024

Section I

- I. **Application Information** - Organizations proposing to deliver services through the Region 9 Area Agency on Aging (AAA) under an Annual Implementation Plan must follow designated application and bidding procedures.

All services are to be bid on separately. The annual services are:

Evidence-Based Disease Prevention Program
State Merit Award Trust Fund
State Caregiver Support
National Family Caregiver Support Program
Elder Abuse Prevention Program

The Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency Inc. (NEMCSA) - Region 9 Area Agency on Aging has funding available for **Evidence-Based Disease Prevention Health Promotion, Elder Abuse Prevention, National Family Caregiver Support Program and Merit Award/State Caregiver Support Funds** for Fiscal Year 2024. NEMCSA - Region 9 Area Agency on Aging reserves the right to accept or reject, to fund in whole or in part any proposal received. Preference will be given to those proposals that further the area plan goals of the NEMCSA - Region 9 Area Agency on Aging and maximize participant choice.

The performance of work under this award may be terminated by NEMCSA - Region 9 Area Agency on Aging in whole or in part, when grant dollars change or whenever, for any reasons, NEMCSA - Region 9 Area Agency on Aging shall determine that such termination is in its best interest. Any such termination shall be instituted by delivery to the sub-contractor of a written notice specifying the extent to which performance of work under the award is terminated and the date on which such termination becomes effective. The award shall be equitably adjusted to compensate for such termination and modified accordingly. It is understood that such equitable adjustment shall include all sub-agreement cancellation charges arising out of the termination of this award. Area Agency on Aging approved funds awarded for FY 2024 under this (RFP) must be obligated by September 30, 2024. Award of these funds does not constitute any guarantee of future financial support.

The NEMCSA - Region 9 Area Agency on Aging will provide reimbursement for documented participants/units served except for funds provided for equipment or special projects.

All submitted work provided within the scope of the contract must be supported by invoices, requisitions, activity sheets or other documentation, which can readily be traced to this contract. During each fiscal review, the reimbursement in relationship to product may be reviewed. Subcontractor will recognize and accept all terms and conditions of the contract.

Recipients of grant awards shall comply with applicable program reporting and monitoring requirements as specified by NEMCSA - Region 9 Area Agency on Aging Aging and Adult Services Agency. standards and local Area Agency on Aging policies will be utilized.

Evidence-Based Disease Prevention (Title III-D Level III EBDP Programs only):

The Evidence-Based Disease Prevention (EBDP) funds are intended to provide individual participants 60+ with information and support to assist them in avoiding illness and improving health status. This Request for Proposal (RFP) addresses the portion of funds to be used for: Evidence-based programs that assure and promote healthy senior outcomes, provide education, and link older persons to health related activities. To foster the development and testing of new approaches for sustaining the health and well-being of older adults, grants will be made on a competitive basis. All contracts for Title III D EBDP program funding must meet Level III criteria as defined by the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Elder Abuse Prevention:

The Elder Abuse Prevention funds are intended to provide individual participants 60+ with information and support to assist them in the prevention and treatment of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This Request for Proposal (RFP) addresses the portion of funds to be used for: programs that assure and promote activities to develop, strengthen, and carry-out programs for the prevention and treatment of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. To foster the development and testing of new approaches for the prevention and treatment of abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults, grants will be made on a competitive basis.

National Family Caregiver Support Program:

The National Family Caregiver Program is intended to help family members who are struggling to care for their loved ones that are ill or have disabilities. This Request for Proposal (RFP) addresses the portion of funds to be used for: information about services, assistance to access services, individual counseling, organization of support groups, caregiver training, respite care, and kinship care. To foster the development and testing of new approaches for sustaining the efforts of families and other informal caregivers, grants will be made on a competitive basis.

Merit Award:

This Request for Proposal (RFP) addresses the portion of funds to be used for adult day care services. Priority will be given to: (a) establishing adult day care programs where none currently exist (b) expanding or enhancing existing adult day care programs and (c) the on-going support of adult day care centers.

A sliding fee scale is mandatory for all cost reimbursements. **A copy of the applicant's cost sharing schedule must be attached to the application for funding.**

Submission of Proposals:

Complete the Request for Proposal application. Proposals should be completed using the electronic fillable form. If the fillable space in the form provided is not sufficient, attach additional pages.

One original signed proposal and **three copies** must be received at the Region 9 AAA office by 4:30 p.m., June 09, 2023. Submit proposals to: **NEMCSA Region 9 AAA; Yvette Smigelski, Business/Financial Resources Manager-Aging; 2569 US-23 South; Alpena, MI 49707** or you may choose to submit documents electronically if there is a digital signature affixed for all signature areas. These electronic documents must be submitted to **Yvette Smigelski @ financialanalystaaa@nemcsa.org** and received by 4:30 p.m., June 09, 2023.

- A. **Application Structure** - All applications include the following
Cover Page: Applicant agency information and program selection
Narrative: Provide programmatic information regarding proposed services and the applicant agency.
Budget: Provide a complete budget and narrative with yearly expense projections and unit costs.
Attachments: Required for annual proposals.
Assurances: Include signed compliance documents and statutory assurances that will govern program operations.
- B. **Eligible Applicants for Funding** - Public, private nonprofit organizations and political subdivisions of the State who offer services that meet the AAA’s minimum standards and serve the Michigan counties of Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon are eligible applicants. Contracting with profit-making organizations requires prior approval from the, Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau).
- C. **Eligible Services through the Competitive Bidding Process** - The types of services to be funded through the competitive bidding process are announced in the official Request for Proposals (RFP). Minimum services standards have been established for each type of service. Compliance with these standards is mandatory.
- D. **Service Area** - At a minimum, services must be provided on a county-wide basis.
- E. **Population to be Served** - All persons aged 60 and older who are residents of Region 9’s service area, are eligible for federal and state-funded service delivery regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, height, weight, marital status, or income.
- F. **Target Population** - Although all individuals aged 60 and older are eligible to receive federal and state funded services, substantial emphasis must be given to serving older persons with the greatest social, economic or functional need. For targeting and planning purposes, the following poverty thresholds are to be used:

1. **2023 Poverty Guidelines**

<u>Size of Family Unit</u>	<u>Contiguous (48) States and District of Columbia</u>
1	\$14,580
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000

For each additional family member add \$4,720

- 2. **Handicapped** - Persons at a disadvantage or deficiency, physical or mental disability that prevents or restricts normal achievement.

3. **Social Need** - A participant is defined as having a social need if they: a) are physically handicapped; b) are mentally handicapped; c) do not speak English; d) live alone; or e) are geographically isolated.

4. **Frail/Disabled Elderly** - Persons aged 60 and over having a physical or mental disability, including Alzheimer's disease or a neurological or organic brain disorder of any type, that restricts the ability of an individual to perform individually or live independently.

Note that providers of aging services may not use a means test although methods such as location of services and specialization in the types of services most needed by these groups may be needed to meet the requirement.

Section II

- II. **Selection Process** - The selection process is conducted in a manner that provides for free and open competitive bidding on services to be provided in the region. Awards shall be made to the service provider whose proposal is most advantageous to the AAA plan with all factors, including cost, being considered. Proposals may be denied at the determination of the Board of Directors. Established timetables will be strictly adhered to.

A. **APPLICATION TIMETABLE – FY 2024**

Monday April 10, 2023	Send Notice of funding to Newspapers
Week of April 17, 2023	Notice of funding advertised in Newspapers
Friday, April 28, 2023	Letters of Intent Due
Thursday, May 11, 2023	Pre-Bidders Conference (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) and RFPs sent to applicants
Thursday June 01, 2023	Deadline to submit questions
Friday, June 09, 2023	Deadline to Submit RFPs (One original signed proposal and three copies by 4:30 pm)
Monday, July 10, 2023	Mail Recommendations to the Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Monday, July 24, 2023	Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging Review and Recommendations to NEMCSA Board
Friday, August 04, 2023	NEMCSA Board of Directors Selection
Monday, August 14, 2023	Notification of awards
Monday, October 01, 2023	Start date for contracts

- B. **Proposal Review Process** - All proposals received will be reviewed and evaluated based on scoring criteria. Proposals scoring the minimum 40 points will be eligible for funding; however, achieving minimum scoring does not guarantee funding. The scoring process is the basis for making funding recommendations to the Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging, an advisory board to the NEMCSA Board of Directors. The Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging will then make final recommendations to the NEMCSA Board of Directors.

- C. **Request for Proposal (RFP)** - Applications for funding are reviewed and rated according to their responsiveness to the Request for Proposal.

The Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging, at its discretion, may recommend certain contracts for funding with an agency under current contract with the AAA by

conducting an abbreviated review process, providing that an appropriate complete proposal is submitted. Conditions under which this may occur include:

1. **Competition** - Lack of competition in a specific service category;
2. **Funds** - Categorical funding resources;
3. **Funds Available** - Requests for funding do not exceed funds available for a specific service category.

Proposers with specific circumstances such as significant assessment or reassessment findings, or who have undergone recent organizational changes may be subject to a more comprehensive review process by the Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging.

The AAA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

- D. **Policy Waivers** - All policies and procedures of the AAA shall be strictly adhered to except in those cases where waivers are specifically allowed under ACLS rules and regulations. In such cases a written request for the waiver, including the rationale for such a request, must be submitted to the AAA for approval. Approval must be given prior to any change in operations.

Waiver requests pertaining to Minimum Service Standards should be submitted by the proposer as part of the application process. Consideration of and recommendations regarding such requests will be determined as part of the proposal review process. Minimum service standards waiver requests submitted to the AAA mid-year will be subject to approval by the NEMCSA Board of Directors.

E. **Contract Procedures**

1. **Multi-Year** – Multi-year contracts are secured under the premise of establishing stability in a provider pool and program costs, therefore, it is expected rates remain static over the contract duration. However, the AAA may be open to discussing slight adjustments for extenuating circumstances. No contract that is multi-year shall exceed the multi-year plan timeframe. All multi-year contracts shall be contingent on funds being available and receipt by the AAA of a statement of grant award.
2. **Authority** - The AAA maintains full authority and option to develop an RFP process in each geographic area for the services needed.
3. **Services** – The option as to which services to include in the annual RFP process is determined by the NEMCSA Board of Directors.
4. **New RFP** – conditions under which a new RFP is issued may include:
 - a. Inadequate contractor performance;
 - b. Subsequent amendments to the Multi-Year Plan or AIP;
 - c. Significant changes in the scope or nature of the service to be provided as related to state or federal requirements;

- d. Particularly competitive service environments that may offer opportunity for significant cost savings of federal or state dollars;
 - e. Significant contractor change in the administrative authority or organizational structure.

- F. **Notice of Award** - Written notification of Board action regarding the approval or denial of service proposals will be sent by mail within seven (7) days of action.

- G. **Appeals** - Those applicants whose proposals are denied by the AAA have the right to appeal their denial. Written intent to appeal must be sent to the AAA within ten (10) days from the official notice of the decision.

- H. **Contract Negotiations** - Final negotiation of contracts, authorized by the NEMCSA Board of Directors, will be conducted by the AAA staff after Board selections have been announced, but prior to actual project start-up on October 01, 2023, when funding conditions, if any, such as cost per unit, participant service levels, budget concerns, and related program concerns as specified in the notice of awards, are negotiated.

Section III

- A. **Funding Sources** - Both state and federal funds are available through the AAA, and are administered in like fashion. State and federal funds are to provide for direct aging service costs and are not intended to stabilize organizations or provide for their solvency.

Title III is the principal federal source of funds for planning and services for older persons through the Older Americans Act. State aging services funding was established in 1978 and provides categorical funding in three areas: alternative care services, home delivered meals and ombudsman.

- B. **Matching Requirement** - The funding philosophy of aging service programs assumes some local resources are available for local programs. Therefore, all funding is on a percentage basis with both federal and state funds requiring a match. For purposes of the RFP budget, utilize 10% of the amount requested as the figure for cash match for annual programs. The required cash match amount will be provided with the Statement of Grant Award.

Documentation that the match is being provided is submitted as a component of the financial reporting for reimbursement. Technical assistance regarding reporting requirements will be provided to successful applicants prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Definitions of matching sources, may be soft or hard, are provided in the ACLS line item definitions.

- C. **Program Income** - Program income includes, but is not limited to, donations from participants received by a contractor for services provided with contract funds. Program income is used for budgeted line items to expand the service and reduce the need for federal funding participation. Regulations governing program income include:

1. **Opportunity** - Older persons must be given an opportunity to contribute; however, an older person who requests services cannot be denied a service because he/she “will not or cannot contribute to the cost of the service.”
2. **Privacy** - The privacy of contributions made by older persons must be protected;
3. **Expand Services** - Program income must be used to expand or increase service delivery for allowable costs only and cannot be used as match for federal or state dollars. Program income dollars are spent first, before federal or state grant funds;
4. **Budgeting** - Program income must be budgeted in the service for which it is received;
5. **Handling** - The person handling program income must be bonded and all funds must be properly counted and reported to the bookkeeper for accounting/audit purposes;
6. **Accounting** - Program income must be accounted for separately within the contractor’s accounting records;
7. **Carry-Over** - Program income cannot be carried from one fiscal year to the next.

- D. **Method of Reimbursement** - The AAA will use the expense reimbursement system for subcontractors. Exceptions will be made where the AAA's funding source indicates constraints or departures from such reimbursement system. Where possible, start-up advances will be forwarded, however, they will be reconciled to submitted expenses.

All submitted expenses provided within the scope of the contract must be supported by invoices, requisitions, activity sheets or other documentation, which can readily be traced to this contract. During each fiscal/program assessment, the reimbursement in relationship to units may be reviewed.

Section IV

IV. Reporting System

- A. **Financial** - Providers will receive payment for services on a monthly-basis reimbursement method determined by the individual contract or agreement. **A monthly report is due within five days following the last day of the end of the month.** Matching resources provided by service providers will be reported as part of the monthly reporting process.

- B. **Programmatic** - Contractors will report programmatic activities, which will be reported to the AAA utilizing the reporting system as mandated by the State and Federal Government. A participant tracking system will be utilized for reporting and will include a billing component that will be matched to care plans for payment of vendors under the purchase of service system. The system to be used is determined by the purchase of service contract or the contracted services. Reimbursements will be contingent not only on receipt and approval of the monthly financial reports or billing of the vendor, but on programmatic information and reports as well.

AAA programmatic reports and application package request information about units of service and unduplicated (UD) participant counts. Definitions for a unit of service vary for the different service categories and are stated as part of the Minimum Service Standards.

The unduplicated participant count refers to the counting of a person receiving a service only one time within the fiscal year. A participant is counted as unduplicated the first time he/she receives a particular service and is not counted again as UD for the entire contract period.

Since only new participants are reported in the UD count, it is common for the planned number of units of service to be greater than the planned number of UD participants.

Contractors must keep track of reported units of service and UD participants for each service category within their filing system. Verification of reported programmatic activity is a part of the AAA's on-site monitoring.

Section V

**GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS
FOR
ALL SERVICE PROGRAMS**

Grantees providing services to 60+ persons with federal or state funds must:

1. Comply with ACLS Operating Standards, Section II, General Requirements for all Service Programs and Section II A.
2. Assure the capacity to maintain fiscal and program records for periodic reporting to the grantor in accordance with established reporting requirements. Subcontractors will report to the AAA at intervals determined by the AAA and maintain recording mechanisms as determined by the AAA.
3. Establish appropriate procedures to safeguard and account for contributions. All contributions made by older persons as a result of funded services are considered program income and **MUST** be reported as such. Program income for each respective service must be used to expand that service.
4. Establish and maintain AAA approved standard intake procedures.
5. Establish and follow procedures for obtaining satisfaction of recipients about the operation of services they received via surveys, for example.
6. Assure that any existing state and local licensure or safety requirements will be met.
7. Give minimum eligibility criteria per service to referral agencies.
8. Perform adequate outreach and advertising activities to assure participation of eligible older persons.
9. Assure that any non-eligible participant under 60, served by programs which utilize these grant funds, meets all service specific requirements, does not displace a senior and pays the full cost of the service.
10. Comply with the AAA's right to inspect the records of the service provider during normal business hours and as often as deemed necessary by the AAA.
11. Assure that current and ethical business and management practices will be implemented, including Personnel Policies, Job Descriptions, etc.
12. Assure compliance with additional standard(s) by service as required. (See Service Specifications and Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau).
13. Assure adoption and adherence to a Code of Ethics and adhere to all applicable policies of AAA and/or Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau),

including Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports Rules and Minimum Standards.

14. Provide AAA, ACLS and HHS, if requested, with up to three copies free of charge any publication produced as part of contracted funds and comply with copyright and acknowledgment regulations as specified in the contract.
15. Provide documentation of the applicant's legal status. Contracts may be entered into with public, private non-profit or profit-making organizations. When the applicant is a profit-making organization, the AAA will submit the contract to ACLS for prior approval.
16. Entertain any further subcontract of funds awarded under this grant proposal only with prior approval of such subcontracts by the AAA. Subcontractors shall be subject to all conditions and provisions of the contract. The contractor shall be responsible for the performance of all assignees or subcontractors; however, the AAA shall be able to monitor and assess any further subcontracts according to the specifications of the RFP and the original contract. Procedures for subcontracting as specified in the contract must be followed.
17. Assure that elderly members of Indian tribes and organizations within the PSA receive services equivalent to non-Indian elderly residents.
18. Assure participants' access to Council/Commission board meeting minutes by posting them at each site.
19. Assure compliance with contract confidentiality language in accordance with and pursuant to federal and state laws and regulations, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
20. Recognize and accept all terms and conditions of the contract.
21. Special Condition – Care Management participants will receive priority.

ACLS Operating Standards: www.osapartner.net

RESPITE CARE

Respite Care provides companionship, supervision and/or assistance with activities of daily living for the mentally or physically disabled and frail elderly in the absence of the primary caregiver(s).

UNIT OF SERVICE: One hour of respite care provided.

SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS:

1. Comply with ACLS Operation Standards, Section III, B-10.
2. Provide for personal care training and/or training manuals for service providers prior to placement in the home.

ACLS Operating Standards: www.osapartner.net

ACLS LINE ITEM DEFINITIONS

The following line item definitions are to be used by Area Agency contractors:

SALARIES AND WAGES: This category is to include the compensation paid to all permanent and part-time employees. This does not include professional fees, contractual services or personnel hired on a personal contract basis.

FRINGE BENEFITS: This category is to include the employer's contributions for insurance, retirement, unemployment, workman's compensation, FICA and other similar benefits for all permanent and part-time employees.

TRAVEL STAFF: This category is to include travel costs of permanent and part-time employees only. This includes cost for mileage, per diem, lodging, registration fees for approved seminars or conferences and other approved travel costs incurred by the employees. Travel for consultants or board of directors is included under OTHER COSTS.

SUPPLIES: This category is to be used for all consumable and short-term items and equipment items costing less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). This includes office, janitorial, disposable food supplies, cooking utensils, etc.

EQUIPMENT: This category is to be used for all stationary and movable equipment. The cost of a single unit or piece of equipment includes the necessary accessories, installation costs and taxes. Equipment items costing less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) are to be included in the SUPPLIES category. All expenditures for equipment must be related to the service category. Maintenance contracts for equipment are not budgeted under EQUIPMENT. All equipment purchases must have prior approval from the AAA.

OCCUPANCY: (1) Office Space – this includes costs for office space, which include utilities if not paid separately. (2) Utilities – this includes the costs of utilities such as heat, electricity, etc. This does not need to be budgeted separately if included in the rent.

COMMUNICATIONS: This is to include costs of postage, telephone, copying and printing.

SERVICE CONTRACTS: This is to include all contracts the Area Agency subcontractor enters into. All subcontracts **must** have prior approval by the AAA.

OTHER: This is to include costs not included in the previous categories. Examples of such costs are liability insurance, bonding, consultant fees, equipment rental and leases, volunteer travel, board travel, etc.

2024 Ranking Criteria

Evidenced Based Disease Prevention Health Promotion, Elder Abuse Prevention, National Family Caregiver Support Program, Merit Award

Proposals will be rated and scored according to the following Ranking Criteria. The maximum possible score is 50 points for each proposed project. Any proposals scoring below 40 points will be rejected. Scoring the minimum of 40 does not guarantee funding for proposed program.

Organization: _____

Score: _____

Proposed Project: _____

_____ **Section I (6 points)**

Amount Requested: _____

Is the purpose of the organization stated?

Do funds requested match the budget?

Is the geographical area to be served identified?

_____ **Section II (24 points)**

Is the organization described?

Is the project/service clearly defined?

Did the proposer state which goal will be met and is it appropriate for the program? Does the program comply with ACLS standards?

Are the objectives clear, measurable and is the method of measuring identified?

Has the impact been described?

Is the target population and priority in which to be served identified?

Does the proposal address the priority criteria the program has to handle demand for services that exceed resources and is it reasonable?

Is the strategy for reaching the target population described?

Have staff positions been appropriately identified, their qualifications, and duties described as pertains to the specific service?

Is the past experience in providing it addressed?

Are collaborations identified?

Does the proposal address sustainability?

_____ **Section III (16 points)**

Is the budget complete? Are the other resources expenses identified?

Are all expenses allowable? Are they reasonable?

Have all expense line items been addressed? Are they categorized appropriately?

Are clients and units of service appropriate for the identified category? Has calculation been explained?

_____ **Section IV (4 points)**

Are all required attachments included and have they been completed in full?

Does the proposal adhere to format guidelines?