

March 19, 2009

Department of Health and Human Services release \$100 Million to support senior nutrition programs

Funding for home-delivered meals and Older Americans Act services

Virginia Allocations

	<i>Population Basis</i>	<i>Population%</i>	<i>Congregate Nutrition</i>	<i>Home- Delivered Nutrition</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Virginia</i>	<i>1,290,915</i>	<i>2.4294%</i>	<i>\$ 1,531,658</i>	<i>\$ 754,047</i>	<i>\$ 2,285,705</i>

The Department of Health and Human Services has announced \$100 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds to provide meals to tens of thousands of low-income older Americans in need. The funding is expected to provide nearly 14 million meals nationwide. **Funding will be allocated in Virginia through the Older Americans Act.**

ARRA provides \$65 million for congregate nutrition services provided at senior centers and other community sites, \$32 million for home delivered nutrition services delivered to frail elders at home and \$3 million for Native American nutrition programs. The funding will be awarded to 56 states and territories and 246 tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.

States will award the funds to organizations that provide nutrition services in their communities. The Recovery Act funding comes as budget constraints have forced states and tribes to limit community-based services and critical Older Americans Act related services, including home-delivered meals. Across the country, organizations that serve senior citizens have scaled back services and limited the number of meals served per week.

The economic downturn has also made it difficult for many seniors to afford the right foods to keep themselves healthy and active. Additionally, many seniors may be too impaired to prepare nutritious meals for themselves. Without regular nutritious meals, the health of many older Americans declines; they become more susceptible to illness; their ability to manage their chronic diseases is reduced, and they may lose their ability to remain at home, independent in their community.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's):

What is ARRA?

On Feb. 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The legislation contains key investments that will prevent the loss of health coverage, promote prevention programs and lower health care spending for

our nation during these challenging economic times. To help older Americans maintain their health and independence, the legislation includes \$100 million for meals and nutrition services under the Older Americans Act (OAA) as specified below:

- \$65 million for congregate nutrition services under Title III;
- \$32 million for home-delivered nutrition services under Title III; and
- \$3 million for Native American nutrition services under Title VI.

How will ARRA help older adults and local communities?

These funds will assist communities and the national aging services network hit hard by rising food costs at a time when demand for services is increasing due to the economic downturn and the growing number of older adults. The funds will provide meals to seniors in need of food, restore nutrition services that have been cut and restore positions which may have been eliminated or reduced.

When will the ARRA nutrition funds be made available to States and Native American grantees?

Awards to States are available as of mid-March, however; States will not be able to draw down funds until they sign and return the governor's certification of ARRA funds usage.

As for Tribes, our first priority is to issue the regular Title VI grants to the Tribes by April 1, 2009, to ensure continuation of their program. Shortly after those grants are awarded, we will be issuing the ARRA grants.

How will ARRA funds be distributed to States and Title VI grantees?

The ARRA funds will be distributed to States by a population-based formula that takes into account the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III interstate funding formula minimums, and the 60+ population of each State. The FY 2009 appropriations will satisfy the OAA statutory formula which, in addition to funding minimums and the 60+ population, includes the FY 2006 hold harmless factor, and the guaranteed growth factor which is phased out over five years.

The ARRA funds will be distributed to Title VI grantees by a population-based formula that is used to distributed OAA Title VI funds. This formula takes into account the number of Native American elders, age 60 and older, within a grantee's service area, as defined by the grantee in their approved Title VI grant application.

What is the time frame for expenditure of the ARRA funds?

While funds are appropriated for a two-year period, AoA will obligate all of the ARRA funds as soon as possible. Consistent with the intent of the legislation, the timely obligation of funds by State and Tribal programs is imperative in order to address reported funding cutbacks, impending program closures and waiting lists throughout the country.

Will State match (non-Federal share) be required for the ARRA funds?

Non-Federal share requirements that mirror the Title III-C match requirements, i.e., 15 percent, will be in place for ARRA funds. Technical assistance will be provided to assist States in reaching match requirements through both cash and in-kind sources. There is no specific requirement for cash match or for a percentage of the non-Federal share to come from State sources.

To be used as match for ARRA funds, in-kind contributions must meet the same grant requirements as cash match for OAA funds. The contribution must be verifiable and the records must show how the value of the in-kind contribution was determined. That valuation must be reasonable and is subject to audit. Examples of such in-kind contributions include, but are not limited to:

- volunteer services
- donated time of employees of other organizations
- donated supplies and loaned equipment
- utilities
- space

Will States be allowed to transfer ARRA funding for meals to other OAA programs and/or between the congregate and home delivered allocations?

The purpose of the ARRA funds is to increase the number of congregate and home delivered meals provided to older adults, and required reporting must document such increases. To that end, no transfer of ARRA funds will be permitted.

Will the ARRA funds be included in the calculation of maintenance of effort requirements (MOE)?

The ARRA funds are considered to be a one time allocation and will not be included in the calculation of MOE.

Will States and area agencies on aging (AAAs) be allowed to use a portion of the ARRA funds for administration?

A reasonable amount of the ARRA funds may be used for administrative purposes, however; the tracking of such use will be stringent and States are to expend the bulk of the funds for meal provision. The Office of Inspector General is charged with tracking the ARRA funds in order to ensure reasonable and allowable costs, accountability and transparency.

Can the ARRA funds be used for the purchase of equipment?

The ARRA funds are allocated by Congress to expand the provision of meals, therefore; if equipment is needed in order to provide more meals, States, AAAs and Title VI grantees are encouraged to make such purchases from the regular FY 2009 OAA appropriations.

Will the meals provided with ARRA funds count toward the Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) allocations?

All meals provided with ARRA funds that meet the same criteria as Title III-C and Title VI meals may be counted toward NSIP allocations.

For more information about senior nutrition programs and to see a state-by-state breakdown of funding for senior nutrition programs, visit www.hhs.gov or www.aoa.gov.

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