

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**Division of Medicaid
and Long-Term Care
State Unit on Aging**

Aging Services and Sustainability

December 15, 2020

LB 1008 (2020)

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Report on Aging Services, Sustainability, Per LB 1008 (2020)

This report is required per LB 1008 (2020), to provide sustainability information and an overview of the aging programs administered by the State Unit on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging. Information relevant to aging programs include the population trends, state funding levels, federal funding levels, and the sustainability of programs and services that support Nebraskans aging in the place of their choosing.

The aging network includes federal, state, and local governments, and community based organizations, such as Area Agencies on Aging.

The Older Americans Act (OAA) was signed into law in 1965. The OAA has been reauthorized several times since its inception. With each reauthorization, programs may be amended, added, or removed. The primary services of nutrition, health promotion and disease prevention, caregiver programs, legal services, in-home services, and long-term care ombudsman programs continue. The most recent reauthorization was in March, 2020. The OAA is administered by the Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging (ACL, AOA).

Nebraska passed legislation in concert with the OAA in 1965, which permitted the acceptance of federal funds for aging services (c. 409, § 1, p. 1311). The aging advisory committee was created, the State Unit on Aging was created (SUA), service areas were determined, senior centers were established, an intra-state funding formula was developed, and work began to reach and serve seniors in Nebraska.

Subsequently, other supportive legislation followed, including the Community Aging Services Act in 1982 (LB 404), the Care Management Act in 1987 (LB 42), the senior volunteer program was added in 2000 (LB 1101), the aging and disability resource center (ADRC) pilot project was created in 2015 (LB 320), and made permanent in 2018. In 2020, LB 1008 added approximately \$1.2M to the aid for Area Agencies on Aging services. This report concludes with information on how these funds are being utilized.

Medicaid Administrative Claiming

LB 793 (2018) required the State to pursue federal matching funds where available. The State procured a vendor to establish Medicaid administrative claiming for state and local funded programs and services that meet the federal requirements for this funding stream. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and the ACL, AoA issued guidance for states seeking Medicaid administrative claiming. Nebraska began collecting random moment time study data for this claiming on September 1, 2020.

Many of the activities performed by the AAAs could qualify for matching funds (usually at 50%) through Federal Financial Participation (FFP) because they can be considered Medicaid-related activities. For example, Medicaid FFP pays for more than 1/3 of the funding for Wisconsin's ADRCs. Existing funding, including the AAA Care Management spending (which is fully state funded), could be included in these programs. Random moment time studies are used to determine a percentage of Medicaid related time, and corresponding costs. Those numbers are used to calculate the administrative match. Funds that can be

used to calculate this match, are those local and state funds not already earmarked for match on a federal grant. Federal funds are not eligible for match.

An example:

\$100,000	cost for services, local and state funds
x 50%	worker's time spent on claimable activities, obtained through random moment time studies
= \$50,000	claimable expenses
x 50%	administrative claiming rate
= \$25,000	Funds paid to the State; passed to the agencies after expenses

Nebraska random moment time studies began on September, 1, 2020. Data is gathered from staff performing allowable activities within the guidelines. This data is gathered on a quarterly basis for submission to CMS with the full DHHS administrative claiming request for all programs. The first month of data collected resulted in an average of 52% Medicaid related time statewide (September 2020). Individual service area results vary from 36% to 72%. Improvements are expected in this area.

Program	FY2020-21	% Medicaid related	Amount Medicaid Related	Estimated FFP (@50%)	Estimated FFP per Quarter
Care Management	\$2,315,560	52.2%	\$1,208,722	50%	\$151,090
Area Agencies on Aging	\$8,793,107		\$4,590,002		\$573,750
ADRC bump, AAA Grants:	\$603,912.00		\$315,242		\$39,405
ADRC bump, SUA Admin:	\$321,182.00		\$167,657		\$20,957
Total	\$12,033,761		\$6,281,623	\$3,140,812	\$785,203

Federal Funding and Priorities

The OAA outlines and regulates aging programs and requirements for states and area agencies on aging (AAAs) providing services. Most programs are designed to help people age in a place of their choosing, and avoid moving to a nursing home or other institutional congregate living arrangement. For the most part, services are available to persons age 60+, and do not require means testing. Federal priorities are established to provide for those most in need – financially, socially, living in rural communities, minorities, and persons with limited English speaking skills. The long-term care ombudsman program helps residents of all ages and abilities residing in congregate living facilities with local ombudsmen who represent the resident and uphold their rights.

Aging services are funded through federal formula grants and state appropriations. Federal formula grants are based on census data for persons age 60 and over, and age 75 and over. Federal awards are made for a project period of 24 months. For example, the awards made as of October 1, 2019 (FFY 2020), the project period would be 10/1/2019 – 9/30/2021.

Hold Harmless Changes

From 2016-2020, the OAA included “hold harmless” language regarding funding. This helped low growth states such as Nebraska better project future funding by holding the federal funding level to 99% of the previous year allotment.

In 2020, the Older Americans Act was reauthorized. The “hold harmless” language was significantly amended. “Hold harmless” language was removed from several categories:

- Home delivered meals (Title III-C(2));
- Health promotion and disease prevention (Title III-D, examples include falls prevention and diabetes management);
- Caregiver support (Title III-E);
- Ombudsman and Elder Justice (Title VII).

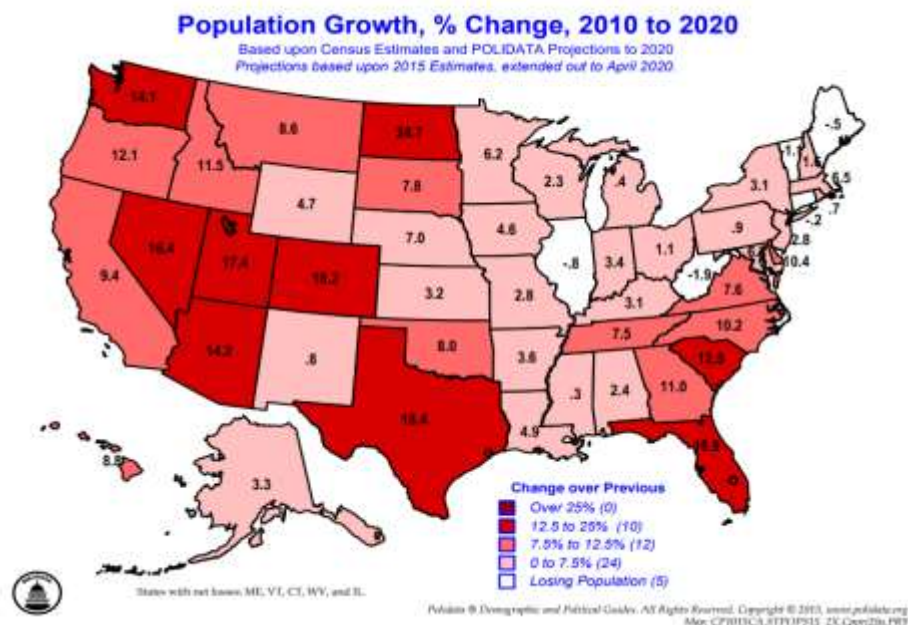
Two programs have new “hold harmless” language. These will be phased out over 10 years, from 2020 to 2029. In 2020, a 99.75% hold harmless rate will be applied based on FFY 2019 funding. This will be reduced by .25% each year until 2029 at 97.5%, expiring in 2030. In 2030, funding will be based on population only.

The two funding programs are:

- Support services (Title III-B, examples include chore, in-home services, senior center hours, social activities, transportation, legal assistance, information & assistance, and more); and
- Congregate meal programs (Title III-C(1)).

Nebraska Population Growth

Nebraska experienced a 7% growth rate from 2010 to 2020. Although Nebraska is not losing population – when compared with other states, growth is slow. Once the hold harmless clause is lifted, states in the low growth category will see decreases in formula grant funding from the ACL, AoA, unless significantly more funding is appropriated at the federal level.



Census Data

Data from the 2020 census is expected to be available in October 2021, likely affecting the FFY 2023 Federal funding cycle. In low-growth states, the new census data is anticipated to reduce funding to minimal levels. During the 2019 funding cycle, Nebraska was between 2% and 33% above the minimum funding levels in each program. Based on this information, Nebraska could see as much as a 33% drop in funding in those programs without “hold harmless” language, if federal appropriations remain consistent.

	FFY2019 Minimum Threshold Amount	Nebraska Appropriation FFY2019	Nebraska FFY19 comparison of appropriation to minimum	Comparison in dollars
No Hold Harmless:				
Raw Food		\$ 1,056,843	n/a	
Home Delivered Meals	\$ 1,242,222	\$ 1,271,001	102%	-\$28,779
Health promotion disease prevention	\$ 123,299	\$ 137,242	111%	-\$13,943
Caregiver services	\$ 896,526	\$ 1,012,046	113%	-\$115,520
Prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation/Elder Justice Ombudsman	\$ 23,741	\$ 29,770	125%	-\$6,029
	\$ 84,172	\$ 93,694	111%	-\$9,522
Hold Harmless 10 years:				
Support Services	\$ 1,911,839	\$ 2,540,735	133%	-\$628,896
Congregate	\$ 2,447,751	\$ 2,498,636	102%	-\$50,885

Congregate and home delivered meal programs are funded at 2% above the minimum funding levels. The largest funding category expected to see a drop is Support Services, which includes the bulk of services to seniors – with a broad range of in-home and support services including senior centers, and legal services.

These funding levels, even at the federal level, do not address the anticipated needs of a growing number of Americans over age 60 living in Nebraska.

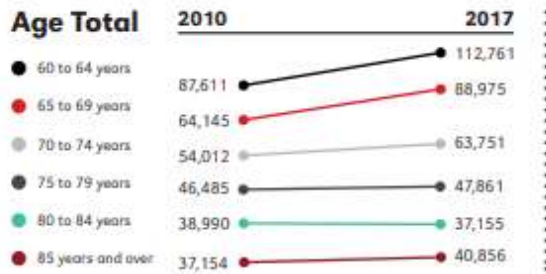
The number of adults over 75 now exceeds the number of children under 5, as outlined in the UNO chart, from the Power and Potential of an Aging Nebraska presentation by David Drozd.



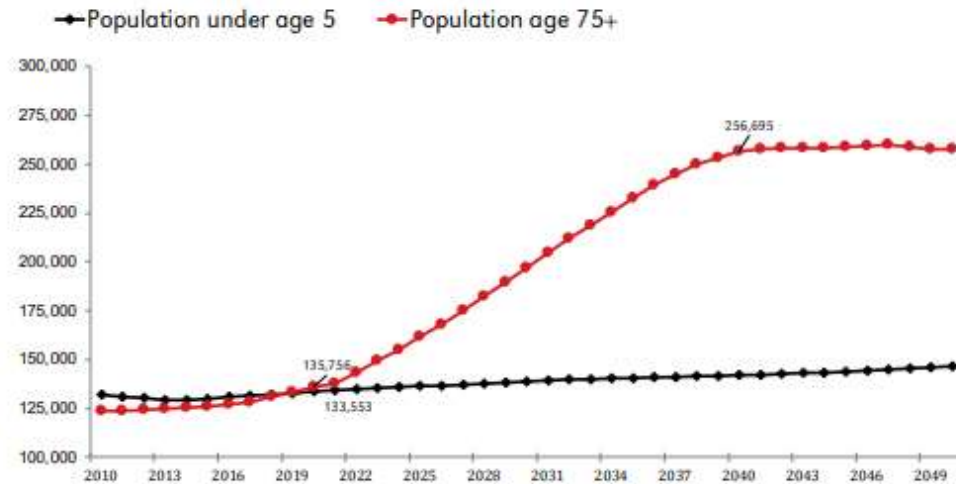
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THE POWER AND POTENTIAL OF AN AGING NEBRASKA



In 2019 the Population of 75+ Surpassed the Population Under Age 5
Projection of Nebraska Population for Select Age Groups 2010 - 2050



60 Years and Over Households

Married-couple family	48.7%
Female householder, no husband present, family	5.2%
Householder living alone	42.1%
Living with grandchildren	2.9%

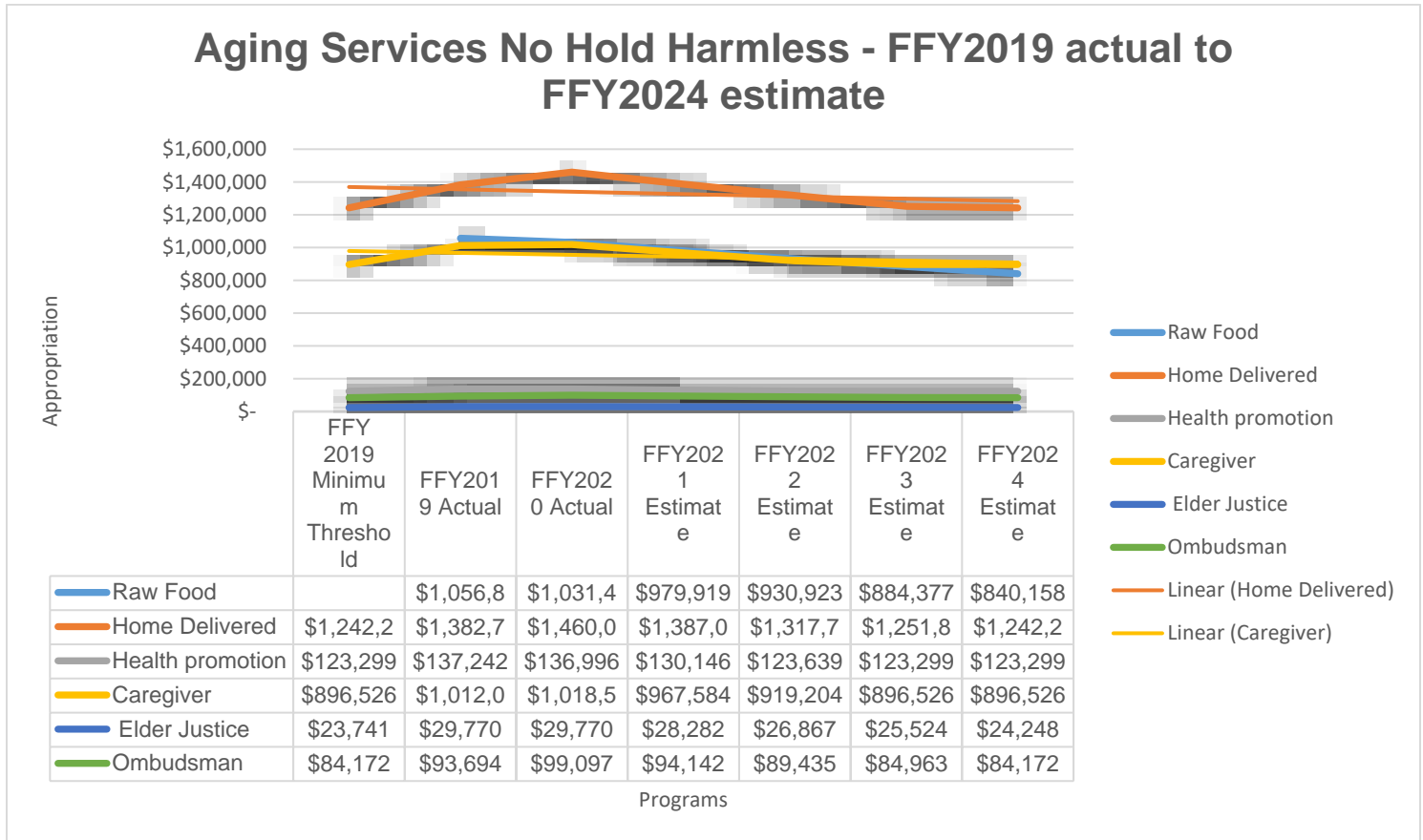


78.8%

housing units headed by someone 60+ are owner occupied

The next two graphs provide the minimum threshold of services with no hold harmless protections and services with hold harmless protections. FFY2019 and FFY2020 data represents actual thresholds. FFY2021 through FFY2024 are estimates based on information available.

Services with No Hold Harmless Protections



Definitions

Raw Food: This is a separate federal grant for the purchase of domestically produced raw food for the nutrition programs.

Home Delivered: A meal provided to an OAA qualified individual in his/her place of residence. Eligibility is determined by the AAA. Generally, someone who is homebound.

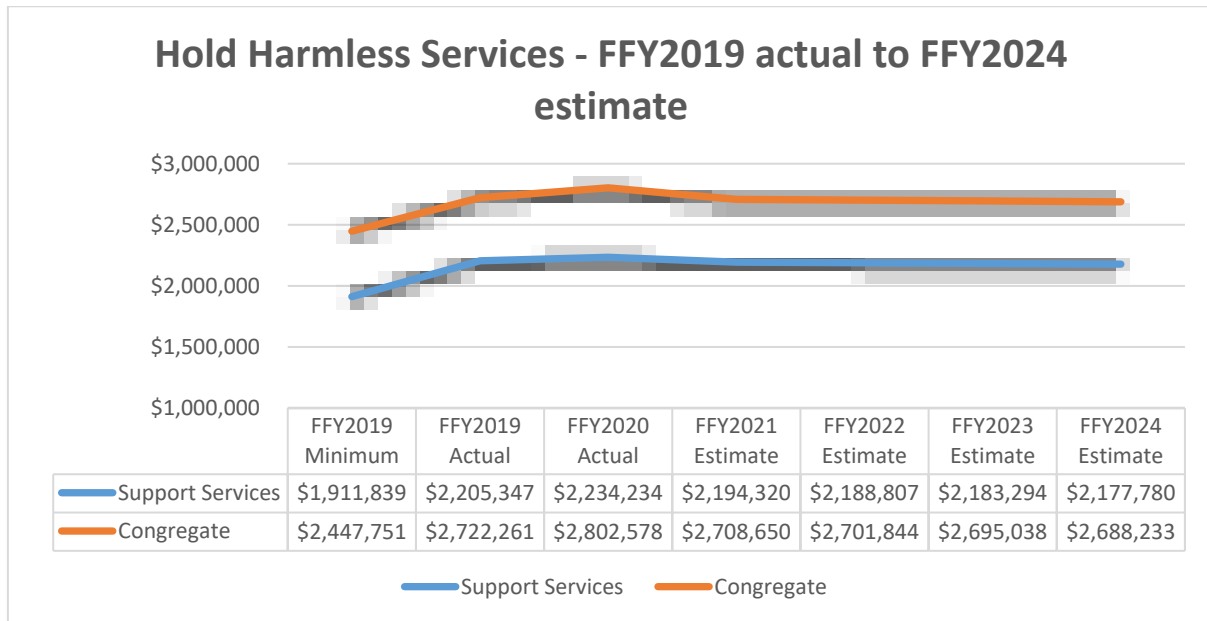
Health Promotion: Activities related to the prevention and mitigation of the effects of chronic disease (including osteoporosis, hypertension, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease), alcohol and substance abuse reduction, smoking cessation, weight loss and control, stress management, falls prevention, physical activity, and improved nutrition).

Caregiver: Services designed to support caregivers and assist them in their decision-making and problem solving. A list of caregiver services by AAA is listed with Federal Caregiver Funding.

Elder Justice: Develop and enhance programs for prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation including providing public education and outreach to identify and prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Ombudsman: Paid and volunteer ombudsmen represent residents of residential facilities, such as nursing homes and assisted living. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) advocates at the request of the resident, family or the facility.

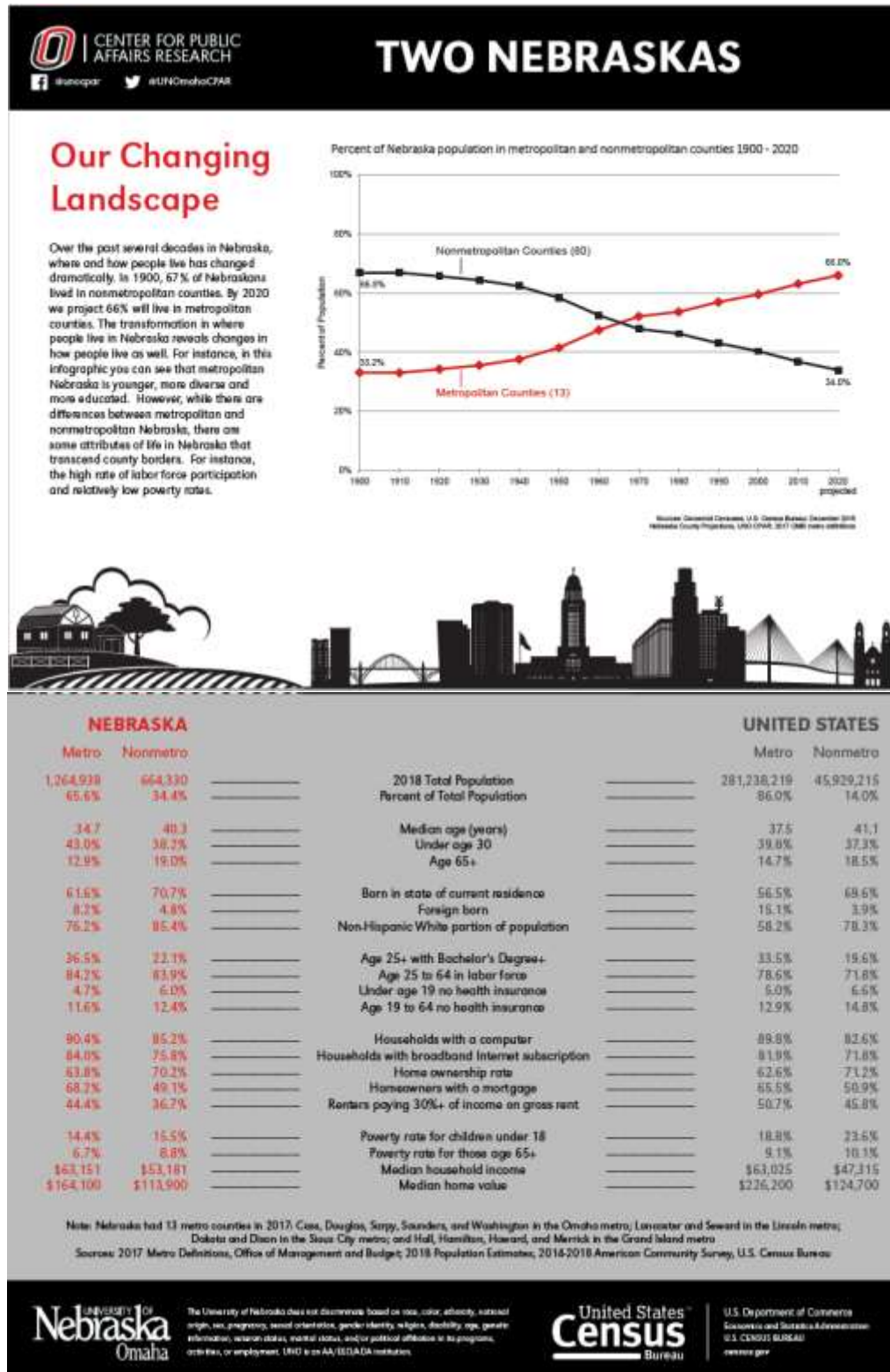
Services with Hold Harmless Protections



Hold harmless protections for Support Services and Congregate meals is expected to help them maintain their funding levels for the next 9 years. In FFY2030, with no additional funding, the spend is expected to drop to the minimum levels indicated in the first data point.

Population Trends

Data from the University of Nebraska – Omaha, Center for Public Affairs Research provides a glimpse into population trends. Nebraska has 1.9 million residents, of which just over 401,000 are age 60 + (about 21%). Area Agencies on Aging serve over 45,000 unduplicated clients per year.



Pandemic Effect

In March, 2020, Nebraska received two appropriations of emergency funding as a result of the pandemic. These were the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding for Older Americans Act programs. The project period for both awards is 1/20/2020 – 9/30/2021. This permits spending by the agencies for the entire time period.

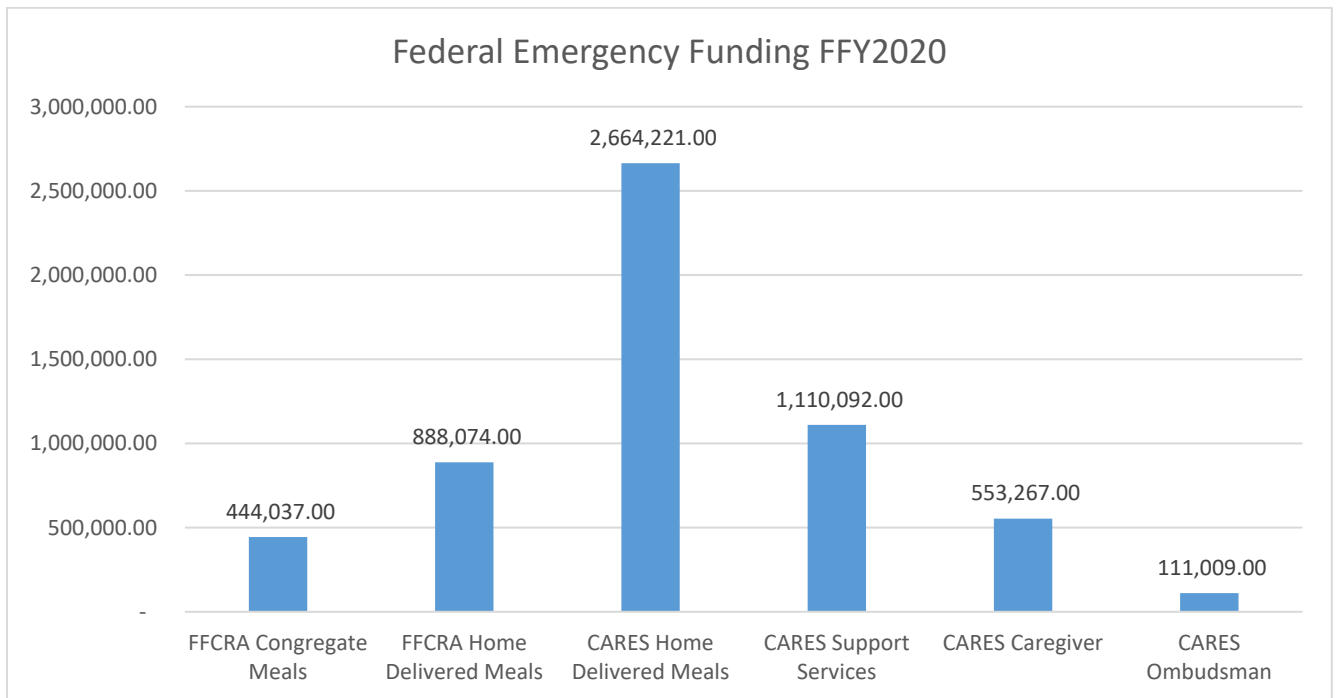
The Administration for Community Living is permitting considerable flexibility between funding categories as a result of the emergency. The major disaster declaration designation permitted this flexibility. Examples include the ability to use congregate meal funds (Title III-C(1)) for take-out meals, or the ability to use Evidence-based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention funds (Title III-D) to pay salaries for staff conducting well-check calls to clients. This new flexibility with regard to funding sources, while previously unheard of, allows for responsive and adaptive solutions at the local level.

The ACL, AoA established preferred spending priorities for these funds. States and AAAs were encouraged to spend the FFCRA funds first, the CARES Act funds second, FFY 2020 awards, and then FFY 2019 awards. To ease this process, and permit full use of the formula grants for FFY2020, the ACL, AoA, issued a no-cost extension of all FFY 2020 funds one additional year, until 9/30/2022, for all states.

The SUA established new service definitions (taxonomy) and documentation requirements to accommodate the flexibility in spending across programs. The ACL, AoA expect states to support maintenance of senior centers, with plans to reopen once the emergency is over. The AAAs are tracking expenditures across services, with additional tracking of emergency funding and services. With this in mind, the SUA is working with AAAs to document this information appropriately. Annual reporting requirements are folded into the new definitions so that all services provided are recorded at the federal level.

Federal Emergency Funding

Federal funds to Nebraska aging programs, through FFCRA and CARES Act, totaled \$5,770,700 in FFY2020 under the following program categories:

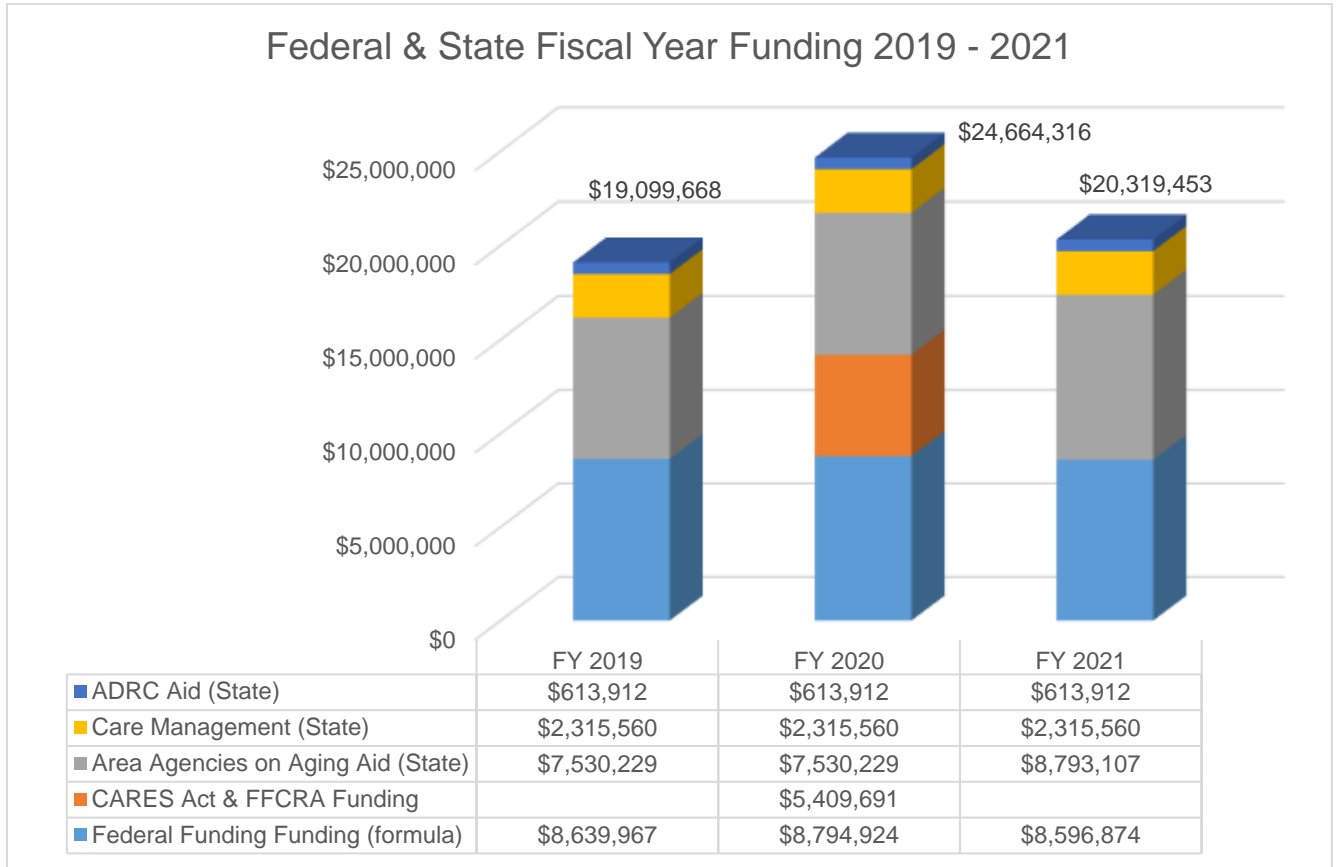


These funds are available to the Area Agencies on Aging for expenses from 1/20/2020 through 9/30/2021. As of this publication, the FFCRA funds are 95% expended, and CARES Act funds are 48% spent.

Area Agencies on Aging provide over 1.2 million meals per year through senior centers and meal sites. Minimum eligibility is to be age 60+, or a caregiver of someone age 60+. There is no means testing for this program.

State and Federal Aid

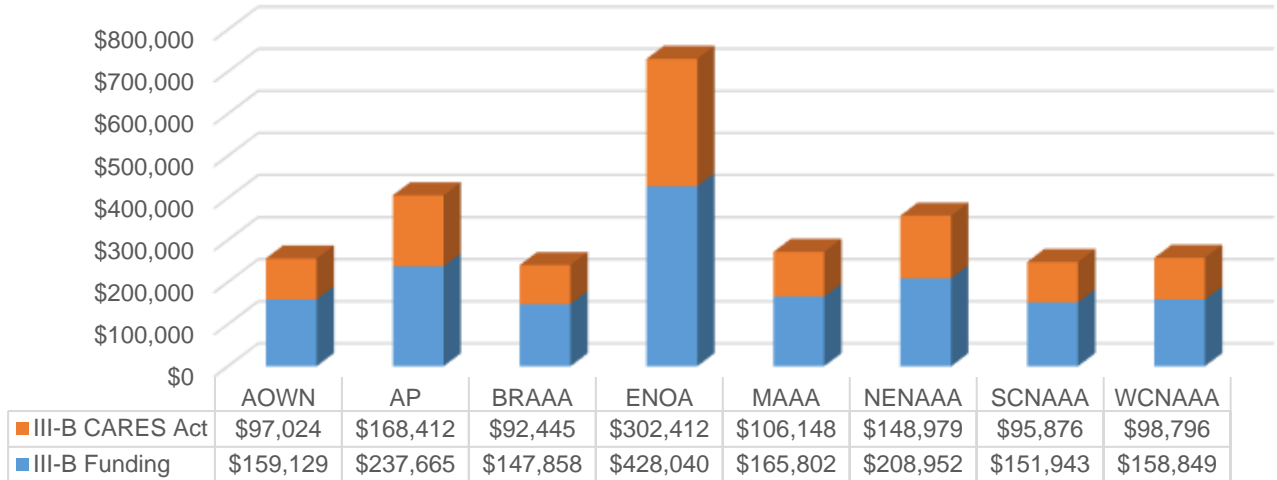
The additional funds were a substantial increase to the AAAs. Note: Federal Funding is for the Federal Fiscal Year (October - September). State Funding is for the State Fiscal Year (July - June). The amounts were combined for this presentation.



Federal funding through the Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging formula grants are available for a 24 month spending period (project period). Any carryover from one year is available in the next year.

Supportive Services

Supportive Services: Standard & Additional CARES Act funds



Labels:

AOWN – Aging Office of Western Nebraska (Scottsbluff)

AP – Aging Partners (Lincoln)

BRAAA – Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging (Beatrice)

ENOA – Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (Omaha)

MAAA – Midland Area Agency on Aging (Hastings)

NENAAA – Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging (Norfolk)

SCNAAA – South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging (Kearney)

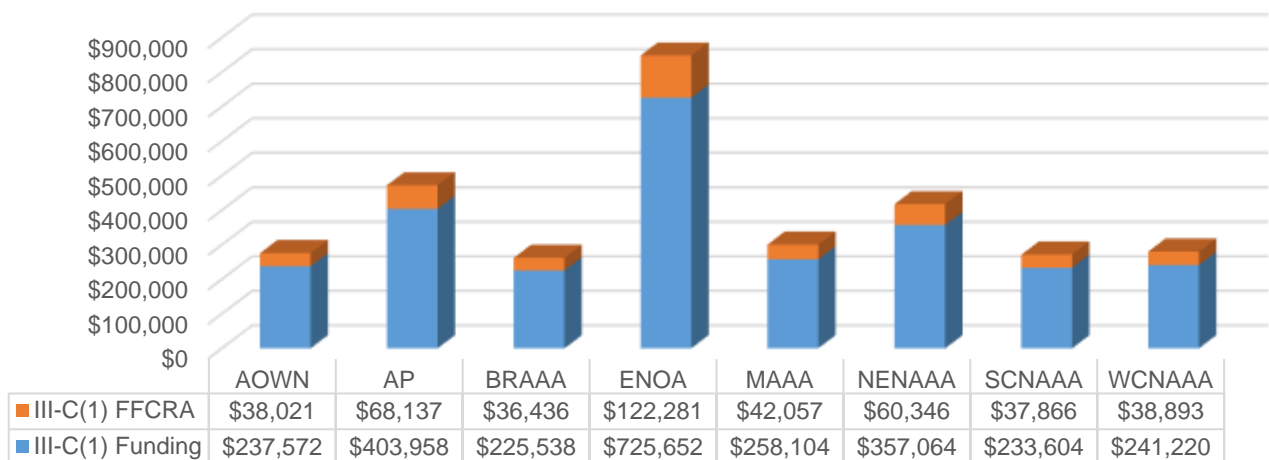
WCNAAA – West Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging (North Platte)

Supportive services includes a wide variety of services to support the community. The support services offered by service area include:

Service #	Service	AOWN	AP	BRAAA	ENOA	MAAA	NENAAA	SCNAAA	WCNAAA
1	Personal Care		√		√		√		√
2	Homemaker	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
3	Chore	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
6	Case Management		√			√	√		
7	Assisted Transportation		√				√		√
10	Transportation		√			√	√		√
12	Information & Assistance	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
16	Legal Assistance	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
21	Telephone & Visiting	√							
22	Senior Center Hours	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
23	Material Distribution	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
24	Social Activities	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
25	Counseling		√			√	√	√	√
27	Outreach	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
28	Information Services	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
29	Legal Outreach	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

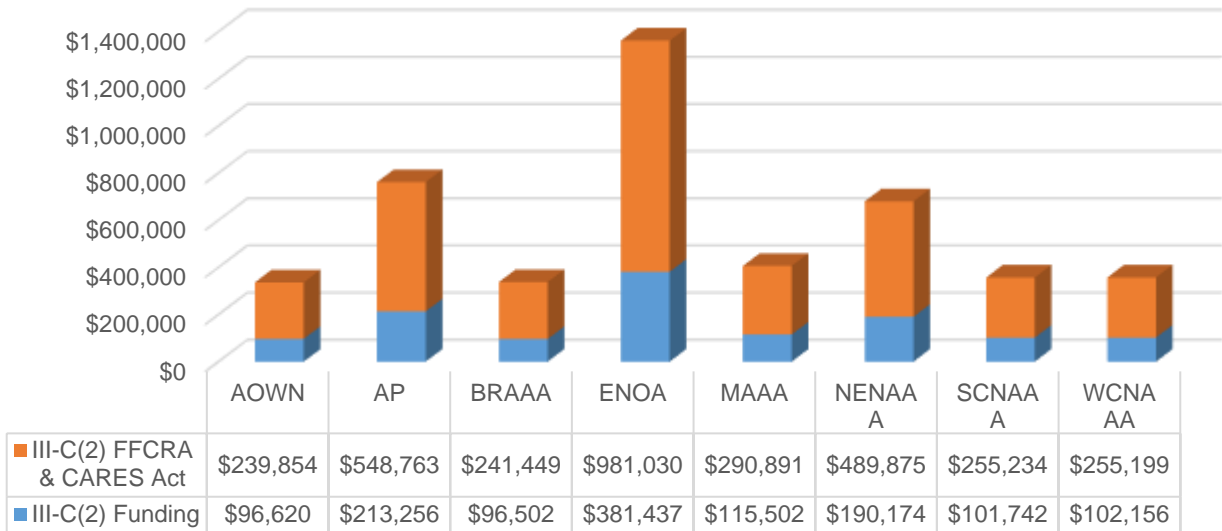
Congregate Meals

Congregate Meals: Standard & Additional FFCRA Funds



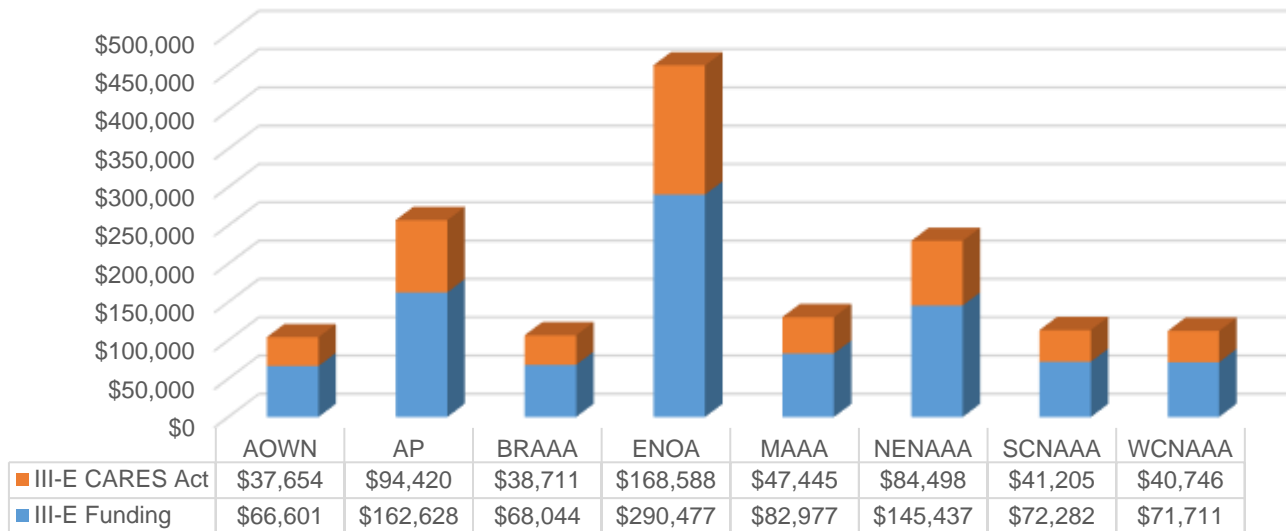
Home Delivered Meals

Home Delivered Meals: Standard & Additional FFCRA and CARES Act Funds



Federal Caregiver Funding

Caregiver Support: Standard & Additional CARES Act Funds



Caregiver services by service area are offered as follows:

Service #	Service	AOWN	AP	BRAAA	ENOA	MAAA	NENAA	SCNAA	WCNAA
30	Caregiver Counseling	√							
31	Caregiver Training	√							
32	Caregiver Respite	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
33	Caregiver Supplemental Services	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
34	Caregiver Assistance: Case Management		√		√	√	√		√
35	Caregiver Support Groups		√						
36	Caregiver Assistance: Information & Assistance	√	√	√		√		√	√
37	Caregiver Outreach	√	√	√	√	√	√		
38	Caregiver Information Services	√					√		√

Area Agencies on Aging are creative, and have continued to engage at the local level to meet the needs of constituents. Examples of innovative programming are included below. Each agency provided their local write up for this report.

Aging Office of Western Nebraska, Scottsbluff

Additional LB1008 State Funds:

The Aging Office of Western Nebraska (AOWN) received \$76,523 of Community Aging Services Act (CASA) funding with the LB1008.

LB 1008 was used to restore the funding for FY 2021 for the following services: Homemaker and Chore services, nutrition services, and Supplemental services. Homemaker and chore will allow AOWN to offer more vouchers, thus being able to help more people. Supplemental services allows additional units of the Emergency Response Service (ERS) and the nutrition services increases the ability to serve more individuals in this area.

FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act) Funding:

AOWN used the FFCRA funding to support the nutritional programs providing To-Go and home delivered meals.

CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act):

AOWN is using CARES Act funds to support special projects. For example, AOWN purchased toilet paper for distribution to people who were unable to purchase it.

The second project was a “Needs Bag” for Caregivers containing Cloth Face Masks (2), Hand Sanitizer, and a box of 100 disposable gloves.

Additionally, AOWN built a 5-day meal shelf stable food bag for 1,000 people in the Panhandle of Nebraska. The cloth food bags included shelf stable food and a word search for mental stimulation.

Finally, AWON purchased an annual *NSpire* magazine subscription for senior citizen clients. A monthly publication, *NSpire* articles tell warm inspirational stories from the Panhandle.

AWON plans to complete a second round of the “Needs Bags” for Caregivers and another round of a 5-day meal shelf stable food bag for seniors.

AWON provides Well Check services, consisting of weekly supportive phone contact to an OAA eligible individual--checking on their physical and emotional well-being during the outbreak of the pandemic.

Aging Partners, Lincoln

Aging Partners appreciates the most recent investment of State CASA funds, which has provided for sustained programming that would otherwise not have occurred. Reduction in services or elimination of services would have occurred had the additional State funding not be made available. Examples of programs that would have been impacted include: legal services, nutrition programming, meal programs and senior center activities.

Aging Partners has utilized the recent increase in CASA funds in the following ways:

Additional LB1008 State Funds:

- Enhanced exercise program for seniors in Seward County, NE
- Provide for loaned ramp equipment for use by Seniors having mobility challenges in York County, NE.
- Replaced broken or aged kitchen equipment for congregate food programs and material distribution programs in Saline County, NE and David City, NE Senior Centers.
- Increase services in rural communities of Fillmore County.
- Technology training for seniors regarding the use of cellular phones and computers, including purchase of technology to support this training in Seward County, Nebraska.
- Provide Medicare Part D assistance in Polk County.
- Enhance senior fitness program in Saline, County NE.
- Provide for needed health/foot clinics for seniors in Fillmore County.

FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act); CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act):

- Reduced social isolation through increased use of computer tablet technology among Asian Americans.
- Provide for distribution of cleaning materials, hygiene materials and supports for seniors.
- Increased Grab and Go and Home Delivered Meal service due to COVID isolation.
- Table-top and desk Plexiglas screens to reduce COVID spread.
- Support remote technology to assist seniors with telephones and internet services to enable access to Tele-Health and connect with remote family members.
- Provide for fresh fruit and vegetables for senior “shut-ins.”
- Support Home Delivered Meals logistics.
- Support well checks to ensure the health and safety of seniors.
- Purchase PPE to ensure safety of staff and clients.
- Develop a new program connecting volunteers with seniors needing assistance such as grocery shopping, lawn care, library books and chores. This program also engaged volunteer in conducting “well checks” and “social calls” to isolated seniors.

Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging, Omaha

Additional LB1008 State Funds:

LB 1008 was used to restore funding for the following services in FY2021: nutrition services, congregate and home delivered meals, in-home services (homemaker, bath aide), material distribution, and caregiver support services. In addition, LB1008 state funds provided a much-needed rate increase for providers of homemaker, bath aide and respite services.

FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act) Funding:

ENOA used the FFCRA funding for nutrition programs providing both home delivered meals and “Grab and Go” meals. ENOA saw an increase in these meals due to COVID-19.

CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act):

IIIB CARES funding is being utilized for in-home services and Food Baskets provided to homebound individuals.

IIIC1 and IIIC2 CARES funding supports:

- COVID-19 Home Delivered meals
- COVID-19 “Grab and Go” meals
- COVID-19 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- COVID-19 Well Checks

IIIC Cares funding supports:

- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for staff and volunteers
- Technology purchases – Cell Phones and Laptops

In addition to COVID funds provided through the State Unit on Aging, The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded one-time CARES Act funding grant awards to support the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) at UNMC in preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). ENOA is collaborating with UNMC health professional student volunteers to develop information materials on telehealth technologies for older adults. The project goal is to educate older adults about how to utilize telehealth services so that they can continue to get necessary health care safely, without leaving their homes. Volunteer medical students are creating educational materials explaining telehealth service options, developing step-by educational materials, and when safe to do so, plan to provide one-on-one educational sessions at ENOA Senior Centers and Senior Housing complexes in the service area.

Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging, Beatrice

Additional LB1008 State Funds:

Blue Rivers will be reinstating the snow removal and lawn mowing services in spring 2021 for clients who need this service. In addition, Blue Rivers will increase the contracted housekeeper service provider rate by \$1/hour to retain their services, as they have not had an increase in over four years.

Blue Rivers is exploring an opportunity to provide a one day/week meal delivery service to Village of Plymouth, per their request. This service would provide clients with 15 meals, utilizing volunteers to deliver meals and use of Plymouth Community Center as in-kind support for such service. This could possibly expand to two days/week with the option of weekend meals.

FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act); CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act):

Through Care Manager client identification, Blue Rivers is using FFCRA and CARES funding in the following ways:

- Blue Rivers provides additional meals on the weekends to all clients requesting this service.
- Site Managers are allowed to deliver pre-paid groceries and pharmaceuticals to homebound clients, provide mail delivery, garbage takeout, and make well call checks to all their center participants.
- Blue Rivers provides special one-time Handyman projects up to \$500 to address safety items in client's homes such as step repair, garage door opener, railing repair/replacement, gutter cleaning, window replacement etc.
- Consumable products are being distributed to all home delivered meal recipients. Such products include toilet paper, paper towels, freezer pops, COVID wristbands, COVID brochures/flyers, games, Halloween Treat bags with fruit and nuts, information on spoofing etc.
- Additional PPE distributed to all our centers in 8 counties.
- Care Managers continue to make well check calls to all their clients.

Blue Rivers is:

- Expanding units to all current and future Respite Care clients.
- Purchasing more freezer space to accommodate the increased meal delivery in Syracuse.
- Researching opportunities to purchase meals route delivery vans, as current 3 models are old, with many miles and repairs.
 - These vans supply meals in Thayer County to 3 centers, Jefferson and Gage County to 3 centers and Otoe/Johnson County to 4 centers and are necessary to continue meal distribution to five counties of the service area.

Midland Area Agency on Aging, Hastings

FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act); CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act):

Additional funding opportunities through State CASA Funds, FFCRA Funds, and CARES Act Funds, has helped the agency with increased outreach to the aging population than would have been possible with previous funding levels.

At the onset of the pandemic, Midland focused on assisting the aging population with necessities that suddenly became more difficult to procure while seniors received recommendations to stay at home. Food baskets were assembled and delivered to all home delivered meal, congregate meal, care management, grant and Medicaid waiver clients. These food baskets included fresh fruit, potatoes, and shelf stable items. Over 1,200 baskets were delivered in the eight county area.

Wellness calls and in-person visits with those unable to get out of their house and socialize allowed the Midland team to stay in touch with clients. This allowed further opportunities to assist with picking up groceries, prescriptions, and other necessities for those unable or unwilling to go out to local stores.

Since senior centers shut down due to COVID, all congregate meal participants were transitioned into receiving "To Go" meals or Home Delivered Meals instead of being able to eat at the center. Additional disposable containers and meal transporters were needed to meet the increase in volume of these meals. To relieve staff shortages, the Runza Corporation provided several meals for seniors during this time.

The face mask shortage experienced during the first wave of the pandemic inspired a partnership with local volunteers to make fabric sewn masks to protect clients. Having these extra funds were instrumental in providing fabric and supplies for these volunteers and helped procure other necessary supplies, like locally sourced hand sanitizer, acrylic barriers, and other elements of PPE for centers and offices.

Midland centers and offices assist with Medicaid Part D enrollment and comparison face to face. With the sudden increase of COVID outbreaks in the area, centers and offices have had to switch to phone based assistance which requires a much larger time commitment and personnel costs. Additional aid for the Homemaker, Chore, and Respite programs increased the number of grants to seniors to help with housekeeping, mowing, snow removal, life lines, and personal care items.

Midland is currently looking to the future and expanding Home Delivered Meal offerings to include weekend meals, ordering additional shelf stable meals, sundry baskets, and getting stay at home activities like games and puzzles in the hands of our seniors for the coming fall and winter seasons. We are also looking into replacing some kitchen equipment that has seen increased use during the pandemic and explore ways to enhance fitness and wellness by making more exercise equipment available in a safe environment.

Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging, Norfolk

Additional LB1008 State Funds:

The Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging (NENAAA) received \$175,122 of Community Aging Services Act (CASA) funding with LB 1008.

LB 1008 was utilized to restore funding for State Fiscal Year 2021 services: social activities, outreach, caregiver support groups, material distribution, and increased rates and units for homemaker and respite services.

FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act) Funding:

This funding was expended to senior centers that provided home-delivered and to-go meals effective March 20, 2020-May 31, 2020.

CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act):

Senior Centers received III B CARES funding for supportive service hours. The remaining CARES III B funding supports in-home services, such as chores. In addition, funding assists with eliminating waiting lists for in-home services and purchase of staff video conferencing equipment.

Senior Centers/nutrition sites that provided nutrition services during March 1-May 31, 2020 received CARES III C2 funding based on the number of meals served during that time frame.

The Cares III E funding will be utilized for in-home services and respite for caregivers.

The Cares Ombudsman funding will be used to increase hours of the Ombudsman Coordinator and to reimburse mileage for Ombudsman volunteers. Also, this funding will assist in purchasing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for volunteers and Coordinator.

The Agency provided SUA approved temporary services during the COVID-19 pandemic using non-traditional funding sources:

- *COVID-19 Home-delivered meals:* A home-delivered meal during the COVID-19 pandemic. Clients may bypass the regulations of home-delivered meals.
- *COVID-19 To Go Meals:* Also known as curbside, pick-up, grab & go, drive-thru or to-go meals. A meal that is distributed instead of a congregate meal during the COVID-19 pandemic. Clients may bypass the regulations of to-go meals.
- *COVID-19 Goods Delivery:* Coordination of grocery, goods and pharmaceutical items to an Older Americans Act (OAA) eligible individual to distribute, deliver/coordinate food, household items during the coronavirus pandemic.
- *COVID-19 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE):* The provision of goods to an older individual at no cost or at a reduced cost which will directly support the health and independence of an individual. This may include masks, gloves, first aid items, etc.
- *COVID-19 Well Check:* A supportive phone contact to an OAA eligible individual to confirm the individual's mental and physical well-being during the coronavirus outbreak. This may include referral for services.

South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging, Kearney

South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging (Agency) provides services to fourteen counties in south central Nebraska, which include the following counties: Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Custer, Valley, Greeley, Sherman, Buffalo, Phelps, Kearney, Furnas, Harlan and Franklin.

The Agency provides funding and oversight to eighteen senior centers, as well as two meal sites. Other programs include: Legal Services, Care Management, Senior Care Options, Medicaid Waiver, Senior Insurance Counseling, Caregiver Assistance, and Information and Assistance, to name a few. The Agency also houses a Long-Term Care Ombudsman and is an Aging Disability Resource Center.

The Agency utilized the recent increase in CASA funds, as well as FFCRA and CARES Act funds, as follows:

Additional LB1008 State Funds:

- Reduce waiting lists for elderly clients needing chore services.
- Increase the number of personal emergency response systems needed by elderly clients.
- Assist senior centers with programmatic and technology needs.
- Continue a strong legal assistance program.
- Reduce waiting lists for Care Management to serve more families in need.
- Serve more persons (elderly and disabled) needing long-term care services and supports.
- Assist seniors seeking help dealing with Medicare and in particular, Medicare Part D.

FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act); CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act):

- Purchase and distribution of cleaning materials, supplies, PPE.
- Distribution of educational information surrounding COVID-19.
- Volunteer program to deliver medication, food, and other needs to seniors.
- “Well-Check” calls to make sure senior had medication, food, and to see if they had other needs.
- Provide “To Go” and Home Delivered Meals.
- Purchase equipment for senior centers, such as freezers, stoves, and containers for meals, etc.
- Purchase and provide non-contact infrared thermometers for every senior center.

West Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging, North Platte

Additional LB1008 State Funds:

The West Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging received \$82,278.00 of Community Aging Services Act (CASA) funding with LB 1008. It was utilized to restore funding for fiscal year 2021 services: (Title IIIB) In-Home Personal Care, Access Information and Assistance, Senior Center Hours, Access Counseling/SHIP and to increase grants to clients to pay for services. For Title IIIE, grants to clients were increased to allow more hours of service for homemaker and respite services.

FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act) Funding:

Funding was provided to senior centers for home-delivered and to-go meals effective March 20, 2020-June 30, 2020. WCNA AAA purchased PPE for senior center employees and reimbursed the centers for the additional expense they incurred for additional Home-Delivered and To-Go meals. An additional \$2.00 per meal was provided through July 2020

CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act):

Senior Centers/Meal Sites that provided nutrition services are funded through 2020 CARES III C2 beginning July 1, 2020 based on the number of meals served during that time frame.

The CareS III-E funding is being used for In-Home services and Respite for caregivers.

WCNA AAA put the Home-Delivered Meal Assessment on hold and any participant may receive Home Delivered Meals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WCNA AAA approved To Go Meals for Congregate participants wishing to do so, this was not previously an allowed service.

WCNA AAA purchased Touchless Thermometers for all Senior Centers/Meal Sites wishing to have one.

WCNA AAA prepared 400 information and supply bags for clients.