



COMMUNITY LIVING, AGING & PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CAP)

Special Unit on Aging

May 11, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE – OKLAHOMA STATE PLAN ON AGING

Pursuant to Part 1321.27 of Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations (45 C.F.R. Part 1321.27), Oklahoma Human Services is required to give public notice and receive public input on the proposed State Plan on Aging, which covers the time period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026. The State Plan on Aging includes all assurances and plans to be implemented under the provisions of the Older Americans Act (OAA). The Special Unit on Aging (SUA) has been given the authority to develop and administer the State Plan on Aging in accordance with all requirements of the Act. The SUA is primarily responsible for the coordination of all State activities related to the purpose of the Act, including the development of comprehensive and coordinated systems for the delivery of nutrition and in-home and supportive services, and serving as the effective and visible advocate for older Oklahomans.

The Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020 reauthorized the OAA with an emphasis on addressing the impacts of social isolation, caregiving, malnutrition, and other key priorities. In addition, the Biden Administration has articulated four key priorities that are guiding the work of the Administration on Community Living (ACL) in administering the OAA: COVID-19 recovery, advancing equity, expanding access to home and community-based services (HCBS), and building a caregiving infrastructure that includes support for both paid and unpaid caregivers.

Summary of Oklahoma State Plan on Aging

Oklahoma, as with the rest of the nation, is experiencing an unprecedented growth in the over 60 population. Yet, as this population expands, Oklahoma is further challenged by being able to provide sufficient programs for older Oklahomans. The 2020 Census reflects Oklahoma is home to 3,986,539 residents, an increase of over 208,000 people in the last ten years. There are approximately 875,877 adults aged 60 and older. By 2030, the population of older Oklahomans is projected to increase by 21.3%.

As part of the SUA's accountability for Older Americans Act services, a new State Plan on Aging is developed every few years to address the changing needs of older Oklahomans. The SUA will continue to advocate and educate, to promote services necessary to keep older adults in the environment of their choice, to provide oversight to maintain quality services and care, and to support promising innovative programs. The State Plan serves as a contract with the Administration on Community Living and as a roadmap for the implementation of programs for Oklahomans 60 years of age and older.

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In conjunction with administering the Older Americans Act, SUA coordinates a comprehensive array of services that benefit older Oklahomans, their families, their caregivers, and the aging network. These services are made available primarily through a network of 11 local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), which are responsible for planning, developing, and implementing a system of services for persons aged 60 and over in their respective planning and service areas.

Oklahoma has a diverse population of older adults with different needs, and the aging network must be prepared to serve these needs effectively. The Special Unit on Aging will continue to provide technical support, conduct research on national best practices, and assist the AAAs to implement quality programs.

Over the next four years, the Special Unit on Aging will focus on the following goals:

GOAL 1: Promote excellence and innovation in the delivery of core Older Americans Act programs to meet the unique and diverse needs of older Oklahomans and family caregivers.

GOAL 2: Prepare for emergencies and disasters to improve outcomes for older Oklahomans and their caregivers.

GOAL 3: Strengthen equity in all aspects of service delivery by supporting older Oklahomans to remain active and healthy in their communities of choice for as long as possible.

GOAL 4: Enable older Oklahomans and their caregivers to remain in their homes through the provision of home and community-based services.

GOAL 5: Strengthen and increase services and supports for caregivers.

The Oklahoma State Plan on Aging will become effective October 1, 2023 upon approval by the Administration on Community Living.

To submit a public comment or request a free electronic copy of the State Plan on Aging, click on the following link: <https://forms.office.com/g/umvCGqQJJP>. Please submit all comments by close of business, May 25, 2022.

For those interested, a Public Hearing will be held in-person on May 26, 2022 at 9:30 AM at the Oklahoma Insurance Department located at 400 NE 50th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (see map on following page).

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