

§ 1321.53

(1) A descriptive statement as to how the State agency determines the geographical distribution of the Title III and Nutrition Services Incentive Program funding;

(2) How the State agency targets the funding to reach individuals with greatest economic need and greatest social need, with particular attention to low-income minority older individuals;

(3) At the option of the State agency, a numerical/mathematical statement as a part of their funds distribution plan; and

(4) Justification if the State agency determines it meets requirements to provide services directly where:

(i) As set forth in section 307(a)(8)(A) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 3027(a)(8)(A)), no supportive services, except as set forth in paragraph (b)(4)(i)(B) of this section, nutrition services, disease prevention and health promotion, or family caregiver services will be directly provided by the State agency, unless, in the judgment of the State agency:

(A) Provision of such services by the State agency is necessary to assure an adequate supply of such services;

(B) Such services are directly related to such State agency's administrative functions; or

(C) Such services may be provided more economically, and with comparable quality, by such State agency.

(ii) The State agency may directly provide case management, information and assistance services, and outreach.

(iii) Approval of the State agency to provide direct services may only be granted for a maximum of the State plan period. For each time that approval is granted to a State agency to provide direct services, the State agency must demonstrate the State agency's efforts to identify service providers prior to being granted a subsequent approval.

(c) Single planning and service area States must adhere to use of the funds distribution plan for Title III and Nutrition Services Incentive Program funds within the State. If a single planning and service area State agency revises their Title III funds distribution plan, they may do so by:

(1) Following their policies and procedures to publish the updated funds

45 CFR Ch. XIII (10–1–24 Edition)

distribution plan for public review and comment for a reasonable minimum time period (30 calendar days or greater, unless a waiver is provided by the Assistant Secretary for Aging during an emergency or when a time sensitive action is otherwise necessary); and

(2) Submitting the revised funds distribution plan for Assistant Secretary for Aging approval prior to implementing the changes as noted at § 1321.33.

§ 1321.53 State agency Title III and Title VI coordination responsibilities.

(a) For States where there are Title VI programs, the State agency's policies and procedures, developed in coordination with the relevant Title VI program director(s), as set forth in § 1322.13(a), must explain how the State's aging network, including area agencies and service providers, will coordinate with Title VI programs to ensure compliance with sections 306(a)(11)(B) and 307(a)(21)(A) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 3026(a)(11)(B) and 3027(a)(21)(A)). State agencies may meet these requirements through a Tribal consultation policy that includes Title VI programs.

(b) The policies and procedures set forth in paragraph (a) of this section must at a minimum address:

(1) How the State's aging network, including area agencies on aging and service providers, will provide outreach to Tribal elders and family caregivers regarding services for which they may be eligible under Title III and/or VII;

(2) The communication opportunities the State agency will make available to Title VI programs, to include Title III and other funding opportunities, technical assistance on how to apply for Title III and other funding opportunities, meetings, email distribution lists, presentations, and public hearings;

(3) The methods for collaboration on and sharing of program information and changes, including coordinating with area agencies and service providers where applicable;

(4) How Title VI programs may refer individuals who are eligible for Title III and/or VII services;

(5) How services will be provided in a culturally appropriate and trauma-informed manner; and

(6) Opportunities to serve on advisory councils, workgroups, and boards, including area agency advisory councils, as set forth in § 1321.63.

Subpart C—Area Agency Responsibilities

§ 1321.55 Mission of the area agency.

(a) The Act intends that the area agency on aging shall be the lead on all aging issues on behalf of all older individuals and family caregivers in the planning and service area. The area agency shall proactively carry out, under the leadership and direction of the State agency, a wide range of functions including advocacy, planning, coordination, inter-agency collaboration, information sharing, monitoring, and evaluation. The area agency shall lead the development or enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated community-based systems in, or serving, each community in the planning and service area. These systems shall be designed to assist older individuals and family caregivers in leading independent, meaningful, healthy, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities.

(b) A comprehensive and coordinated community-based system described in of this section shall:

(1) Have a point of contact where anyone may go or contact for help, information, and/or referral on any aging issue;

(2) Provide information on a range of available public and private long-term care services and support options;

(3) Assure that these options are readily accessible to all older individuals and family caregivers, no matter what their income;

(4) Include a commitment of public, private, voluntary, and personal resources committed to supporting the system;

(5) Involve collaborative decision-making among public, private, voluntary, faith-based, civic, and fraternal organizations, including trusted leaders of communities in greatest economic need and greatest social need,

and older individuals and family caregivers in the community;

(6) Offer special help or targeted resources for the most vulnerable older individuals, family caregivers, and those in danger of losing their independence;

(7) Provide effective referral from agency to agency to assure that information and/or assistance is provided, no matter how or where contact is made in the community;

(8) Evidence sufficient flexibility to respond with appropriate individualized assistance, especially for vulnerable older individuals or family caregivers;

(9) Be tailored to the specific nature of the community and the needs of older adults in the community; and

(10) Have a board of directors comprised of leaders in the community, including leaders from groups identified as in greatest economic need and greatest social need, who have the respect, capacity, and authority necessary to convene all interested persons, assess needs, design solutions, track overall success, stimulate change, and plan community responses for the present and for the future.

(c) The resources made available to the area agency on aging under the Act shall be used consistent with the definition of area plan administration as set forth in § 1321.3 to finance those activities necessary to achieve elements of a community-based system set forth in paragraph (b) of this section and consistent with the requirements for provision of direct services as set forth in §§ 1321.85 through 1321.93.

(d) The area agency may not engage in any activity which is inconsistent with its statutory mission prescribed in the Act or policies prescribed by the State agency under § 1321.9.

§ 1321.57 Organization and staffing of the area agency.

(a) An area agency may be either:

(1) An agency whose single purpose is to administer programs for older individuals and family caregivers; or

(2) A separate organizational unit within a multipurpose agency which functions as the area agency on aging. Where the State agency designates a