

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Community Living

Availability of Program Application Instructions for Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Funds

Title: American Rescue Plan (ARP) for State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs under Title VII of the OAA—Response in Residential Care Communities.

Announcement Type: Initial.

Statutory Authority: American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 [Pub. L. 117–2] for activities authorized under Title VII of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended through Public Law 116–131, enacted March 25, 2020.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 93.042.

Dates: The deadline for State Agencies on Aging to submit their Program Plan for Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs is June 24, 2022.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The purpose of this funding opportunity for State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs is to enhance their capacity to respond to and resolve complaints about abuse and neglect, especially in board and care facilities and similar adult care homes, including assisted living facilities. Residents of these types of homes are less likely to have the benefit of federal oversight or regulation or clear requirements for preserving and respecting for their rights during the COVID–19 public health emergency, thus making the Ombudsman program presence essential. These funds will allow Ombudsman programs to develop capacity through activities such as hiring staff and recruiting and training volunteers to conduct visits and investigate complaints, develop resident and family councils, and provide information and assistance and education on resident rights and prevention of abuse and neglect.

To be eligible to receive this grant, each State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and State Agency on Aging must submit a co-signed plan as described in Section III of this FRN, *Eligibility Criteria and Other Requirements*. The plan will be considered an Amendment to the State Plan on Aging and must describe the State Ombudsman plans for use of these supplemental funds.

ACL seeks plans developed by State Ombudsman Programs that describe how the Ombudsman program will use American Rescue Plan Act funds to fulfill the purpose of the funding

opportunity within the authority of Title VII Chapter 2 of the Older Americans Act.

II. Award Information

1. *Funding Instrument Type:* These grants are mandatory supplemental grants, appropriated through the Elder Justice Act as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The State Ombudsman will determine the use of the funds in accordance with the federal Ombudsman rule at 45 CFR 1324.13(f). The State Agency on Aging will assure that the funds are used consistent with the Ombudsman’s determination and the plan submitted in response to this Notice.

2. *Anticipated Total Priority Area Funding:* The total available funding for this opportunity is \$17,910,000. ACL intends to make available grant awards to State Agencies on Aging for their State Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs. The period of performance for these grants, during which grant activities must occur, is estimated to commence August 1, 2022 and is projected to end on September 30, 2025.

Each State Agency on Aging/State Ombudsman is eligible to apply for and receive the amount in the table below:

Alabama	\$269,337
Alaska	89,550
Arizona	411,517
Arkansas	163,153
California	1,858,433
Colorado	275,872
Connecticut	200,896
Delaware	89,550
District of Columbia	89,550
Florida	1,366,626
Georgia	494,969
Hawaii	89,550
Idaho	93,856
Illinois	650,221
Indiana	347,117
Iowa	173,554
Kansas	150,909
Kentucky	238,893
Louisiana	238,502
Maine	89,913
Maryland	309,810
Massachusetts	371,889
Michigan	562,787
Minnesota	296,560
Mississippi	154,825
Missouri	336,900
Montana	89,550
Nebraska	98,634
Nevada	159,307
New Hampshire	89,550
New Jersey	471,343
New Mexico	116,024
New York	1,039,648
North Carolina	558,290
North Dakota	89,550
Ohio	650,212
Oklahoma	201,357
Oregon	238,302
Pennsylvania	751,491
Rhode Island	89,550
South Carolina	297,034

South Dakota	89,550
Tennessee	364,274
Texas	1,226,368
Utah	118,998
Vermont	89,550
Virginia	435,370
Washington	386,796
West Virginia	112,671
Wisconsin	326,597
Wyoming	89,550
American Samoa	11,194
Guam	44,775
Northern Marianas	11,194
Puerto Rico	203,757
Virgin Islands	44,775

III. Eligibility Criteria and Other Requirements

1. Eligible entities for this award are State Agencies on Aging for use by the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs according to the plan developed by the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

2. No Match or Cost Sharing is required.

3. State Agencies on Aging and State Ombudsmen must provide a plan no later than June 24, 2022. The plan must contain descriptions of actions and corresponding expenditure estimates that will achieve improvements as noted below, especially for Ombudsman work in congregate residential settings described in the *Funding Opportunity Description*. Alternative activities may be proposed to effectively achieve the purpose of the funding opportunity. Activities may include:

- a. Staff augmentation.
- b. Volunteer engagement.
- c. Training for staff of board and care homes, assisted living facilities and/or similar entities and for Ombudsman representatives to enhance their ability to engage in complaint resolution and other advocacy about abuse, neglect, and exploitation; COVID–19 impact; specific needs of residents living in residential care communities, as identified through Ombudsman data, the CMS Home and Community-based Services Settings Rule, and other relevant matters.
- d. Increase in visits to facilities, based on data identifying gaps.
- e. Increase in work with resident and/or family councils in facilities, based on data identifying gaps.

4. A cover letter containing specified assurances must be included and signed by both the State Agency on Aging Director or designee and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The letter must include the following assurances:

- i. These funds must supplement, and not supplant, existing funding for the State Ombudsman program.
- ii. The State Agency on Aging will timely submit to ACL semi-annual

federal financial reports and annual program reports related to the activities performed.

iii. The State Ombudsman will determine the use of the funds in accordance with the federal Ombudsman rule at 45 CFR 1324.13(f) and the State Agency on Aging will assure that the funds are used consistent with the Ombudsman's determination and the plan submitted in response to this Notice.

5. *Unique Entry ID Number:* All grant applicants must obtain and keep current a Unique Entity ID (UEI). On April 4, 2022, the unique entity identifier used across the federal government changed from the DUNS Number to the Unique Entity ID (generated by *SAM.gov*). The Unique Entity ID is a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by *SAM.gov*. The UEI is viewable in your *SAM.gov* entity registration record.

6. *Intergovernmental Review:* Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, is not applicable to these grant applications.

IV. Submission Information

1. *Plans and cover letters should be addressed to* Alison Barkoff, Acting Administrator/Assistant Secretary for Aging, Administration for Community Living, 330 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20201.

Plans and cover letters should be submitted electronically via email to Beverley Laubert, National Ombudsman Program Coordinator at Beverley.Laubert@acl.hhs.gov.

2. *Submission Dates and Times:* To receive consideration, plans and cover letters must be submitted by June 24, 2022 via email and have an electronic time stamp indicating the date and time submitted.

Dated: May 19, 2022.

Alison Barkoff,

Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Community Living

Availability of Program Application Instructions for Adult Protective Services Funding

Title: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services (FY 2022).

Announcement Type: Initial.

Statutory Authority: The statutory authority for grants under this program

announcement is contained in the Elder Justice Act Section 2042(b) of Title XX of the Social Security Act [Pub. L. 74-271] [As Amended Through Pub. L. 115-123, Enacted February 9, 2018] as referenced in Section 9301 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-2).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 93.747.

Dates: The deadline date for the submission of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services FY 2022 Letter of Assurance is 11:59 p.m. EST June 24, 2022.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is establishing the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services FY 2022" funding opportunity in accordance with Section 2042(b) of Subtitle B of Title XX of the Social Security Act, otherwise known as the Elder Justice Act (EJA) as authorized and funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-2). In accordance with these statutes, the purpose of this opportunity is to enhance and improve adult protective services provided by states and local units of government.

Funds awarded under this opportunity will provide Adult Protective Services (APS) programs in the states and territories with resources to enhance, improve, and expand the ability of APS to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Examples of activities consistent with the purposes of the statute include:

- Establishing or enhancing the availability for elder shelters and other emergency, short-term housing and accompanying "wrap-around" services for APS clients;
- Establishing, expanding, or enhancing state-wide and local-level elder justice networks for the purpose of removing bureaucratic obstacles and improving coordination across the many state and local agencies interacting with APS clients who have experienced abuse, neglect, or exploitation;

- Working with tribal adult protective services efforts, such as conducting demonstrations on state-Tribal APS partnerships to better serve tribal elders who experience abuse, neglect, and exploitation, partnering with Tribes within the state to include tribal elder abuse data in the state's National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS) reporting, and undertaking demonstrations to better understand elder abuse experienced by tribal individuals living in non-tribal

communities and served by state APS programs;

- Improving or enhancing existing APS processes for receiving reports, conducting intakes and investigations, planning/providing for services, making case determinations, documenting and closing cases, and continuous quality improvement;

- Improving and supporting remote work, such as the purchase of communications and technology hardware, software, or infrastructure in order to provide adult protective services;

- Improving data collection and reporting at the case worker, local-, and state-levels in a manner that is consistent with the National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS);

- Costs associated with establishing new, or improving existing processes for responding to alleged scams and frauds;

- Costs associated with community outreach;

- Costs associated with providing goods and services to APS clients;

- Acquiring personal protection equipment and supplies;

- Paying for extended hours/overtime for staff, hiring temporary staff, and associated personnel costs;

- Training costs;

- Costs associated with assisting APS clients secure the least restrictive option for emergency or alternative housing, and with obtaining, providing, or coordinating with care transitions as appropriate.

Awards authorized under the EJA Section 2042(b) shall be provided to the agency or unit of state government having the legal responsibility for providing adult protective services within the state. Funding under this opportunity may be used to serve any APS client who meets their state's statutory or regulatory criteria for client eligibility for APS services in the state. This funding must supplement and not supplant existing funding for APS provided by states and local units of government. Additionally, award recipients will be required to submit semi-annual federal financial reports and annual program reports related to the activities performed.

II. Award Information

A. Eligible Entity

The eligible entity for these awards is the agency or unit of state government legally responsible for providing adult protective services in each state and territory (EJA Section 2042(b)(3)(B)).