



**TRELLIS™**

Area Agency on Aging

## 2022 Draft Proposal for Title III-B Program Development & Coordination

Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, Inc., D/B/A as “Trellis” will submit a 2022 proposal to the Minnesota Board on Aging for use of 25 percent of its allocated Title III-B (Supportive Services) Older Americans Act funds for Program Development and Coordination Activities. These activities will have a direct and positive impact on services for older persons in the metropolitan region of Minnesota.

The following items detail specific strategies that Trellis proposes to deploy related to each of four goals set out by the Minnesota Board on Aging. These strategies align with direction from the Board on Aging for Program Development and Coordination Activities. We welcome consideration of these strategies and the public’s comments and suggestions for change.

### **Goal 1: Leverage the experience, expertise and energy of older Minnesotans**

- Meet with Senior Corps grantees operating in our planning and service area to understand their goals and discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- Trellis will work to raise the visibility of older works’ needs – including the needs of working caregivers - through representation at Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce and/or Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce events and through social media and other communications channels.
- Trellis will work with employers to support existing employees and caregivers on “Medicare Essentials” and how the Senior LinkAge Line can be a helpful resource.

### **Goal 2: Equip older Minnesotans with the tools to take charge of their health and make informed decisions about services when they need them**

- Trellis staff will work with all Title III partners to support a seamless transition to in-person services or a hybrid service delivery model and share best practices with other Area Agencies on Aging and MBA staff.
- Using the key learnings from our 2020 equity analysis and 2021 Title III funding competition, Trellis will seek feedback from Native and minority community leaders to develop and execute modifications to our Title III funding process and long-term equity strategy. These conversations will support our implementation efforts of the equity analysis with a goal to advance equity in access to Older Americans Act funded services for Native and minority older adults and caregivers.
- Trellis staff will continue to participate in the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging’s Diverse Elders Coalition to advocate for diversity and equity and to invest in building and sustaining relationships with tribal and underserved community leaders to understand the needs of elders in different communities.

### **Goal 3: Support families and friends in their caregiving roles**

- Connect informal caregivers through non-traditional support networks such as healthy aging classes focused on mindfulness and holistic wellness to preserve and promote their well-being and capacity to provide care.
- Through partnerships formed with nonprofit organizations (including disease-specific associations), offer Caregiver Consultation Basic Training and Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class Leader training to at least ten (10) professionals in the metro region.
- Support communities pursuing dementia-friendly activities to develop or expand caregiver support services.
- Collaborate with other Area Agencies on Aging and the MBA to re-institute the Dementia Capability Trainings and support development of a new Dementia Capability and Caregiver Consultation curriculum.
- Continue to serve on the MBA-led State Respite Coalition meeting
- Provide technical and implementation support to caregiver service provider partners to implement and utilize the Trualta platform, and to develop best practices for caregiver activation within the site.

### **Goal 4: Support aging in community with access to a range of services and housing options**

- Trellis staff will meet with community leaders, housing experts and policy influencers to deepen relationships and build expertise as it relates to the housing needs of older adults, preventing homelessness, and building age-friendly communities to prepare for a meaningful Age-Friendly Housing Symposium in 2023.
- Trellis' President and CEO will work with the Volunteer Driver Coalition to track the impact of legislation defining "volunteer driver" in statute and the creation of an income tax subtraction for volunteer mileage as well as planning for the future of the coalition.
- In contracts for 2022 with Title III-B Legal Service and Education providers, Trellis will prioritize legal services and education and representation related to housing issues including landlord and tenant disputes, foreclosure, eviction defense, discrimination, predatory lending and related public housing issues. This work includes private, public and subsidized housing where older adults need assistance asserting their rights or seeking repairs.
- Trellis will support the work of the Board on Aging's Legal Services Developer to meet goals established for AAAs and adhere to the new OAAPS service and reporting requirements.
- Trellis will support Dementia Friends Champions in using new website functionality to implement a new trainer model that will help create sustainability for Dementia Friends in Minnesota. In addition, Champions will conduct Information Sessions in congregate housing settings and support the creation of dementia friendly dental practices.
- Trellis will share the results of the 2021 Comp Plan Analysis project with the Metropolitan Council to grow that relationship and advocate for the inclusion of age-friendly requirements in the comprehensive plan update process.