



## 2025 Draft Proposal for Title III-B Program Development & Coordination

Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, Inc., d/b/a “Trellis” will submit a proposal to the Minnesota Board on Aging for the use of 25% of its allocated Title III-B (Supportive Services) Older Americans Act (OAA) funds for Program Development and Coordination Activities for 2025. 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 the five goals in the [Minnesota State Plan on Aging](#) (created 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: Advance equity and eliminate disparities, while empowering rural and diverse communities and respecting the sovereignty of Tribal Nations.**

- Trellis will improve service to the expanded target population within the newly updated federal OAA regulations by working with MBA staff to update tracking systems that ensure services are targeted to those in greatest need. Additionally, Trellis staff will engage with providers in the HIV and housing sectors to share information about OAA funding opportunities with the intent to attract new applicants for the 2027 OAA Request for Proposals.
- Trellis will prioritize access to nutritious meals by coordinating resources and partnerships between organizations serving Native elders and meal providers with a goal to open at least one Congregate Dining site and increase home-delivered meals to Native elders by 3% as compared to 2024.
- Trellis will continue to prioritize the Special Access service with Title III-B funding to ensure that older adults with limited English proficiency can access and maintain health and service options to remain in the community.
- The Trellis OAA Grant Management team will collaborate with MBA staff to create and edit existing policies that reflect compliance with the updated [OAA final rule](#).

### **Goal 2: Make aging in the community truly possible for all Minnesotans.**

- Trellis leadership will collaborate with diverse community partners to establish an equity fund that would support the needs of diverse organizations and the older adults they serve to expand their capacity to meet the unique needs of their communities.
- The OAA Grant Management team will provide technical assistance that supports providers to rebalance service capacity with reduced funding for OAA services. Support will focus on compliance with updated regulations, policy development, service to an expanded target population, exploring opportunities to diversify revenue and the importance of tracking service data to share their work with prospective funders.

- Trellis will reconvene the Senior Meal and Services Coalition to seek additional and diverse revenue streams that support services for older adults and their caregivers.
- Trellis leadership will co-lead the elevation of the Volunteer Driver Coalition to the national level in collaboration with national partners.

### **Goal 3: Support families, friends and neighbors in sustaining their caregiver roles.**

- Trellis will facilitate and coordinate regional Caregiver Consultant Basic Skills and Dementia Capability trainings, along with the Trellis Caregiver Support Group Facilitation workshop.
- Trellis will continue facilitation and support of the Metropolitan Caregiver Service Collaborative to share educational opportunities, connect providers and share local resources as well as funding and training opportunities in support of caregivers and the professionals who support them.

### **Goal 4: Promote and support healthy aging for all Minnesotans.**

- Trellis will implement MBA strategies that help bring Minnesota into compliance with the Office of the Legislative Auditor's recommendations for the Senior Nutrition Program.
- Trellis will update our OAA grant management system, SmartSimple, to come into compliance with the updated OAA final rule, including the [additive method](#) and match requirements related to maintenance of effort.
- Trellis will utilize service data to help OAA Title III direct service providers make data-driven decisions on how to prioritize access to OAA-funded service to ensure services are provided to those with the greatest need.
- Trellis will establish partnerships with organizations that serve the disability community including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to support and expand the capacity of human service organizations to serve the growing population of people aging with disabilities and their caregivers.
- Trellis will increase the availability of evidence-based classes in outer-ring suburbs of the seven-county metropolitan region.
- Trellis will utilize the [MN Multisector Blueprint on Aging](#) to work with city and county partners to initiate solutions that address the importance of community connections, emergency preparedness and other Blueprint domains.

### **Goal 5: Dismantle ageism and promote older adult rights, autonomy, and protection.**

- Trellis will support OAA Title III metropolitan legal service providers to promote services to older adults that are aging alone to help preserve independence, safety and autonomy.
- Trellis will also work with legal service providers to increase awareness and usage of the Legal Risk Detector tool within our Title III network of service providers.
- Trellis will enhance our partnership with the Elder Justice Center of Minnesota to share resources with the human service network of providers that serve older adults to prevent and respond to issues of abuse and neglect.
- Trellis will use our communications platforms to address ageism and support the national effort to reframe aging.
- Trellis will seek opportunities to provide ageism training and resources to our OAA provider network.