



Trellis Public Hearing

Older Americans Act Program in the Metropolitan Region
(2025 -2028 Area Plan)

July 11, 2024



Federal and State Requirements

- Congress passed the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965, reauthorized on March 25, 2020
- OAA is a vehicle to organize and deliver supportive and nutrition services to older individuals and their family caregivers
- OAA requires each state unit on aging, i.e., Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA), to create a state plan on aging
- MBA has designated Trellis to serve as an area agency on aging to administer OAA services and strengthen service delivery capacity in the seven-county metro area
- MBA directs Trellis to conduct Program Development and Coordination Activities (PD&C) to help achieve the goals identified in the State Plan on Aging

Minnesota State Plan on Aging Goals



1. Advance equity and eliminate disparities, while empowering rural and diverse communities and respecting the sovereignty of Tribal Nations
2. Make aging in community truly possible for all Minnesotans
3. Support families, friends and neighbors in sustaining their caregiver roles
4. Promote and support healthy aging for all Minnesotans
5. Dismantle ageism and promote older adult rights, autonomy and protection



Goal 1: Advance equity and eliminate disparities, while empowering rural and diverse communities and respecting the sovereignty of Tribal Nations

- With MBA, update tracking systems that ensure services are targeted to those in greatest need
- Engage with providers in the HIV and housing sectors
- Prioritize access to nutritious meals for Native elders
- Implement new MBA policies and modify Trellis policies to comply with the “final rule” where equity is addressed

Goal 2: Make aging in community truly possible for all Minnesotans



- Collaborate with community partners to explore creation of an equity fund
- Provide technical assistance to support provider partners to rebalance service capacity with reduced funding
- Reconvene the Senior Meals and Services Coalition to advocate for permanent, increased funding for services
- Co-lead the Volunteer Driver Coalition to achieve its goal of parity in charitable mileage reimbursement for volunteer drivers
- Provide Senior Linkage Line services to support informed decision making and aging well in the community



Goal 3: Support families, friends and neighbors in sustaining their caregiving roles

- Facilitate and coordinate regional Caregiver Consultant Basic Skills and Dementia Capability trainings
- Offer the Caregiver Support Group Facilitation workshop
- Support the Metropolitan Caregiver Service Collaborative to share resources and achieve its goals
- Disseminate the issue guide on dementia and isolation and “Voices of Isolation” video vignettes developed with diverse community leaders



Goal 4: Promote and support healthy aging for all Minnesotans

- Implement corrective actions for the senior nutrition program required by the MBA in addressing the deficiencies reported by the Office of the Legislative Auditor
- Update our grant management system, SmartSimple, to comply with the updated OAA final rule, including the additive method of recognizing program income and match requirements related to maintenance of effort
- Utilize service data to help OAA Title III direct service providers make data-driven decisions on priority access to OAA-funded services to ensure services are provided to those with the greatest need



Goal 4: Promote and support healthy aging for all Minnesotans

- Establish partnerships with organizations that serve the disability community, with a focus on IDD and dementia
- Increase the availability of evidence-based health promotion services in outer-ring suburbs
- Initiate solutions that address community connections, emergency preparedness and other Multi Sector Blueprint on Aging domains, including with local units of government



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

- Work with legal service provider partners to increase awareness and use of the Legal Risk Detector tool within the metro provider network
- Enhance our partnership with the Minnesota Elder Justice Center to share resources with the broader network of human services organizations that serve older adults
- Integrate the principles and strategies of reframing aging into internal and external communications and encourage partners to adopt them



Program Development and Coordination (PD&C)

Trellis proposes to request up to 25% of Title III-B funds to support PD&C activities that:

1. Secure additional state funds for senior meals and supportive services
2. Expand relationships with community partners that serve the expanded OAA target population, including those served by disability and HIV community support partners
3. Facilitate the development efforts of a national Volunteer Driver Coalition

Program Development and Coordination (Continued)

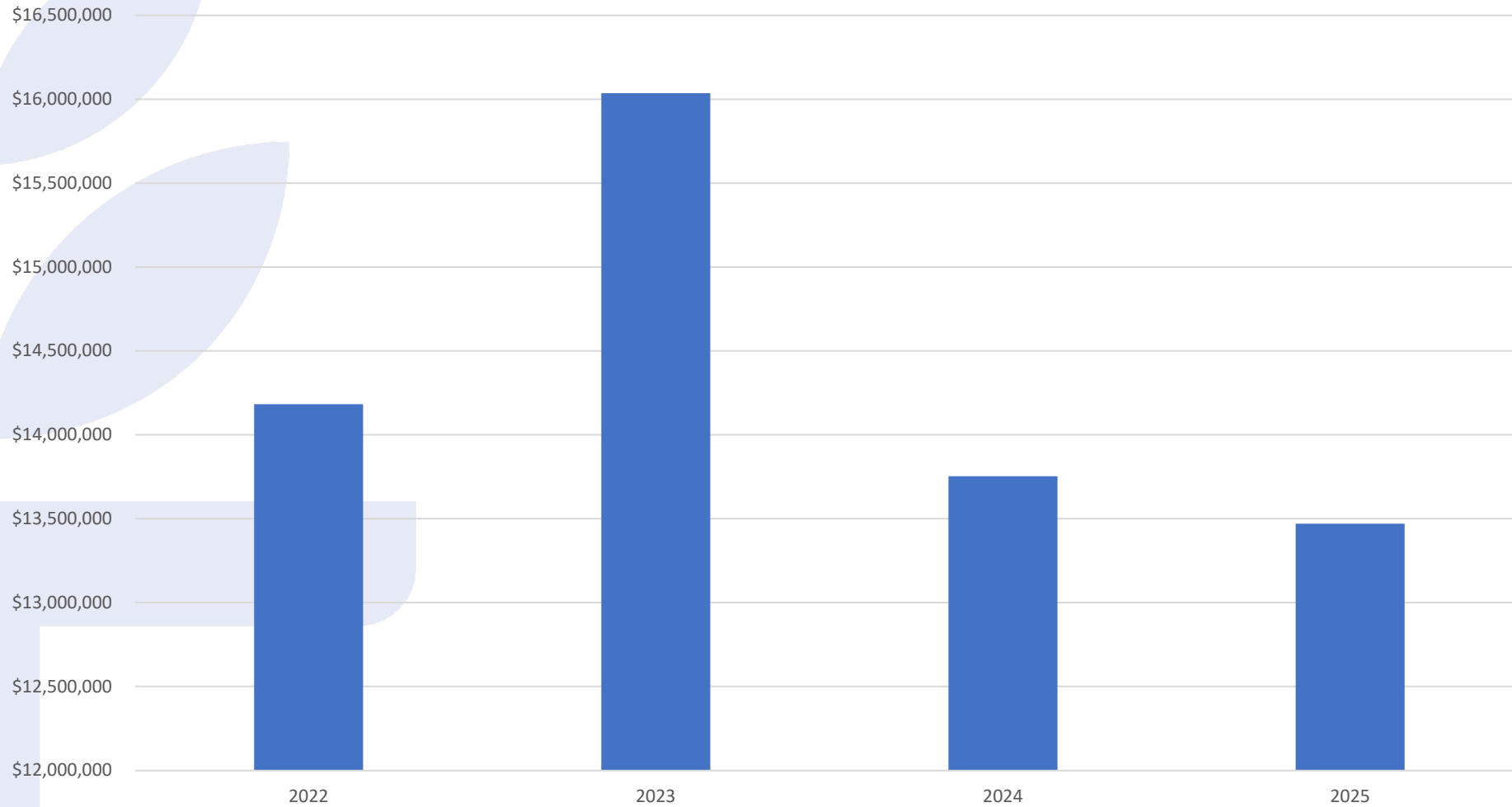


4. Establish a Veterans Directed Care program in the metro region
5. Expand the diversity of our community advisory committee and board of directors, particularly seeking Native elders or family caregivers
6. Facilitate and support the Metropolitan Caregiver Service Collaborative
7. Sustain or expand efforts to support older adults at risk or who are victims of neglect, abuse and exploitation

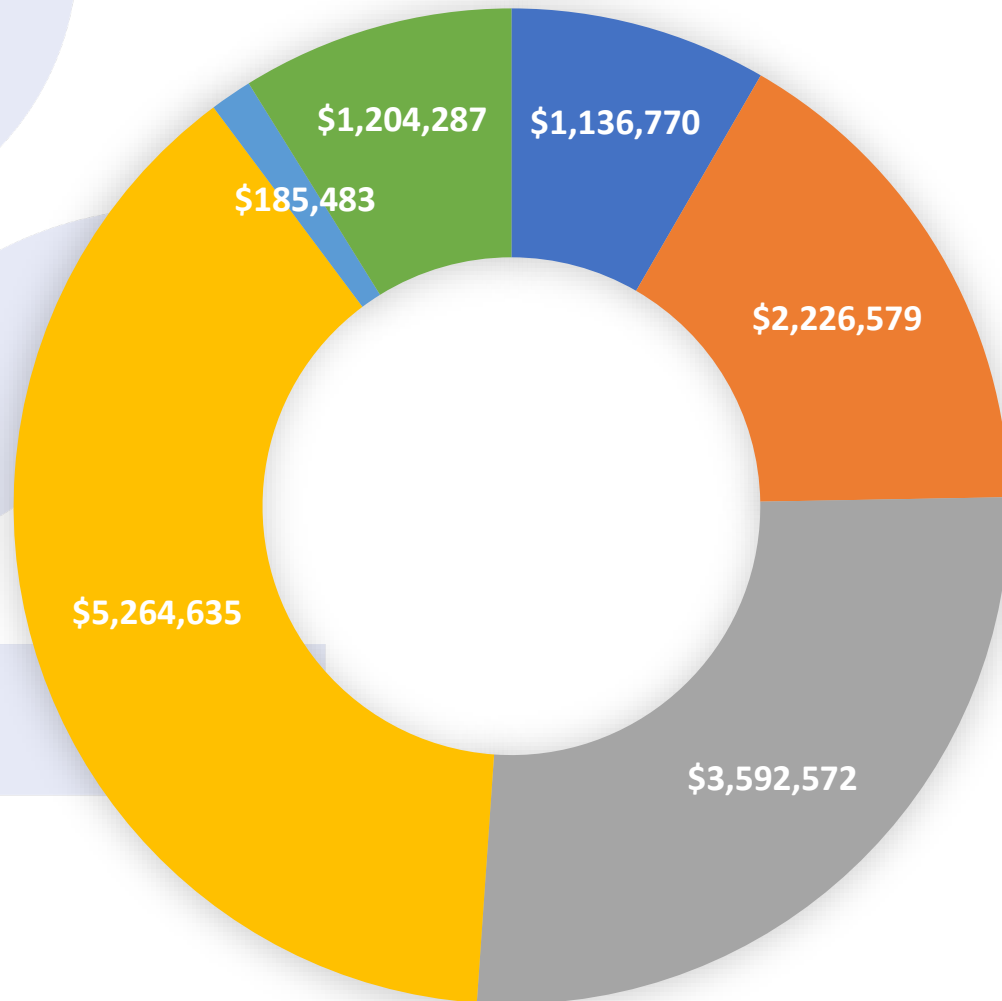
OAA Funding Over Time from All Sources (2022-2025)



OAA Funding - All Sources



Preliminary 2025 Federal OAA Title III and State Nutrition Fund Allocations for the Metro Region



- Title III-A - Administration
- Title III-B - Supportive Services
- Title III-C1 - Congregate Dining
- Title III-C2 - Home-Delivered Meals
- Title III-D - Health Promotion
- Title III-E - Caregiver Services

2025 Total = \$13,610,326

Proposed OAA Title III Transfers



	Congregate Dining to Home Delivered Meals (C1 to C2)	Congregate Dining to Supportive Services (C1 to B)	Supportive Services to Program Development & Coordination (B to PD&C)
Allowable	Up to 40% of total Title III-C1 funds*	Up to 30% of total Title III-C1 funds	Up to 25% of total Title III-B funds
2025 (proposed)	50%* \$1,796,286	16% \$574,225	23% \$507,448

* Allowed to transfer up to 50% statewide with MBA and ACL waiver approval

Participant Cost Sharing



- Federal law requires that all individuals who receive OAA services be offered an opportunity to contribute to the service
- The MBA requires that Trellis administer the OAA and MBA cost sharing policies
- Revenue generated from cost sharing is used to sustain and expand services for older adults and family caregivers funded by Trellis and delivered through provider partners



Participant Cost Sharing

- Utilizes a suggested sliding fee scale based on the income of the older adult and the cost to deliver the service(s)
- OAA regulations require that the service(s) be offered regardless of an older adult's ability to pay
- Individuals receiving Home and Community-Based Waiver Services and those with incomes at/below 100% of federal poverty are exempt from being asked to cost share
- Some services such as congregate dining and home-delivered meals utilize voluntary contributions, technically not cost share and not based on declaration of income or sliding fee



Services Subject to Participant Cost Share

- Chore
- Homemaker
- Grocery Shopping/Delivery
- Assisted Transportation
- Special Access*
- Telephone Reassurance
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Caregiver Support Services

Not Subject to Participant Cost Share in 2025*

- Information and Assistance – Senior LinkAge Line
- Legal Assistance and Education
- Home-delivered Meals and Congregate Dining

**Exemptions must be approved by the Minnesota Board on Aging*



Key Employee Contacts at Trellis

Dawn Simonson

President and CEO

dsimonson@trellisconnects.org

651-900-8700

Mike Frazho

Vice President of Finance

mfrazho@trellisconnects.org

651-244-9816

John Doan

Vice President of Operations and Equity

jdoan@trellisconnects.org

651-917-4615

Amanda Nickerson

Older Americans Act Program Director

anickerson@trellisconnects.org

651-917-4653