SURVIVAL GUIDE: Navigating ACL's guidance for administering Title IIIC during the COVID-19 pandemic

Last update: May 22, 2020 (will be updated periodically)

During this pandemic, ACL has provided information, guidance, technical assistance, and program implementation tips to assist states in meeting the nutritional needs of the seniors. These resources have been published on the ACL COVID website and on the website of the National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging .

Because this has been a rapidly and frequently changing situation, these resources have been iterative, and we know it has become difficult to quickly determine which resource contains the information you need. This Survival Guide is intended to help by linking you to the resources that best address a variety of topics. (These are primarily nutrition-focused, but also include OAA Title III- B and E information that helps the user of this guide navigate nutrition matters.)

Comparing Authorities

The Older Americans Act (OAA) provides significant flexibility to allow states to meet the unique needs of their older citizens. In addition, states are operating under four disaster authorities that provide additional flexibilities. This Excel spreadsheet created by NRCNA explains these authorities.

ACL Fiscal Guidance: Found on ACL's COVID-19 Page

Resource	Date	Topic Highlights
Frequently Asked Questions: Title III-B and Title III-E	April 23	Permissibility of paying for various items such as grocery delivery, tablets, computers, cell phones, internet, etc. to help seniors connect with persons to combat social isolation. (These purchases could support virtual nutrition education, evidence-based /health promoting programs to promote health and well-being, access to online ordering systems, and/or virtual congregate sites to enhance socialization.)
Fiscal FAQ: Fiscal Major Disaster	April 8	When operating under an MDD • How funds can be "bucketed" Match requirements
FISCAL FAQ- COVID-19 Emergency	April 8	When NOT operating under an MDD • Funding transfer authorities for C-1 and C-2; • Match requirements; Reporting, etc.
FISCAL FAQS- COVID-19 Emergency And Fiscal FAQ: Fiscal Major Disaster	April 8	How long FFCRA and CARES Act funds are available
Expediting Expenditures at the State Level in Responding to the COVID-19 Emergency	April 6	Statewide Procurement
OAA Disaster Relief Authority	March 16	Information on OAA authority

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ACL Program Guidance:

Resource	Date	Topic Highlights
FAQs – Groceries and OAA Programs	May 20	FAQs that address common questions about providing groceries through OAA programs (i.e. use of groceries and meal counts, grocery pickup/delivery and services authorized under Title III-C).
Returning to a "New Normal:" Guidelines for a phased approach to resuming senior nutrition program operations	May 5	Suggestions for operating at different levels of social distancing
FAQs: Based on Call with ACL and SUA Directors on April 22, 2020	April 29	COVID-19 supplemental funds spending priorities
Additional FAQ: OAA Nutrition Program Implementation During COVID-19 Pandemic- April 17, 2020	April 17	Additional nutrition questions, meals per person, vendor selection, state procurement, meal rates
FAQs Based on Call with ACL and State Unit on Aging Directors on April 8, 2020	April 14	Personal protective equipment; equipment purchases for the nutrition program; major disaster flexibilities; purchasing freezers
FAQs Based on Call with ACL and State Unit on Aging Directors on April 1, 2020	April 7	Flexibilities in Cares Act, innovations from other states; serving people of any age; emergency meals; DRIS/DGAs, 1/3 calorie intake; Major Disaster Declarations, and Time Frame Expenditures
Questions and Answer from the Meals on Wheels America Town Hall on March 17, 2020	March 31	Specific nutrition implementation questions
Nutrition Services Incentive Program for the Older Americans Act and States	March 30	Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)
FAQs: Call with State Directors hosted by ADvancing States on March 23, 2020	March 27	States increasing meals served; increasing food to senior; eliminate waitlist; socialization
FAQ: Nutrition Services- Emergency Management	March 12	Program specific questions around implementation of practices, emergency meals, and how to administer the nutrition program during emergencies

ACL Reporting Requirements

Check this resource Location	Date	Topic Highlights
Title VI Reporting Guidance For Covid-19 Response Activities	May 4	OAA Title VI Reporting Requirements for Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Recovery Act (CARES) funding
OAA Title-III Program Reporting Guidance	May 4	Guidance regarding programmatic OAA Title III reporting on the FFCRA and CARES Act supplemental grant funds, as well as services provided by states exercising flexibility under a major disaster declaration (MDD).

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Nutrition Resource Center Implementation Tip Sheets: The Nutrition Resource center is funded by a Cooperative Agreement with ACL. Tip sheets are developed to provide you with how to guides, best practices, etc. to help you through this crisis.

All of the following are found on the NRCNA COVID-19 web page

Tip Sheet	Date	Topic
Options for Contracting Meals During COVID-19	May 14	Options for contracting meals during COVID-19 (suggestions for potential meal providers and tools to utilize when reviewing and evaluating potential meal providers)
Partnerships with Foodbanks and other United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Programs during Covid-19	May 14	Information on how to partner with the many USDA programs to address food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition
1/3 Calorie Intake Requirements During COVID-19	April 28	Includes minimum requirements, calorie charts
Volunteer Engagement and Recruitment Resources	April 21	Resources for recruiting volunteers
Contracting Tips for Purchasing Meals/Food	April 20	Tips for negotiating with vendors of meals/food
Guide to Working with Restaurants and Grocery Stores for Meals	April 17	Suggestions for working with restaurants and grocery stores as meal vendors
Nutrition Requirements: DRIs/DGAs under Supplement Funding Due to COVID-19 Emergency	April 3	Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs)/Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs)
COVID-19 Suggestions for Senior Nutrition Programs offering Home Delivered Meals	March 30	Program policies and practical tips during COVID-19
COVID-19 Suggestions for Senior Nutrition Programs	March 30	Suggestions for maintaining congregate and home delivered programs, increasing meals/food delivery, and engaging older adults during social distancing
Frequently Asked Emergency Management Questions for Aging Services Professionals at the State and Local Levels	March 12	Serving meals during an emergency

Other Resources: Additional resources are available on ACL's COVID-19 Page. Below are a few highlighted resources that you might find helpful.

Resource	Topic Highlights	Date	Location
Community and Faith Based Organizations	Information and resources for reopening community and faith based organizations	May 4	CDC.GOV
Shared and Congregate Housing	Information and resources for reopening shared and congregate housing	April 30	CDC.GOV
Reconstitution During the COVID-19 Pandemic	Planning considerations for organizations	April 30	FEMA.GOV
FEMA Public Assistance Program Guidance: Eligibility of Purchasing and Distributing of Food by Gov't and Non-Profits	Requirements for determining eligible work and costs for the purchase/distribution of food	April 21	ACL.gov/COVID

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ADvancing States -Social Isolation	Creative and thoughtful approaches to addressing social isolation/loneliness in older adults. Also includes alternative meal delivery options	April 9	ADvancingstates.org
NCOA Senior Centers Without Walls	Toolkit for those offering essential services. Provides ideas for promoting social connection to participants.		NCOA.ORG
NCOA "Virtual Platform" Sheet	Overview of popular tools to connect with your audience when outreach and education are taking place at a distance.		NCOA.ORG
NCOA – FAQ Covid-19 and Technology Resources	FAQs related to discounted tablets and electronic devices, learning basic functions of electronic devices, and resources for obtaining internet access.		NCOA.ORG

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