

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE AGING

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM	Number 23-IM-01
	Supersedes N/A
	Expiration Date N/A

DATE: July 10, 2023

TO: Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)

SUBJECT: Revised Social Adult Day Services (SADS) Definition

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PURPOSE: The purpose of this Information Memorandum (IM) is to inform Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) about a revision to the definition of Social Adult Day Services (SADS) found in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 215 of the New York State Elder Law.

BACKGROUND: In 2021, the definition of SADS was changed to “a program providing a variety of long-term care services to functionally impaired individuals, whether due to physical or cognitive impairments, in congregate, community, or home setting and pursuant to a person-centered service plan.” The previous definition allowed for the delivery of SADS in congregate settings only and did not require person-centered service planning.

The revision to the SADS definition was effectuated by new requirements set forth in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) HCBS Final Rule (Final Rule) and to address the changing service delivery needs of individuals and support working caregivers during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

CMS HCBS SETTINGS RULE: The revised SADS definition enables NYSOFA to advance the new requirements found in the Final Rule. Under the Final Rule, SADS program settings should be integrated in and support full access to the greater community. In addition to the settings requirements, the Final Rule also requires a person-centered planning process. SADS programs should incorporate person-

centered planning into their processes to ensure the delivery of services in a manner that reflects the individual's personal preferences, choices, and desired outcomes.

THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY: On March 7, 2020, a state of emergency was declared in New York State through Executive Order 202 to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This highlighted the need to transform the traditional SADS service delivery model to meet the needs of older New Yorkers being impacted by the pandemic. Due to federal and state restrictions imposed on in-person gatherings, SADS programs in New York State were forced to close and many individuals reported feelings of loneliness and social isolation. SADS providers funded by NYSOFA, and the AAAs, quickly adapted to meet the changing needs of older adults during the COVID-19 public health emergency by delivering services telephonically and/or using other telehealth capabilities when available (e.g., using Zoom, Google Meet, etc.).

For more information on the revised SADS definition, please refer to the Aging Concerns Unites Us (ACUU) session: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWv6AI0Lo2I>.

AAAs are encouraged to submit questions on the revised SADS definition to SADSMonitoring@aging.ny.gov.

- PROGRAMS AFFECTED:**
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-B | <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-C-1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-C-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-D | <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-E | <input type="checkbox"/> CSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SNAP | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EISEP | <input type="checkbox"/> NSIP | <input type="checkbox"/> Title V |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIICAP | <input type="checkbox"/> LTCOP | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NY Connects | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: SADS | |

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