



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING  
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

# COVID-19 Response

## April 17 Call: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

April 21, 2020

*DARS provides these FAQs in response to questions asked on the April 17 COVID-19 call with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs).*

**Could an agency get some technical assistance in a call one day next week regarding CRIA? Related to the new funding programs and PeerPlace documentation?**

- *Yes, please feel free to email Kathy ([kathy.miller@dars.virginia.gov](mailto:kathy.miller@dars.virginia.gov)) to set up a call, or contact the NWD Help Desk if it is a PeerPlace data entry question.*

**We don't have Checking on our area plan but we are doing checking right now. Can we put it under FFCRA funding?**

- *FFCRA funding is to be used for meals and meal delivery. Checking is a traditional Title III-B service. However, it can be charged to any traditional OAA bucket under the Major Disaster Declaration, or you can use CARES Act funding as soon as that becomes available.*

**Can you please clarify, when it comes to the delivery of meals, how do we enter units for the transportation portion of Home Delivered Meals? As in, can we charge to FFCRA or do we need to charge under the original Title III funds?**

- *FFCRA funds can be used for delivery of meals.*

**Any idea how all of this is going to affect the FY21 Area Plan Budgeting process?**

- *We will waive the carryover limit for September 30, 2020. An updated area plan will need to be submitted this summer. More guidance will be provided later, most likely in late May.*

**What are the expectations for checking, can we use a local company, like a bank to assist with checking calls? Do we need background screenings on those individuals? Additionally, what is required of a restaurant partner will we need background screenings on all of their delivery workers or volunteers?**

- *Yes, you may use volunteers to assist with checking. DARS recommends, but does not require, criminal background checks for volunteers. AAAs should consider the potential risk involved when a volunteer has not completed a criminal background check. If an AAA elects not to conduct criminal background checks on its volunteers or those of its contractors, it should consider ways to mitigate the potential risk. The agency needs to ensure that volunteers would never be asking seniors for any financial information.*

**What are the HIPAA guidelines when responding to employees who have had contact with another employee who has been diagnosed with Coronavirus?**

- *It is best to work with your local health department in developing a response to each situation. Usually, the guidance involves notifying staff that they may have been exposed to an employee who has been diagnosed and the steps that the agency is taking to respond (testing, temporary closure, cleaning, etc.).*

**What is DARS guidance to AAAs on applying for a Payroll Protection Program loan?**

- *DARS does not have direct involvement with the PPP loan program; however, we encourage any AAAs to apply should they experience the need. Several have already applied.*