



COVID-19 Response

May 1 Call: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

May 7, 2020

DARS provides these FAQs in response to questions asked on the May 1, 2020 COVID-19 call with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs).

It is my understanding there are no carryover limits from FY2020 to FY2021 for regular OAA funding as well as FFCRA and CARES Act stimulus funds. Is this correct?

- Yes, carryover limits have been waived for 9/30/2020. This also includes NSIP funds.

Can you please ask Christy Miller to explain where/how "COVID-19" is to be used since it is not a funding source.

- There are currently instructions on PeerPlace. DARS will be hosting another webinar soon.

Just a clarification that under CARES Act the maximum transfer from C2 to IIIB transportation would be 10% of total, of CARES Act C2 correct?

- Under the MDD, transfers are not required. Your CARES Act Internal budget should be set up the same way the money was obligated to your agency. You wouldn't move the funds from different buckets on the CARES Act. The money needs to stay where it was allocated. You would just expend the CARES Act funds (Title IIIB, C2 and E) however you need to use them for any of the services that are listed on the AMR-OC Cares Act worksheet. (Please refer to the AMR-OC for the list of services available.) The worksheet is set up to allow you to use C2 funds for transportation services.

Can we invite our fiscal staff? Having a meeting with our fiscal team would be ideal to discuss the funding and reporting.

- Yes

Can we transfer from OAA funds to FFCRA and Cares Act?

- No, transfers are not allowed between the different awards. The supplemental funds were issued under a separate grant award and must be accounted for separately.

What will happen once the MDD has been removed (i.e., regarding budget obligations with DARS). How will DARS account for approved budgets at that time for CARES Act? Will there be an official accounting at that point?

- Your CARES Act Internal budget should be set up the same way the money was obligated to your agency. You wouldn't move the funds from different buckets on the CARES Act. The money needs to stay where it was allocated. You would just expend the CARES Act funds however you need to use them for any of the services that are listed on the AMR-OC Cares Act worksheet. (Please refer to the AMR-OC for the list of services available.) After the MDD expires, we will go back to the way the regular AMR is set up which will restrict services to original funding sources.

What in the world will monitoring look like for FF and CA?

- We are not sure at this time; however, we will not be adding any new monitoring tools.

Any update on the stockpile? PPE supplies that might be available to AAA's?

- DARS has been communicating the urgent need for PPE for AAAs throughout this pandemic due to the essential nature of the services being provided by the AAAs and the vulnerability of older Virginians during this crisis. Initially, the stockpiles were depleted meeting the needs of medical providers. In recent weeks, Secretary Carey has been polling agencies on PPE needs from agencies and providers within the secretariat. Thanks to your detailed responses to the surveys, we have been able to provide information about your ongoing monthly PPE needs. Additionally, there are PPE suppliers listed on the Provider's Portal.

Do you know if DRPT is following DARS regarding the September 30, 2020 regarding the emergency declaration?

- The emergency declaration for DARS is under the OAA. We do not know how the Major Disaster Declaration is impacting DRPT.

Can you clarify when we would use COVID-19 as a funding source in Peer Place? I thought we said it was not an actual funding source?

- It is not a funding source. It is used in PeerPlace to designate or flag traditional OAA funds that are being used to provide disaster related activities under the Major Disaster Declaration.

Would the cost of printing outreach/educational materials to deliver with HDM count as III-D? If not, could that come under Emergency?

- These costs can be expended to HDM (Title IIIC2), Emergency Services (IIIB), or Outreach/PIE (Title IIIB or IIIE, if Caregiver related). They should not be expended to Title IIID.

Supposing we don't know in real time (entry into PeerPlace) that a certain fund has been used completely. How do we reconcile the gap between AMR and PP?

- Do the best you can.

Please clarify that you cannot transfer between titles within the cares act, for example Title VII to Title III.

- No, you cannot transfer funds from Title VII to Title III.

Title VII has to be spent on Ombudsman, no other services, as I understand what has been said?

- That is correct.

I feel like some of the answers are contradicting-Kathy mentioned Ombuds can't move and Tanya said you can code anything to any funding?

- Ombudsman funds cannot be expended on any service other than Ombudsman. The Title III funds can be expended for any service that is listed on the AMR-OC CARES Act worksheet. Please refer to the AMR-OC for the list of services available.

Does Emergency Services include pet food for older adults?

- Yes, you can provide food for pets of older adults as an emergency service.

Can you all please hold a zoom training for peer place administrators for this new money?

- Yes. We will host a webinar.

Is there is any way to waive menu requirements for nutrition, it would be hugely helpful? We would like to provide breakfast foods, but can't easily meet all the requirements.

- The DRIs/DGAs have been waived during the pandemic. You can provide up to 3 meals per day. With that said, you still want to try to provide nutritious meals whenever possible. Work with your registered dietitian to create a nutritious breakfast meal. An example of a breakfast meal provided from one AAA included: cereal, applesauce, raisins, peanut butter, orange juice, and dry milk.
- Meals funded through Disaster Relief Funds following a declaration of a major disaster, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), and the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act are not required to meet the DGAs and the DRIs, but the ACL encourages the use of these standards to help older adults maintain their health and manage their chronic conditions and to provide quality service.
- While Congress provided for the waiver of DRIs and DGAs during the COVID-19 pandemic, they made it clear that ACL should encourage programs to provide nutritious meals when available. However, when meals that meet the DRIs/DGAs are unavailable, Congress encouraged ACL to urge programs to provide meals that meet, at a minimum, no less than 1/3 of the recommended daily caloric intake for an older individual. As an example, the recommended daily caloric intake for a 70-year old is 1600. Under no circumstances should a meal be provided that is less than 534 calories.

One of the things we were thinking of doing with our CARES funding is purchasing and distributing cloth masks to all the residents of the federally assisted housing facilities in the City. That's just under 500 people. Do we have to enter each person in PeerPlace? That is a really daunting task for little benefit.

- If you want to count contacts for each person who receives a mask, then you will need to enter each person into PeerPlace. However, if you do not want to count contacts for this service, you can just deliver a case(s) of masks to the facility.