



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING  
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

# COVID-19 Response

## May 22 Call: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

June 8, 2020

*DARS provides these FAQs in response to questions asked on the May 22, 2020 COVID-19 call with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs).*

### **We will not be penalized if we do not spend down our OAA funds by Sept. 30, 2020?**

- Federal funds will be allowed to carryover at September 30, 2020. State general funds must be obligated by June 30 and liquidated by September 30, 2020.

### **When will DARS expect our Area Plans?**

- Late July

### **Are the changes to Emergency Services only on PeerPlace not the monthly AMR submission?**

- That is correct.

### **Can we use these funds to purchase advanced cleaning systems for our vans?**

- Yes, but depending on the cost, you may need to submit a request to Brenda Cooper.

### **Any idea if there will be access to the FEMA PPE supplies coming to Virginia?**

- We continue to communicate the urgent PPE needs of the AAAs doing the work on the front lines of the most vulnerable populations. Right now, the top priority is for the first responders involved in treatment of COVID-19 patients. We will keep you informed.

### **Is there any additional information on whether we will be able to carry over GF funds?**

- We have not received any new information regarding carryover of state general. We have requested our Fiscal Department to determine if an interpretation has been established by external governing agencies to allow for use of state general funds with equivalent flexibility that the MDD allows the federal funds to be expended.

### **If we are recording units as Families First, can we still expend the GF to cover these units?**

- If you are recording units as Families First, you must use Families First as the funding source.

### **Do we still have an ETA of early June for NEW OAA and GF funds?**

- Yes

**So we will not be penalized for carrying over any OAA money past Sept. 30?**

- No, federal funds will be allowed to carryover at September 30, 2020.

**Will DARS have grace and compassion regarding FY21 budget amendment requests?**

- The Major Disaster Declaration (MDD) that was approved for The Commonwealth of Virginia permits the states to use any portion of the funds made available under any and all sections of the Act for disaster relief for older individuals. In this regard, flexibility is provided for states, without the need for a separate application, transfer request, or request for a waiver -- to use existing allocations already made to them under Title III-B, C-1, C-2, D, and E for disaster relief. This means that a state may use Title III-B, C-1, C-2, D, and/or E funds for any disaster relief activities for older individuals or family caregivers served under the OAA.

**We do not know an end date for the MDD and therefore until that is determined AAAs continue have the flexibility to expend funds as noted above.**

- Once the MDD ends we will notify the AAAs that we will resume normal budget amendment procedures, and we will be as flexible as possible within ACL timeframes.

**Do you have an estimated target date for FY21 allocations to be sent?**

- Sent out May 29

**Will the new ACL data tracking requirements be emailed out with Christy Miller's guidance once that is all set up?**

- Yes

**Is AP for 3 or 4 years?**

- 4 years

**Can you please resend the Zoom invitation to reflect the new schedule?**

- Yes, we will resend.