



AAA Input Session

September 8, 2025



Agenda



- Welcome from Jodi Winship, Ph.D., OTR/L
- Federal Funding - Updates
- Area Plan Review and AAA Contracts – Reminders and Updates
- State Plan for Aging Services – Status Update
- Draft Corrective Action Plan (CAP) – Status Update
- NCI-AD Survey – Rollout Updates
- Wrap-Up & Reminders



Federal Funding Updates

FY 2026 Presidential Proposed Budget



- Congress is back after the August recess
- The Senate passed their version of FFY 2026 funding earlier this summer
 - It included level funding for aging and disability programs
- On September 1, the House Appropriations Committee released their FFY 2026 bill for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Subcommittee
 - Essentially, it includes a 6% reduction in funding for HHS (= \$7 billion)
 - \$11 million reduction for ACL
 - \$4 million increase in HCBS (essentially OAA III-B)
 - \$4 billion increase in LIHEAP
 - Eliminates SCSEP
 - We're waiting for details on what the 6% reduction looks like across specific programs

Updates within Context



- The FFY ends September 30, 2025
- Speculation is that this will come down to:
 - Continuing Resolution
 - Congress is considering one that goes through mid-November, but the administration wants one that goes through the first quarter of 2026
 - Government Shutdown
 - "There have been 14 partial government shutdowns since 1981, most of which lasted only a day or two. The most recent stretched over 34 days in December 2018 into January 2019 during Trump's first term" (Erickson, 2025, September 2, [Reuters](#)).
 - Republicans hold a 219-212 majority in the House and a 53-47 majority in the Senate
 - Both chambers are in session for three weeks at the beginning of September before breaking for Rosh Hashanah then they'll return to Capitol Hill on September 29 with less than two days to fund the government or begin a partial shutdown



Area Plan Review: Reminders & Updates

Area Plan Review Timeline



August:

DARS reviews Area Plans and adds reviewer comments within the plan document

2nd-3rd week of September: AAAs revise their Area Plans and submit new version to SharePoint folder for review

4th week of September: Area Plans are finalized and moved forward to contracting

1st-2nd week of September: DARS begins to finish initial reviews and notify AAAs that their plan is ready for revisions

3rd-4th week of September: DARS completes 2nd reviews & requests further changes, if needed

October 1: New contracts & Area Plans take effect

Area Plan Review: Process



- Once DARS has completed initial Area Plan reviews, the AAA staff that have access to the AAA Document Sharing SharePoint will be notified by email that their Area Plan is ready for revisions with a **request by date** and:
 - That the PSA# FY26 Area Plan- Original has been checked in, allowing for edits, and the MARKUP version has been placed into your Area Plan Folder which contains the DARS reviewer comments and that revisions should be saved as Version 2.
 - A summary of any revision requests or outstanding items for Direct Service Waivers, Other AAA Service Pages, Area Plan Budget revisions and a general summary of the type of review comments within the document.
 - And if the agency would like to take advantage of the 1:1 Office Hour Review Session, to reach out to Nick to schedule a time.

Office Hour Review Session



- **NEW** technical assistance method this year that we hope AAAs will take advantage of
- Scheduled for about an hour and a half with Nick and any available DARS review team.
- Go through to document together and discuss reviewer comments, provide more context as to what DARS is requesting and why and allows the AAAs to clarify DARS' questions in live time.
- Minor edits are made by Nick, addressed comments are removed from the MARKUP, and after the session concludes, Version 2 is uploaded for the AAAs to complete the remaining outstanding items. A follow-up email is also sent listing anything that still needs to be addressed.
- Goal is to reduce email back and forth and speeds up the revisions process on both sides.

General Observations

- So far 13 out of 25 Area Plans have gone out to the AAAs for initial revisions. The remaining will go out over the next few days.
- Commonly noticed errors:
 - direct service waiver boxes
 - services to be provided page
 - missing waiver form or other AAA service page
 - III-E units and people served not added on service page
- There are some excellent responses in the Strategies and Planning section and some excellent Direct Service Waiver justifications.
- All AAAs will have some sort of revision request this year!



State Plan for Aging Services

Amended State Plan Status



Virginia State Plan for **AGING SERVICES**

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2027

AMENDED FOR OCTOBER 1, 2025



- Virginia officially submitted the final amended State Plan for Aging Services to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) Central Office on June 30, 2025.
- We received approvals from Secretary Kelly and Governor Youngkin.
- From the published draft version, DARS included Attachment E: Evidence of Public Comment, and made some adjustments to the Appendices.
- DARS will keep you posted on the ACL Central Office review and hopefully forthcoming approval.



OAA Final Rule: Corrective Action Plan

CAP Status



- The Division for Aging Services and the Policy & Legislative Affairs Division are working to obtain approval on the final draft of the CAP from agency leadership
- The CAP will be submitted by the October 1st deadline
- Please refer to the August 20 AAA Input Session recording for more background on the CAP
- Stay tuned for more information on ACL's review and hopeful approval of the CAP as well as DARS' efforts to bring Virginia's policy tools into compliance with the OAA Final Rule



Next State Plan Needs Assessment: NCI-AD

NCI-AD

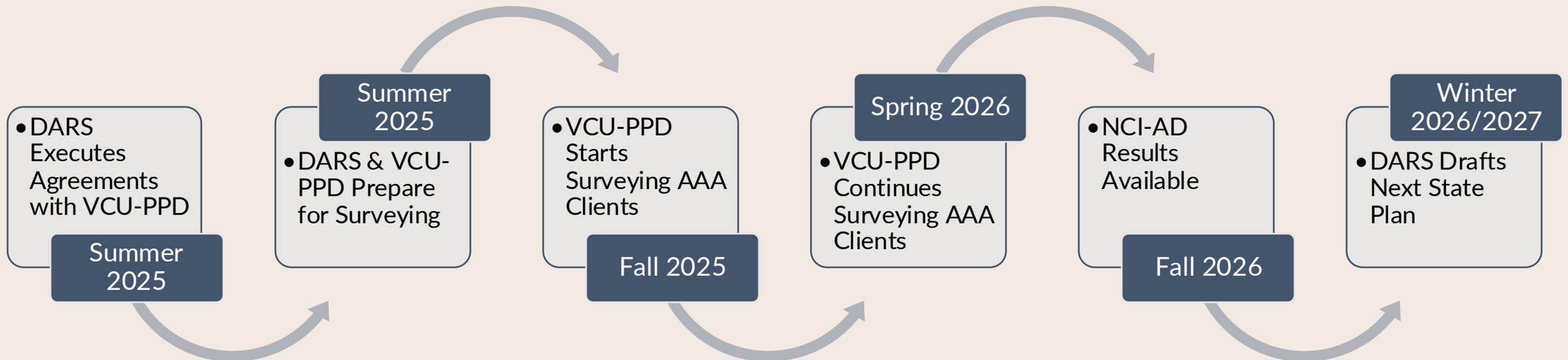


- National Core Indicators for Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD)
- Initiative from ADvancing States and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI)
- You can learn more about NCI-AD here: <https://nci-ad.org/>



NCI-AD Timeline

DARS is partnering with the VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities (VCU-PPD) to conduct 577 telephonic surveys of Older Americans Act (OAA) clients across Virginia during the fall of 2025 and the spring of 2026. NCI-AD has a 15-18 month start-to-finish implementation timeline.



NCI-AD Sampling

- AAA clients are eligible to be included in the NCI-AD survey sample if they receive 1 or more of the following services, in any combination, at least 8 instances per month for 2 consecutive months:

AAA Required Services

Congregate Meals

Home Delivered Meals

Transportation

AAA Optional HCBS Services

Adult Day Care/Services

Personal Care Services

Chore Services

Homemaker Services

NCI-AD Preparation Work



Contracts, Agreement and Data Sharing

- DARS drafted a contract & data sharing agreement for VCU
- VCU is reviewing the contract & data sharing agreement
- Once signed, DARS will work with VCU to share the necessary data so that VCU can work on pulling the survey sample
- VCU is hoping to start contacting clients and surveying in late September

Training, Promotion & Credibility

- DARS provided training materials on OAA/AAA services to VCU for their surveyors
- DARS shared the AAA NCI-AD Liaisons Contact List with VCU
- DARS held a training for the AAA NCI-AD Liaisons on the survey process on August 28
- DARS will be asking AAA NCI-AD Liaisons to help promote and communicate the survey to AAA clients for credibility

AAA Liaison Training



- Held on Thursday, August 28, 2025 from 10:00 – 11:00 AM
- The AAA Liaison Training covered:
 - Background on the NCI-AD Consumer Adult Survey
 - Impetus for Implementing NCI-AD in Virginia
 - Overview of the NCI-AD Survey Topics + DARS Additional Questions
 - VCU's Role and Activities
 - Implementation Process and Timeline
 - Unmet Needs Process
- The webinar was recorded
- The slides and recording are available in the Providers' Portal

Promotional Materials



- Sample Engagement Letter
 - VCU sends this directly to AAA clients selected for the survey
- Email to AAA Colleagues
- Full-Page Flyer
- Half-Page Flyer
- 2023-2024 Adult Consumer Survey At-A-Glance Results (upcoming slide)

FROM: NCI-AD AAA LIAISON
TO: AAA STAFF
SUBJECT: Survey of Individuals Receiving AAA Services
MESSAGE:

Colleagues,

In partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) is conducting a survey of individuals receiving Older Americans Act (OAA) services across Virginia.

This email is to inform all AAA staff about the (NCI-AD) Adult Consumer Survey in case you are contacted.

The aim of the NCI-AD survey is to gather information about the needs and preferences, and their quality of life of individuals receiving OAA services. This information will be used to inform statewide planning efforts.

A random sample of AAA clients across Virginia will be selected for the survey. The survey is administered by VCU-PPD staff. The survey is voluntary and completely anonymous.

VCU will start reaching out to selected individuals who receive OAA services. Attached is a flyer that has additional information about the survey. As opportunities arise in the course of providing services to AAA clients to participate.

If you or our AAA clients have any questions, please contact [AAA LIAISON NAME] by phone at [PHONE NUMBER] or email [EMAIL ADDRESS].

Information about the NCI-AD Adult Consumer Survey can also be found at this website: <http://www.nci-partnership.vcu.edu>

Thank you for your help!
[AAA LIAISON NAME]

Survey of Individuals Receiving Older Americans Act Services

The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and [AAA NAME] want to learn more about the experiences of older adults receiving Older Americans Act (OAA) services.

OAA services include receiving home delivered meals or meals provided in a group setting, transportation to a senior center, help with chores and other tasks around the house, or adult day services.

Some individuals who receive OAA services will be randomly selected to participate in the survey.

The **National Core Indicators-Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD) Adult Consumer Survey** asks questions about the services you receive, your preferences, and their quality of life. The survey is part of the national effort and will be used to inform statewide planning efforts. The information you give about your experience and to all people who use OAA services!

What does the survey include?

- DARS is partnering with the **Virginia Partnership for People with Disabilities** to conduct the survey.
- If you are randomly selected, an individual from the Virginia Partnership for People with Disabilities will call you to schedule a time to participate.
- You can pick the date and time that works best for you during the survey.
- The survey is optional and will take about 15-20 minutes. Your responses will be kept private and will be used for research purposes only.
- You do not have to answer questions you do not want to. You can change the services you are getting.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions, you may contact VCU by leaving a message at [PHONE NUMBER] or send an email to ncivirginia@vcu.edu. You may also contact [AAA LIAISON NAME] by phone at [PHONE NUMBER] or email [EMAIL ADDRESS].

Information about the National Core Indicators-Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD) Adult Consumer Survey can also be found at this website: <http://www.nci-partnership.vcu.edu>.

Survey of Individuals Receiving Aging Services

The Virginia Commonwealth University Partnership for People with Disabilities (VCU-PPD) and the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) is conducting a survey of individuals receiving Aging Services (AAA) clients across Virginia.

The aim of the National Core Indicators-Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD) Adult Consumer Survey is to gather information about the services that AAA clients receive, their needs and preferences, and their quality of life.

A random sample of AAA clients across Virginia will be selected for the survey and contacted by VCU-PPD staff. The NCI-AD survey is administered by VCU-PPD staff over the telephone. Participating in the survey is voluntary and completely anonymous.

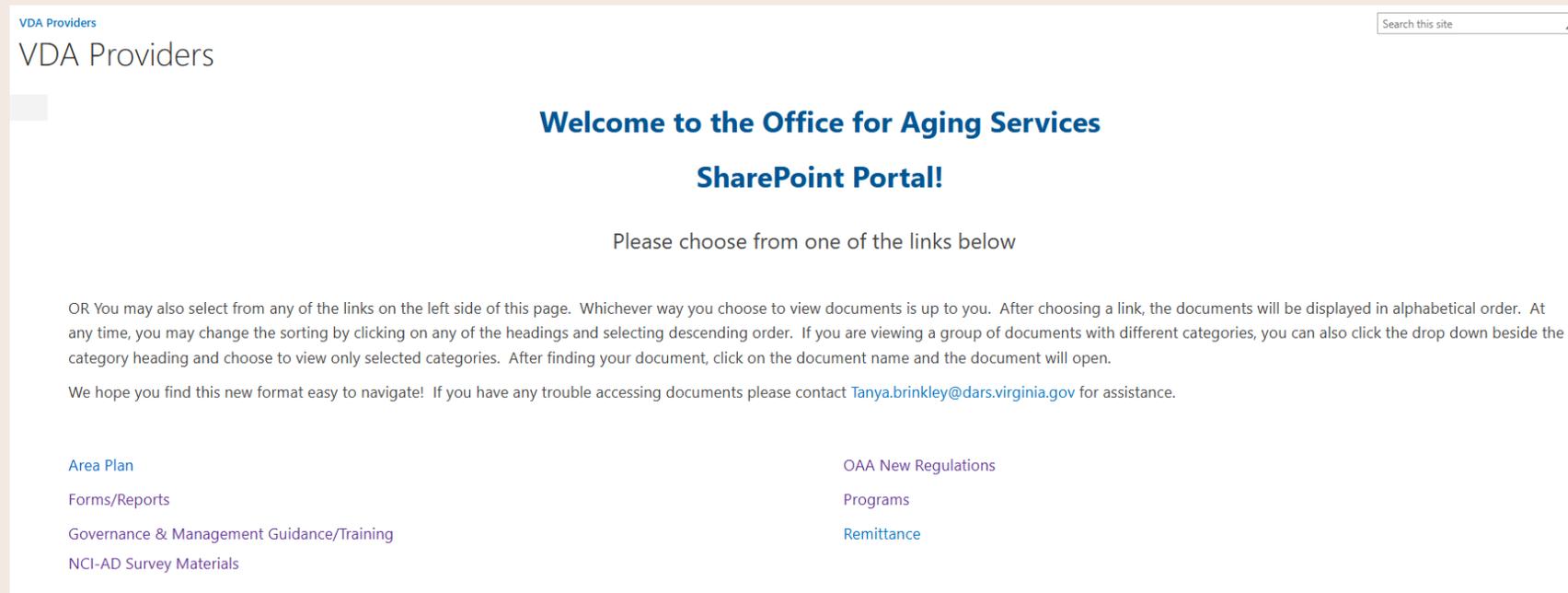
Your voice matters! If you are contacted by VCU-PPD, please consider participating.

If you have any questions, you may contact [AAA LIAISON NAME] by phone at [PHONE NUMBER] or email [EMAIL ADDRESS]. Information about the NCI-AD Adult Consumer Survey can also be found at this website: <http://www.nci-partnership.vcu.edu>.

Promotional Materials



- <https://sharepoint.wwrc.net/VDAProviders/SitePages/Home.aspx>

A screenshot of a SharePoint portal page titled "VDA Providers". The page has a search bar in the top right corner. The main heading is "Welcome to the Office for Aging Services SharePoint Portal!". Below this, it says "Please choose from one of the links below". There is a paragraph of text explaining how to navigate the site, mentioning alphabetical sorting and category selection. At the bottom, there are two columns of links: "Area Plan", "Forms/Reports", "Governance & Management Guidance/Training", and "NCI-AD Survey Materials" on the left; and "OAA New Regulations", "Programs", and "Remittance" on the right. A brown arrow points to the left side of the page.

Click the link or scan the QR code

Preparing & Making Contact



- **Timing:** Mid- to Late-September
- VCU will select a random sample of AAA clients from the DARS data and craft Engagement Letters
- VCU will mail Engagement Letters to the first round of AAA clients to be surveyed via USPS
- The letters will include the name of the AAA providing OAA services to the AAA client



Dear [INSERT NAME],

You have been chosen to participate in a survey of people who receive Older Americans Act services in Virginia!

Examples of Older Americans Act services you may be receiving from [INSERT AAA NAME] include meals delivered to your home or meals provided in a group setting, transportation to a senior center, help with chores and other tasks around the house, or adult day services.

Why should I complete this survey?

The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and Virginia's 25 Area Agencies on Aging want to learn more about your experiences receiving Older Americans Act services and your quality of life. The survey is part of the **National Core Indicators-Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD) Adult Consumer Survey**. The information you give about your experiences is very important to Virginia, DARS, and to all people who use Older Americans Act services!

What will happen next?

- An interviewer from the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Partnership for People with Disabilities will call you to schedule and complete the survey by phone.
- You can pick the date and time that works best with your schedule. Someone you know can be with you during the survey.
- The survey is optional and will take about 45 minutes to complete. Your survey answers will be kept private and will be combined with other people's answers to create reports.
- You do not have to answer questions if you do not want to. Your survey answers will not change the services you are getting now or in the future.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions, you may contact VCU by leaving a message by phone at 833-462-2983 or send an email to ncivirginia@vcu.edu. You may also contact Charlotte Arbogast, the DARS project coordinator, by phone at 804-662-7093 or email charlotte.arbogast@dars.virginia.gov.

Information about the National Core Indicators-Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD) Adult Consumer Survey can also be found at this website: <http://www.nci.partnership.vcu.edu>.

Preparing & Making Contact

How AAAs can help at this stage:

- 1. Let your AAA staff and volunteers know about the NCI-AD survey
 - 2. Post the NCI-AD survey flyer in your AAA offices, congregate meal sites, senior centers, and adult day centers
 - 3. Print and include the ½ page flyer in home delivered meals
 - 4. Post information about the surveys on social media
- Sample emails and flyers are available for you to customize and use in the DARS AAA Providers' Portal here:





Wrap-Up and Reminders

Wrap-Up & Reminders



- **Reminder: AAA Annual & Emergency Preparedness Documents**
 - The recorded training and materials (including FAQ) are available on the AAA Providers' Portal [here](#)
 - **All-Hazards Risk Assessments and Emergency Preparedness Plans are due Oct 1, 2025**
 - AAA Annual Documents are due Feb 1, 2026
 - **Office Hours starts right now**
- Please be on the lookout for feedback on your AAA's Area Plan
 - Needed changes will have quick turnaround expectations
- **2025 AAA Input dates remaining: Oct. 15, Nov. 12, and Dec. 17**

Next AAA Input Session



- The next AAA Input Session is currently scheduled for
- **October 15, 2025 from 3:00 – 4:00 PM**

- Topics that DARS tentatively plans to cover in October include:
 - 1. AAA Area Plans and Contracts – Updates
 - 2. Federal Funding – Updates
 - 3. NCI-AD Survey – Implementation Updates
 - 4. Required Services Handout – Presentation

- <https://dsa-virginia.zoomgov.com/j/1608257309>