AAA Input Session

December 17, 2025

DARS | Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES

Agenda

- Welcome
- Federal Updates
- NCI-AD Survey – Implementation Updates
- Area Plan Survey Results
- Emergency Response Plan Updates
- Annually Required Documents
  - NWD Annual Review Documents
- Wrap-Up & Reminders

Federal Funding Updates

What's in the CR?

- Provides full FY 26 funding for certain agencies (Agriculture, Congress, Veterans Affairs) and funding through January 30, 2026 for all other government agencies.

- Extends other provisions from prior CRs, like community health center funding and Medicare telehealth policies among others

- Authorizes funds to be used to provide back pay for federal employees, including furloughed employees, and would prevent federal agencies from reducing the number of full-time federal employees during the duration of the CR

- Requires federal agencies to reimburse state governments that spend their own funds to carry out federal programs or prevent reductions in service during the shutdown

Award Information

- ACL awards received December 9, Notice of Award (NOA) dated December 8

- Funds represent a portion of the total project budget, providing partial funding during the period of performance (10/1/25 - 9/30/27)

- Typically, the majority of funding is secured late May/June

- Once the larger award amounts are received, the Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) process begins – allocation of funds to each planning and service area for the subsequent fiscal year

ACL Awards Received-FY2026

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- III-B Supportive Services $3,252,904
- III-C1 Congregate Meals $4,461,433
- III-C2 Home Delivered Meals $3,033,705
- III-D Preventive Health $211,927
- III-E Family Caregivers $1,532,575
- VII Ombudsman $176,981
- VII Elder Abuse $34,285
- Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) $453,377

Annual Audits

- Release of the final Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement for 2025 was delayed – impacting all federal fund recipients audit completion and submission

- Guidance on uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal awards

- Supplements are typically published in May each year

- OMB issued a draft version in August for planning purposes only

- The 2025 Supplement is now available online at: _https://www.whitehouse.gov/ omb/ information-resources/ guidance/_

Virginia Budget Updates

Virginia Budget

- Each December, the Governor introduces a budget proposal.
- For even-numbered legislative years, such as this year, the Governor proposes a budget for the upcoming two fiscal years and changes to the current-year budget, and for odd-numbered legislative years, it's a set of proposed amendments to the current two-year budget.
- On December 17, 2025, ahead of the 2026 session, Governor Youngkin will propose a new two-year budget that will cover the fiscal year that starts July 1, 2026, and the next one that starts July 1, 2027, as well as changes to the current fiscal year budget (which started July 1, 2025).

Additional Items

- To learn more about the budget, processes involved, and procedural steps, please visit:
  - https://thecommonwealthinstitute.org/ or
  - https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/ or
  - https://reports.dpb.virginia.gov/pdoc2026
- Reminder: Submit all AMRs and AMR-OCs by the 12th of each month
- Next CFO Touch Base – most likely last week in January

Next State Plan Needs Assessment: NCI-AD

VCU Making Contact

- **Timing: NOW**

- VCU has started making phone calls to the selected AAA clients

If VCU Makes Contact	If VCU Cannot Make Contact
• Upon contact, VCU will try to schedule and complete the survey by phone with the AAA clients • AAA clients can pick the date and time that works best with their schedules • AAA clients can have someone they know with them during the survey if they want	• VCU will leave a voicemail • VCU calls 3 times before marking the AAA client as non-responsive and moving on to another AAA client in the sample

Successes Thus Far

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VCU Activities

- VCU reports OAA sampling is underway and going well
- There has been a higher response rate for OAA participants compared to Medicaid
- Promotional materials are helping and much appreciated by the surveyors!
- Pause during the holidays & picking up again after that

Engagement with AAAs & DARS

- DARS is receiving a few calls per week from mostly interested participants asking about completing the survey
- A few unmet needs have been identified, and AAAs have been very responsive to VCU on those
- One urgent unmet need was identified and handled

Challenges Thus Far

- Proportionally, these are minor so far

- The Engagement Letters had Charlotte Arbogast's contact information at the bottom. The list below is based on calls or emails that she has received from a few individuals:
  - Hearing loss/hard of hearing
  - Some individuals may not realize they are receiving OAA services
  - Potential for cognitive impairment and living alone
  - One person was reported to have passed away since the sample was provided to VCU

Promotional Materials

- https://sharepoint.wwrc.net/VDAproviders/SitePages/Home.aspx

Preparing & Making Contact

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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:

Area Plan Feedback Survey Results

Who answered:

- **24 responses were received**
- **>50%** of respondents were **Executive Directors/CEOs**
- The remaining were spread between finance, programs and other agency roles
- 60% were very familiar or have worked on multiple Area Plans
- 25% have worked on a few Area Plans
- 10% were completely new to Area Plans

Your feedback:

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Area Plan Design

- PDF format:
  Much Better

- Organization:
  Much Better

- Amount of Information Required:
  Slightly Worse

Area Plan Timeline

- Timing of release of materials and technical assistance:
  Adequate

- Amount of time the AAAs had to prepare & submit the Area Plan:
  Adequate for most

Training & Technical Assistance

- Area Plan Trainings:
  Very Helpful

- Office Hours/1:1 Meetings:
  Very Helpful

- AP Program Companion Manual:
  Very Helpful

- AP Budget Companion Manual:
  Very Helpful/Slightly Helpful

- Weekly FAQs:
  Very Helpful/Slightly Helpful

Your feedback:

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Area Plan Review Process:

- SharePoint Upload Process:
  Much better than before for most

- Reviewer comments/revision requests within the Area Plan:
  Much better than before

- Receiving a summary of revisions/remaining edits via email:
  Much better than before

In the Future….. More or Less:

- Trainings:
  About the same/more

- General Office Hours:
  About the same/less

- Reference Materials/Procedures:
  About the same/more

- Opportunities for Feedback:
  About the same

- 1:1 Technical Assistance:
  About the same/more

Your suggestions:

Process Improvement- Keep, change or do differently:

▪ Timing & Workload: Requests for longer timeframes, deadlines and turnaround times to balance competing agency priorities.

▪ Format & Technology Challenges: Mixed reviews on the PDF and SharePoint formats. Suggestions on reducing redundancies and streamlining the process.

▪ Clarity & Guidance: Need for clearer instructions, consistent feedback, advance notice of new requirements, and quick-reference guides.

▪ Data & Reporting Burden: Difficulty accessing detailed demographic data; requests for training and standardized data sources.

▪ Revision & Feedback Process: Desire for more turnaround time post-DARS review, clearer comment organization, and timely responses after one-on-one support or office hours.

▪ Training & Support: Overall appreciation for staff support and communication; suggestions for additional training (e.g., Census data use, public comment meetings).

▪ Positive Feedback: Many noted the process was improved or working well overall, with strong appreciation for staff efforts and increased planning.

Policies and Procedures Updates

Updates

Service Standards are Being Updated

- To be implemented on 10/1/2027 when the new area plan cycle takes effect

- Anticipated simplification of some program names

- Some services that are not being utilized by AAAs may be discontinued

- The National Family Caregiver Support Programs Guidance will be absorbed into new service standards for programs like Support Groups, Individual Counseling, Caregiver Training and Other Respite

- Care Coordination, Service Coordination Level 2 and Service Coordination Level 1 will be combined into one single standard with differentiation between program requirements where necessary

Emergency Response Plan Updates

Updates

- Emergency Response Plan reviews will be completed by December 31

- Emails will be sent by December 31 if additional information is needed

- Edits, clarifications, and updates to Emergency Response Plans should be uploaded to AAA Sharepoint site by February 1

Annually Required Documents

Upcoming Due Dates

- Annually Required Documents are due February 1
  - AAA Documents
    - If substantial changes since the last submission <u>or</u>
    - If your AAA has not submitted them
  - Annual NWD Review Documents

NWD Annual Review Docs

- User Review
  - VITA requirement:
  - NWD IT Admins (as noted in current AAA Information Form) must consult with supervisors to confirm each user requires access to PeerPlace as either a Program User or Program Admin
  - Can be done via email – retain email records for DARS IT Audit

- NWD Standards
  - Shortened from previous years

- Annual Security Training/AUPAs due 12/15

Wrap-Up and Reminders

Input for 2026

- AAA Retreat (*to recognize & celebrate your good work*)
  - In-Person: October 21
- AAA Leader Orientation
- AAA Governance Boards & Advisory Council Training

- *We need your input: should these trainings be in-person or via Zoom*

Next AAA Input Session

- The next AAA Input Session is currently scheduled for

   February 18, 2026 from 3pm-4pm

- Topics that DARS tentatively plans to cover in February include:
   - Federal Updates
   - NCI-AD Updates
   - Monitoring Updates