



SERVICE GUIDELINES

TITLE III- E Grandparent/Older Adult Relative Caregiver GAP FILLING

December 2024

DEFINITIONS

Gap Filling Service: A service which provides necessary services or supplies for Grandparent or Older Individual Who is a Relative Caregiver that are essential to their care giving duties

Grandparent or Older Individual Who is a Relative Caregiver: The term “Grandparent or Older Individual Who is a Relative Caregiver” means a grandparent or step grandparent, or a relative of a child by blood, marriage or adoption, who is aged 55 or older and: lives with the child, is the primary caregiver of the child because biological or adoptive parents are unable/unwilling to serve as primary caregiver of the child, and has a legal relationship to the child, such as legal custody or guardianship, or is raising the child informally.

Grandparents or relative caregivers, providing care for adult children with a disability, who are between 19 and 59 years of age, can be served under the NFCSP. These caregivers must be 55 years or older and cannot be the child’s parent. Priority shall be given to those providing care for an adult child with severe disabilities.

Older Individual: The term “older individual” means anyone who has attained the age of 60 years, unless the age exception applies.

Child: The term “child” means an individual who is not more than 18 years of age or who is an individual 19-59 years of age who has a severe disability.

ELIGIBILITY

Grandparent or Older Adult Relative Caregiver who is 55 years of age or older and –

- Lives with the child;
- Is the primary caregiver of the child because the biological or adoptive parents are unable or unwilling to serve as the primary caregivers of the child; and
- Has a legal relationship to the child, such as legal custody or guardianship, or is raising the child informally.

The service or supply must not be available through other programs and the Grandparent or Older Adult Relative Caregiver must be 55 years of age or older. Priority is given to grandparents who lack financial resources to fulfill the request themselves. Eligible individuals will only be able to access the program once a fiscal year (October 1 to September 30), unless there are extenuating circumstances.

UNIT OF SERVICE

One unit of service equals one instance of service provision.

Service Activities

Identifying eligible Grandparent/Older Adult Relative Caregivers to give them the means to purchase essential goods and/or services in maintaining the health and safety of raising children. The service activities are flexible and intended to cover a variety of services and items not covered by insurance nor paid by any other means.

Allowable Expenditures for GRG Gap Filling

- Clothing, to include shoes
- Beds (frames and mattress) and accessories (sheets, pillows etc.)
- School/education expense, case by case
- Respite
- Childcare expenses
- Utility bills, only if shut off notice has been received will these be considered, and only after service requirements have been met, see service requirements below
- NO food or cleaning supplies

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

- Grantee will explore all other programs that may be able to provide the needed items or services. This specifically applies to utility bills, the utility provider must be contacted before submitting GAP request.
 - For power bills: company should be contacted, and payment plan or budget billing applied for; LIHEAP should be applied for if applicable
- Grantee will submit request forms to appropriate AgeSmart staff
- Grantee will submit quarterly reports for persons and units as well as a quarterly program narrative report, in addition, Grantee will submit yearly Demographic report for program.

- Grantees will use the AgeSmart logo on facilities, webpages, newsletters and brochures. All logo standards will be made available to Grantees. The following statement must be used by Grantees:

Funding for Grantee is received from the United States Administration for Community Living, the Illinois Department on Aging and AgeSmart Community Resources. Grantee does not discriminate in admission to programs or activities or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal Statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have the right to file a complaint with AgeSmart Community Resources by calling 618-222-2561.

- The Grantee shall conduct pre-employment criminal background checks for all employees of AgeSmart funded programs. The Grantee shall also conduct criminal background checks on volunteers participating in AgeSmart funded programs with access to confidential client information including, but not limited to addresses, social security numbers, financial info, etc.
- Grantees must conduct regular public outreach, at least once per month, to inform the community about the availability of the service. Acceptable methods for public outreach include, but are not limited to, mass or social media announcements, presentations, public displays, brochure distribution in community spaces, or other effective strategies aimed at reaching a broad audience.
- Grantees shall develop a mechanism to receive ongoing input and discussion about service and training needs from family caregivers who provide informal in-home and community care to older individuals and from grandparents raising grandchildren.

TARGET POPULATION

Grandparents and relative caregivers raising grandchildren residing within PSA 8. Priority will be given to those with the greatest economic and social need and to:

- family caregivers who provide care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction;
- grandparents or older individuals who are relative caregivers who provide care for children with severe disabilities;
- caregivers who are older individuals with greatest social need, and older individuals with greatest economic need (with particular attention to low-income individuals); and
- older individuals providing care to individuals with severe disabilities, including children with severe disabilities

REIMBURSEMENT

The grantee will seek approval for the identified gap-filling need from AgeSmart before funds are used. When service is rendered, Grantee will be reimbursed after submitting monthly documentation of monies spent for program.

This documentation will include: name of consumer, county of residence and item purchased, receipts must also accompany documentation sent to AgeSmart for reimbursement. **Should reporting be late, reimbursement may be withheld.**

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Fiscal Guidelines for all Title-III Programs

Program Income

Program Income is defined as contributions made by recipients of service and interest on such contributions.

A. Program income includes, but is not limited to:

1. Contributions of recipients of service and interest on such contributions.
2. Income from service fees obtained through the use of a sliding fee scale or suggested fee schedule.
3. Proceeds from the sale of personal or real property with an acquisition cost of less than \$5,000.
4. Usage or rental fees.
5. Sale of assets purchased with grant funds with an acquisition cost of less than \$5,000.
6. Royalties on patents and copyrights.

B. The following specific revenues shall **not** be included as program income:

1. Interest income on State funds whether earned on advances or the "float". This does not include interest on contributions made by recipients of service under a project which is considered program income.
2. Rebates, discounts, and recoveries.
3. Income earned by individuals or a group of project participants, when such income accrues directly to the participants.
4. Revenues raised by a grantee or contractor which is a government under its governing powers, such as taxes, special assessments, etc.
5. Tuition and related fees received by an institution of higher education for a regularly offered course taught by an employee performing under a grant or contract.
6. Proceeds from the sale of personal or real property with an acquisition cost of more than \$5,000.
7. Sale of assets purchased with grant funds where the acquisition cost was more than \$5,000.
8. Contributions made by representatives of service recipients, relatives, non-related individuals or entities, in behalf of service recipients are not program income, but are considered to be local cash.
9. Organized fund raising activities carried out by Title III grantee agencies.

Allowable Uses of Program Income

A. Additional Costs Alternative.

Under this alternative, the income is used for costs which are in addition to the allowable costs of the project or program but which nevertheless further the objectives of the Federal statute under which the grant was made.

Examples of purposes for which the income may be used are:

1. Expanding the program.
2. Continuing the program after grant ends.
3. Supporting other programs that further the broad objectives of the statute.
4. Obtaining equipment or other assets needed for the program or for other activities that further the statute's objectives.

Award recipients under an Area Plan must receive prior approval by the Area Agency on Aging for costs borne with program income under this alternative.

B. Additional Requirements

1. All program income earned under Title III must stay with the service provider who earns it.
2. All program income earned under Title III, Part B, Part C-1, Part C-2 and Part E must be used only for services allowable under the part from which it was earned except as provided in (6) below.
3. All program income must be expended prior to requesting federal funds from the Department on Aging and must be expended within the fiscal year in which it was earned.
4. All program income received in the form of "cash" must be expended as it is earned to minimize cash draw down.
5. Program income earned as a result of services provided with Title III, Part B or Part E assistance may be used for any service which that contractor is authorized to provide with Title III-B or Title III-E funds.
6. Program income earned as a result of services provided with Title III C-1 or III C-2 must be used:
 - a. To increase the number of meals served by the project involved,
 - b. To facilitate access to such meals, or,
 - c. To provide other supportive services directly related to nutrition services.

C. Special Requirements for Providers Receiving Section 5311 Funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation

All transportation providers receiving support from Section 5311 and Title III-B and/or Title III-E must report rider donations as program income. Program income collected should be reported under Section 5311 and Title III-B and/or Title III-E only to the extent

and in direct proportion to each funding source's financial participation. Thus, the same rider donations shall not be reported in the same amount as program income under both funding sources.

Accountability for Program Income

- A. Program income must be deposited into an appropriate bank account or converted to money orders on a regular basis.
- B. Cash participant contributions should be counted by two (2) persons, placed in a safe, secure place until deposited, deposited intact, and deposit receipts compared with count sheets. Such standards require the accurate recording of amounts collected at the project and site levels and subsequent use of these funds.
- C. Grantees must account for program income on an on-going basis and must report such income to the Area Agency on Aging through the established financial reporting system.
- D. Accounting records and reports submitted by a recipient to the Area Agency on Aging should provide a clear audit trail on all program income and its uses. Account records and reports should accurately reflect the receipt of such funds **separately** from the receipt of Federal funds, grantee funds, and the use of such resources.
- E. Although interest income earned on General Revenue and/or local funds by non-profit organizations is not considered program income, project grantees should maintain adequate accounting records on any interest income earned. The Department must approve the Area Agency on Aging's proposed use of General Revenue Funding interest income as an activity which will further the purpose of the project and the Act.
- F. Rebates, discounts, and recoveries on leases should be treated as applicable credits and credited to the Federal grant accounts.

Voluntary Contributions

Each service provider must:

1. Provide each older person with an opportunity to voluntarily contribute to the cost of the service;
2. Protect the privacy of each older person with respect to his or her contribution;
3. Establish appropriate procedures to safeguard and account for all contributions; and
4. Use all contributions to expand the services of the provider under this part and supplement (not supplant) funds received under the Older Americans Act.

The service providers that receive funds under this part **shall not means test** for any service for which contributions are accepted or **shall not deny any older person service because the older person will not or cannot contribute** to the cost of service. Contributions made by older persons are considered program income.