

Public Hearing on Title III Direct Service Waivers

for Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging
October 28, 2025

Hearing Agenda

- Background on COAAA, OAA Title III, and Waivers
- Overview of Waiver Requests
- Public Comment Opportunity October 28, 2025

Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA)

Mission

The mission of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging is to inform and support people as they navigate the experience of aging or disability.

Vision

The vision of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging is for individuals and families to have knowledge and access to the information and resources they need to live life with dignity and independence.

Funding Cycles for Title III

- The Title III proposal and funding cycle is every four years
 - Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Title III funding were released in August 2023 for 4 one-year contracts beginning in January 2024.
- Information about RFPs are always posted on www.coaaa.org.

Public Hearing for Waiver Request by AAA's

- A public hearing is required by the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) when a Direct Service Waiver is requested by an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in order "to directly provide services to older individuals in lieu of contracting with local service providers to deliver those services in its planning and service area (PSA)."
- COAAA has three waiver requests to retain some of the funding allocated through Title III of the Older Americans Act.
 - Period of service is January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

COAAA PY2026 Direct Service Waiver Requests

Program Year (PY): January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026

- Title III

- Title III-B: Supportive Services (Volunteer Placement [VGP])
- Title III-B: Supportive Services (Cash Assistance for Housing [HAP])
- Title III-D: Evidence-Based Programs

** These amounts are based on the PY25 funding amounts. As of this hearing, PY26 amounts have not been communicated by the Ohio Department of Aging**

Title III-B: Volunteer Placement

- COAAA proposes to retain funds to assure an **adequate supply** of services in service area of Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway and Union counties for the Volunteer Guardian Program (VGP). The program provides services in 6 of 8 Central Ohio counties, including **Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Fairfield, Licking, and Pickaway Counties.**
- Volunteer Guardian Program:
 - Continued administration by COAAA will enable the agency to deliver effectiveness and efficiencies in planning, staffing, background checks, and training volunteers while ensuring quality services for vulnerable consumers.
 - Continued coordination with each county probate court; continued ability to obtain county levy funds; continued provision of administrative and overhead support, which would be costlier if provided in individual counties.
 - Administrative and overhead support would be costlier if provided in individual counties. We have not attempted to bid this program due to the multiple funding sources, which are essential to the ongoing operation of the program. Title III-B funds are used with matching funds from local senior services levies and ADAMH boards to support these efforts.

Volunteer Guardian Program

- Volunteer Guardians act as substitute decision-makers for people who have disabilities and are unable to make informed personal decisions in their own best interest and have no one else who can step in to assist. With input from the guardianship recipient, volunteer guardians make informed, major life decisions concerning medical care, therapies, and living environments. Our volunteer guardians become surrogate families to these individuals and serve an essential role in reducing isolation for those with no one else to turn to.
- Annually, COAAA recruits 100 volunteers to serve as guardians. They undergo a background check, interview, and attend a 6-hour training on their role and responsibilities as guardians. Throughout the appointment process, COAAA case managers maintain constant contact with volunteers, recipients, and the probate court to ensure the Guardianship arrangement is in the best interest of the individual.

Volunteer Guardian Program

- VGP was created 25+ years ago in response to community need and funded in collaboration with the Franklin County ADAMH Board, the probate court, and the senior levy. COAAA was selected as the most appropriate place for the program.
- As the need was seen in other counties, COAAA expanded the program by working with each probate court and obtaining levy funds from the counties that have levies.
- Even with the public program and multiple funders, the need for guardianships is overwhelming. COAAA feels a responsibility to help provide these services for those in nursing homes and assist probate courts when possible.

Title III-B: Volunteer Placement

- Amount of waiver request is \$150,000 for staff salaries, employer taxes, and benefits for January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

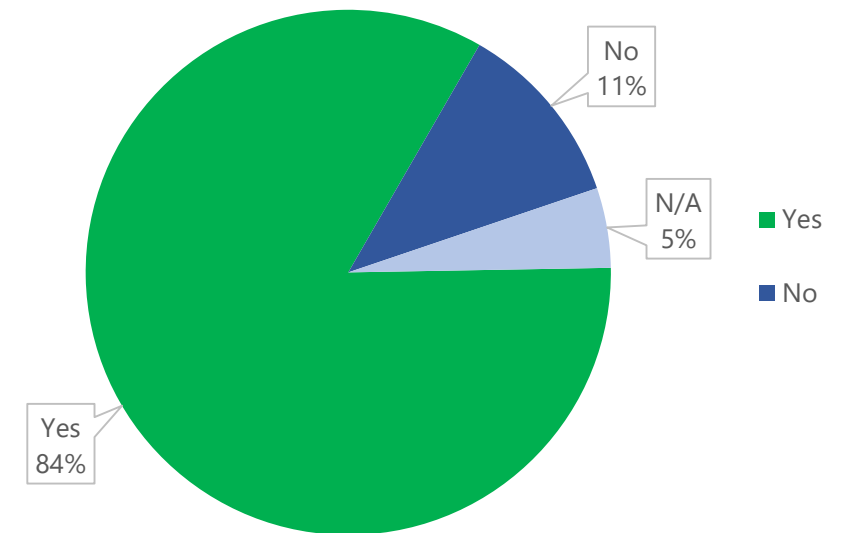
Title III-B: Cash Assistance for Housing

- COAAA proposes to retain funds to assure an **adequate supply** of services in service area of Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway and Union counties for the Housing Assistance Program (HAP).
- Housing Assistance Program:
 - Since 2019, COAAA has administered a Housing Assistance Program (HAP) that provides one-time payments to low-income older adults who are experiencing housing instability. This program has been successful at helping older adult renters weather financial hardship without losing their housing.

Housing Assistance Program

- To date, the HAP program has assisted over 900 residents
- When COAAA surveyed case managers of 2023 HAP assistance recipients, 84% of respondents indicated that their client was still stably housed one year after receiving assistance.
- In 2026, the rising cost of rent, property taxes, utilities, groceries, medication, and other expenses will leave older adults vulnerable to the strain of housing costs on their fixed income.
- Evictions of older adults, loss of low-income housing complexes, and the number of homeless older adults in Central Ohio are increasing at an alarming and dangerous rate.
- In order to address this issue, COAAA is proposing the use of Title III-B funds to continue to provide Cash Assistance through the Housing Assistance Program.

Stable Housing After 6 Months (2023)



Data collected through COAAA Case Management for 2023 Payments

Title III-B: Cash Assistance for Housing

- Amount of waiver request is \$75,000 for cash assistance disbursements through the Housing Assistance Program for January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.
 - COAAA has dedicated staff, validated processes, and secured additional financial resources to ensure the sustainability of this program for the region.
 - In 2023 and 2024, COAAA submitted Emergency Waiver Requests to ODA to provide housing cash assistance. ODA encouraged COAAA to incorporate housing assistance into their Area Plan. **For 2025, the waiver request for HAP was submitted with the SAP/Annual Area Plan Update and was approved for \$75,000.**
 - Given the housing challenges faced by older adults in the region, COAAA believes the continuation of this program provides vital support to those we serve.

Title III-D: Evidence-Based Programs

- COAAA proposes to retain funds to (1) assure an **adequate supply** of such services and (2) such services are directly related to AAA's **administrative functions** in service area of Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway and Union counties.
 - ensure an adequate number of master trainers, leaders, and coaches are in place
 - master trainers are able to train community leaders throughout the eight-county region and engage in partnerships with community organizations that want to adopt these programs as part of their services
 - monitor leaders/coaches for program fidelity
 - provide support and guidance to leaders and coaches
 - complete administrative duties (such as program promotion, workshop scheduling, and data entry into the ODA-required program database, and ordering and tracking training manuals and supplies used by leaders/coaches)

Title III-D: Evidence-Based Programs

- Programs delivered through this waiver are
 - Health In Action Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP)
 - Health In Action Chronic Pain Self-Management Program (CPSMP)
 - Matter of Balance
 - Geri-Fit

Title III-D: Evidence-Based Programs

- Amount of waiver request is \$94,549.00 for staff salary, employer benefits, trainer contracts, promotion, supplies, and grants to community-based organizations to implement programs for January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

Summary

- Volunteer Placement to support the Volunteer Guardian Program being provided through Older Americans Act Title III-B funds in the amount of \$150,000.
- Housing Assistance Program being provided through Older Americans Act Title III-B funds in the amount of \$75,000.
- Evidence-based programs, including Chronic Disease Self-Management, Chronic Pain Self-Management, Geri-Fit, and Matter of Balance, being provided through Older Americans Act Title III-D funds and Senior Community Services funds in the amount of \$94,459.

Questions or Additional Comments:

Please contact Grant Ames at Games@coaaa.org for comments or questions by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, November 04, 2025.

Thank you for your time today!

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