

TO: n4a AAA Members
FROM: Sandy Markwood, CEO
SUBJECT: \$60 Million in New Funding Opportunities from AoA/CMS
DATE: June 3, 2010

Today, HHS announced the availability of \$60 million in funding from the Affordable Care Act (ACA, the health care reform law) to help people navigate their health and long-term care options. The deadline for applications is July 30, 2010.

AoA and CMS will jointly coordinate this effort, which consists of four separate funding opportunities bundled together for ease of coordination and submission. You can visit <http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/index.aspx> for full details on this funding announcement, but n4a wants to ensure that our members understand how this \$60 million came about and what it might entail.

In short, there are four separate funding streams flowing into this one announcement:

- 1.) Medicare Part D Enrollment Assistance Formula Grants for AAAs (\$15 million), SHIPs (\$15 million) and ADRCs (\$10 million)
- 2.) ADRCs: \$10 million in competitive grants for options counseling
- 3.) ADRCs: \$2.5 million in competitive grants for evidence-based care transition models*
- 4.) Money Follows the Person: Additional funding for existing MFP grantees to expand the capacity of ADRCs to participate in nursing home transitions and diversion programs (\$7.5 million).

*The ADRC grants for evidence-based care transitions are the only ones in this cluster not funded under ACA—AoA is using their discretionary Older Americans Act funding to create this opportunity.

Two of the four elements—outlined below—have long been policy priorities for n4a and we worked tirelessly to secure their inclusion in ACA. n4a is pleased that this funding will soon be distributed in the field and urge all AAAs to get involved in their state's application efforts.

→ **Medicare Part D Outreach and Enrollment Assistance:** n4a championed this funding for AAAs, ADRCs and Title VI aging programs for the past several years, getting mandatory funding for the vital one-on-one counseling you provide on Medicare Part D. In the health care reform package, we secured continued (and increased!) funding for these entities, and also worked to win funding for SHIPs. Under ACA, these funds may also be used for prevention activities.

→ **Aging and Disability Resource Funding:** n4a and NASUA, through our *Project 2020* legislative campaign, fought hard to expand ADRCs nationally. In health care reform, we were able to secure \$50 million over five years for continued ADRC work—the first mandatory funding these programs have received. This represents the first year's \$10 million and is expected to reach 20-25 states with existing ADRCs.

To read the HHS press release: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/06/20100603b.html>

For full details on the grants:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/docs/2010/AoA_CMS_Affordable_Care_Act_June_2010.pdf