

**§ 1321.55**

shall work with elected community officials in the planning and service area to designate one or more focal points on aging in each community, as appropriate. The area agency shall list designated focal points in the area plan. It shall be the responsibility of the area agency, with the approval of the State agency, to define "community" for the purposes of this section. Since the Older Americans Act defines focal point as a "facility" established to encourage the maximum collocation and coordination of services for older individuals, special consideration shall be given to developing and/or designating multi-purpose senior centers as community focal points on aging. The area agency on aging shall assure that services financed under the Older Americans Act in, or on behalf of, the community will be either based at, linked to or coordinated with the focal points designated. The area agency on aging shall assure access from the designated focal points to services financed under the Older Americans Act. The area agency on aging shall work with, or work to assure that community leadership works with, other applicable agencies and institutions in the community to achieve maximum collocation at, coordination with or access to other services and opportunities for the elderly from the designated community focal points. The area agency may not engage in any activity which is inconsistent with its statutory mission prescribed in the Act or policies prescribed by the State under §1321.11.

**§ 1321.55 Organization and staffing of the area agency.**

(a) An area agency may be either:

(1) An agency whose single purpose is to administer programs for older persons; or

(2) A separate organizational unit within a multi-purpose agency which functions only for purposes of serving as the area agency on aging. Where the State agency on aging designates, as an area agency on aging, a separate organizational unit of a multipurpose agency which has been serving as an area agency, the State agency action shall not be subject to section 305(b)(5)(B) of the Act.

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(b) The area agency, once designated, is responsible for providing for adequate and qualified staff to perform all of the functions prescribed in this part.

(c) The designated area agency continues to function in that capacity until either:

(1) The area agency informs the State agency that it no longer wishes to carry out the responsibilities of an area agency; or

(2) The State agency withdraws the designation of the area agency as provided in §1321.35.

**§ 1321.57 Area agency advisory council.**

(a) *Functions of council.* The area agency shall establish an advisory council. The council shall carry out advisory functions which further the area agency's mission of developing and coordinating community-based systems of services for all older persons in the planning and service area. The council shall advise the agency relative to:

(1) Developing and administering the area plan;

(2) Conducting public hearings;

(3) Representing the interest of older persons; and

(4) Reviewing and commenting on all community policies, programs and actions which affect older persons with the intent of assuring maximum coordination and responsiveness to older persons.

(b) *Composition of council.* The council shall include individuals and representatives of community organizations who will help to enhance the leadership role of the area agency in developing community-based systems of services. The advisory council shall be made up of:

(1) More than 50 percent older persons, including minority individuals who are participants or who are eligible to participate in programs under this part;

(2) Representatives of older persons;

(3) Representatives of health care provider organizations, including providers of veterans' health care (if appropriate);

(4) Representatives of supportive services providers organizations;

(5) Persons with leadership experience in the private and voluntary sectors;

- (6) Local elected officials; and
- (7) The general public.

(c) *Review by advisory council.* The area agency shall submit the area plan and amendments for review and comment to the advisory council before it is transmitted to the State agency for approval.

**§ 1321.59 Submission of an area plan and plan amendments to the State for approval.**

The area agency shall submit the area plan and amendments to the State agency for approval following procedures specified by the State agency in the State policies prescribed by § 1321.11.

**§ 1321.61 Advocacy responsibilities of the area agency.**

(a) The area agency shall serve as the public advocate for the development or enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated community-based systems of services in each community throughout the planning and service area.

(b) In carrying out this responsibility, the area agency shall:

- (1) Monitor, evaluate, and, where appropriate, comment on all policies, programs, hearings, levies, and community actions which affect older persons;
- (2) Solicit comments from the public on the needs of older persons;
- (3) Represent the interests of older persons to local level and executive branch officials, public and private agencies or organizations;
- (4) Consult with and support the State's long-term care ombudsman program; and
- (5) Undertake on a regular basis activities designed to facilitate the coordination of plans and activities with all other public and private organizations, including units of general purpose local government, with responsibilities affecting older persons in the planning and service area to promote new or expanded benefits and opportunities for older persons; and

(c) Each area agency on aging shall undertake a leadership role in assisting communities throughout the planning and service area to target resources from all appropriate sources to meet the needs of older persons with greatest economic or social need, with par-

ticular attention to low income minority individuals. Such activities may include location of services and specialization in the types of services must needed by these groups to meet this requirement. However, the area agency may not permit a grantee or contractor under this part to employ a means test for services funded under this part.

(d) No requirement in this section shall be deemed to supersede a prohibition contained in the Federal appropriation on the use of Federal funds to lobby the Congress; or the lobbying provision applicable to private non-profit agencies and organizations contained in OMB Circular A-122.

**Subpart D—Service Requirements**

**§ 1321.63 Purpose of services allotments under Title III.**

(a) Title III of the Older Americans Act authorizes the distribution of Federal funds to the State agency on aging by formula for the following categories of services:

- (1) Supportive services;
- (2) Congregate meals services;
- (3) Home delivered meals services;
- (4) In-home services;
- (5) Ombudsman services;
- (6) Special needs services;
- (7) Elder abuse services;
- (8) Preventive health services; and
- (9) Outreach services.

Funds authorized under these categories are for the purpose of assisting the State and its area agencies to develop or enhance for older persons comprehensive and coordinated community based systems as described in § 1321.53(b) throughout the State.

(b) Except for ombudsman services, State agencies on aging will award the funds made available under paragraph (a) of this section to designated area agencies on aging according to the formula determined by the State agency. Except where a waiver is granted by the State agency, area agencies shall award these funds by grant or contract to community services provider agencies and organizations. All funds awarded to area agencies under this part are for the purpose of assisting area agencies to develop or enhance