

Guidance for Return to Standard Operations for the Older Americans Act Programs Post-COVID-19 Major Disaster Declaration

Appendix B of PM 23-05: Title IIIB Supportive Services Programs and Title III E Family Caregiver Support Programs

The purpose of this document is to provide updated guidance for resuming standard and/or adapted operations for the service delivery of the OAA Supportive Services (Title IIIB) and Family Caregiver Support Programs (Title III E), following the end of California's Major Disaster Declaration (MDD).

Program Flexibilities:

The State of California is preparing to move beyond the Major Disaster Declaration (MDD). The Title IIIB and Title III E program flexibilities are tied to the MDD. As outlined in [PM 23-05](#), the AAAs have a six-month transition period from January 2, 2023, through June 30, 2023, to return to standard and/or allowable adapted operations. Standard/allowable operations must be in effect by July 1, 2023.

Guidance on the reversal and/or adaptation of Title IIIB and III E Program flexibilities are documented in the *COVID-19 Flexibilities and Return to Standard Operations FAQ*.

The decision to resume in-person services remains at the discretion of the AAAs based on state and local public health guidance, along with the assessment of the readiness of the program staff and older adults in the community. The AAA has the flexibility to adjust for in-person or remote services based on the local guidance which may vary by AAA and/or service provider.

If resuming in-person services, it is recommended for the AAA's and their service providers to prioritize having proper ventilation in indoor settings. It is also recommended for the AAA to stay up to date with following SMARTER steps guidance as released by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). SMARTER plan guidance prioritizes the following components: Shots, Masks, Awareness, Readiness, Testing, Education and Rx. This guidance is especially important when conducting indoor activities as well as preparing for future COVID-19 surges or variants.

Recommended Guidance for Remote Services:

CDA recommends that the following guidelines are met to allow for the continued remote delivery of IIIB and III E services:

1. The AAA and/or its service providers must have the capacity to support remote service delivery options.
2. Title IIIB and Title III E remote services must allow for compliance with all OAA, OCA, CCR and CDA standards.
3. Remote service delivery must be feasible per CDA Data Dictionary service category definitions for Title IIIB and III E Programs.

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Reporting:

Title IIIB: OAA Supportive Services:
Report in CARS per standard/usual practice.

Title IIIE: Family Caregiver Support Programs:
Report in CARS per standard/usual practice.

Services provided with supplemental funding are reported on CDA's SPR form.

Procurement:

Upon the ending of the MDD, standard operations will resume, and AAAs will no longer be operating under the Major Disaster Declaration. Title IIIB and Title IIIE emergency contracts that did not have a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process cannot be extended/amended. Noncompetitive awards are permitted under certain circumstances, such as a public emergency. The AAA would have to conduct its own analysis of the appropriate time period, and whether the public exigency/emergency exception exists for their agency. AAAs may find further guidance pertaining to Noncompetitive awards in the 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 7360.

Funding Transfers:

Per the AP 2223 Contract, Exhibit B, Article IV, E.1., AAAs may submit a request to CDA to transfer federal or State funds up to 30 percent of OAA funds received between Title IIIB and Title IIIC. Requests for transfers exceeding 30 percent between Title IIIB and Title IIIC, including justification, will be reviewed by fiscal and program teams for consideration.