



2026-27 Title III Bidders Conference Transcript August 11, 2025

Aaron Martin: Well, everyone. Happy Monday. My name's Aaron Martin. I'm Program Manager here at Buckeye Hills. Today, we're going to be going over the Older Americans Act 2026-27, Title III RFP Bids Conference. So we're going to be going over the basics of the Older Americans Act, what it means to be a provider, accessing the application portal. We're going to go over budgets, match requirements, how to submit questions, and we'll go over some important dates that you'll need to know about. As it says there at the bottom, any questions during this presentation, just use the chat feature, and that'll allow us to record those, and they'll later be posted on our website.

All right. As many of you know, the Older Americans Act was established to ensure delivery of much-needed services to older adults in our region. This includes Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington. Services eligible for funding include home-delivered meals, congregate dining, personal care, homemaker, transportation, grocery delivery, adult day services, caregiver, and evidence-based programming.

Just also want to give everyone a reminder that all providers will be subject to an annual onsite review to ensure adherence to Older Americans Act rules. Each of the rules will be listed in the RFP, and you'll acknowledge your understanding of each rule. You'll also be acknowledging that you'll adhere to the requirements for each rule for service delivery.

If you're a new provider, you'll be required to complete provider education and onboarding prior to delivering services.

Just like last year, all proposals will be submitted through SurveyMonkey, our platform. Buckeye Hills will not accept any emailed or paper proposals. If you completed a registration last year, the sign-in is going to be the same. If someone else in your agency did that, or they're no longer with your agency, you can make a new account and start all new information.

So it's pretty straightforward once you get in there. And up next, I'm going to turn it over to Misty, and she's going to talk a little bit about the budgets.

Misty McConnel: Okay, good morning. Older American ACT funding is part of the federal budget. And so, as you know, in this climate, there's been a lot of uncertainty. We are going to go ahead and do our part to make sure that we don't withhold any or delay any services or anything to people and the awards for the contracts.

So, we're going ahead. The Older Americans Act is granted to each county through an interstate funding formula, and the Ohio Department of Aging is currently reformulating that interstate funding formula. And as soon as that's done, then we'll have a better idea of where these numbers for our region will land at this time.

We are going to go ahead and use last year's funding levels for our budgets for you to send your request for you to fill out your request for proposals. And those budget sheets will be available by county and on the SurveyMonkey application. After the bidders conference, there are matching requirements with most of the Older Americans Act funds you will be applying for.

Title C1 and C2, which are congregate in-home delivered meals. Nutrition services require a 15% match. Title IIIB, which is in-home services and supports is a 15% match. Title IIID, evidence-based programming, there is no match. And Title IIIE caregiving services and supports, there is a 25% match.

So just to clarify, when you go into SurveyMonkey and you put in your amount that you will be applying for, it will calculate your required match funding. But the formula that it uses to. Calculate that is right here. So this is an example of 15% match which would be on our nutrition services.

For example, let's say you're going to do a request for \$10,000. We would take that and divide it by 85%. And get a number, a number of \$11,764. We take that \$11,764. That becomes your amount of service you're going to deliver, and the Older Americans Act funding you have requested is \$10,000. So the match funding that you are required to provide for those services to get the \$10,000 is \$1,764.

As I said before, these funding amounts are estimated based on what has happened in the past. Once we hear final amounts are released, the budgets will be updated. But we are not going to hold up our awarding process and your time to look at and provide the best plan possible to get those funds because we're waiting on a final number. So we are going with the estimates on the funding we had from last year.

Based on the funding from last year, this is what you will see when you open SurveyMonkey. This will be the congregate meal budgets that you will see per county, and the match requirement is over on the far right.

This slide is home-delivered meals. You'll see it has Older Americans Act funds paired with senior community services block grant funds to help provide more funding for your county for those services. And then the match requirement, again, is figured on the far right.

This is in-home services and supports, which would be like transportation. This is transportation in-county and out-of-county which is also called transportation. One-way rate one and one-way trip rate two. And it again has senior community services, block grant funds available with it. And the total matches on the far right.

The in-home services. That would be your personal care, homemaker, grocery delivery, those kinds of things. And those are provided there.

Evidence-based programming. There's a small pot of money that we get for that to allocate across our counties. If you have specific questions on what that is or what that can be used for, please feel free to reach out, and we can answer those questions for you.

And the same with caregiver services. Now, caregiver services does require 25% match instead of just 15.

And in all of these funds, there's no reason that we have that we have here at Buckeye Hills Regional Council to think that the estimates are far off. We just want you to know for sure that these are not final numbers. They could go up, they could go down. We've seen some fluctuation, and as soon as we get the final numbers.

We will let you know.

And I think that's it for me, Aaron.

Aaron Martin: Thank you, Misty. All right, contracts. So, they'll be sent out for signatures by late November. That's the plan. Due to the area plan this year overlapping with contract years, the Title III contracts will be completed for each individual year. That's probably a little different than we've done in the past.

The 2026 contract will be executed this year in November, and 2027 contract will be executed next year, November, 2026. So, as Misty said, budget estimates will be the same for both years. Once we get confirmation from ODA and we'll update that. So to ensure we're not showing any preference to any certain applicants and everyone's receiving the same information, all questions after today's Bidders conference can be emailed to me amartin@buckeyehills.org. The deadline for submitting any questions is August 25th, and we will upload to our website by August 29th. All questions from today's meeting will also be uploaded on the website for any future reference. Questions can be anything really about service, services, programming, funding, about the platform, SurveyMonkey any issues you might be having. We're here to make this go as smoothly as possible.

All right, here are some important dates to jot down. These are also on our website. So, we went live with the RFP last week, August 4th. This is the Bidders Conference. Like I said, question submission deadline is August 25th. We'll have answers to any questions by August 29th, and the due date to apply is September 14th, and then notification of awards November 14th of this year.

All right. Any questions?

Misty McConnel: Aaron, we have a question in the chat.

It says with ODA changing their formulation, are you anticipating a reduction in funding? John, we are not sure exactly where that's going to end up. As I said, I can't see a great fluctuation in funding. However, what they do is they base their formula on census data.

And that's why it's very important in all of our counties that we push people accurately filling out their census, especially the older, the aging in our, in our areas. Because we live with that for a while after the Census is recognized, but that's where their funding formula originates and is based on census data.

I can't see that there was any great fluctuations up or down. But we'll just have to wait and see what they come back with.

Gary Grant had a question, were the funding amounts previously shown per year or for the two-year contract duration. That is per year, Gary, the ones that are shown that you are bidding on that is per year.

And Carrie McNamee, will grab-and-go meals be an available service for congregate meals. Carrie, we are still waiting on our guidance from ODA to come out. I know that the rule changed, and that is a great question that we will forward on to Jennifer Westfall. I have also been watching and waiting for some clarification on that. So, hopefully we'll hear something about that soon.

As Aaron said, the answers for these questions that were in the chat will also be included in what is uploaded on our question and answers, so that everyone has the same information. Thank you.

Aaron Martin: All right everyone. Thank you for joining us. Have a great rest of your Monday.