

# *SECTION G*

## Direct Service Waiver

No revisions: May 1, 2020 for FY21

## DIRECT DELIVERY SERVICE REQUEST FOR FY 2019-2023

Unless as otherwise permitted or required by law or an exception granted by the State Unit on Aging, the Direct Service Waiver request is submitted with the Area Agency on Aging's two, three or four-year Area Plan. An approved request remains in effect during the Area Plan time period, unless terminated by either the Area Agency on Aging or the State Unit on Aging. Include this form and your supporting documentation, in your Area Plan submission. In accordance with Section 307 (a) (8)(A) and 306 (b) of the Older Americans Act, the [Aging Partners] Requests delivery of the following services:

Service	Location (Cities/Counties)
Congregate Meals	Eight Counties*
Home Delivered Meals	Eight Counties*
Health Promotion/Disease Prevention (Non-Evidence Based)	Eight Counties*
Material Distribution	Eight Counties*
Chore	Lancaster County
Nutrition Education	Eight Counties*
Assisted Transportation	Eight Counties*
Transportation	Eight Counties*
Caregiver Support Groups	Lancaster County
Health Promotion/Disease Prevention (Evidence Based)	Eight Counties*
Counseling	Eight Counties*

\*Eight Counties in the PSA include: Butler, Fillmore, Lancaster, Polk, Saline, Saunders, Seward, and York.

Justification/Reason for Request (must select one):

- 1. Assure an Adequate Supply of Services (Supporting documentation included) do public notice in papers, discuss at Advisory council,
- 2. Services Related to the Area Agency on Aging's Administrative Function (Written explanation included)
- 3. Provide Services More Economically and with Comparable Quality (Supporting documentation included)
- 4 The waiver request is ongoing from year to year. A Request for Proposal was issued insert Date RFP published  
Approval of the 2019-2023 Area Plan includes granting of the requested waiver.

### DIRECT SERVICE PROVISION

<b>Service Number</b>	<b>Area Agency on Aging</b>	<b>Max. Cost</b>	<b>Provide Service Paid by OAA Y/N</b>
3. Chore	Aging Partners	\$136,134	Y
4 HDM	Aging Partners	\$203,761	Y
7 Asst Trans	Aging Partners	\$34,690	Y
8 Cong Meal	Aging Partners	\$610,323	Y
10 Trans	Aging Partners	\$466,673	Y
11 Nutr Ed	Aging Partners	\$4,891	Y
13 Health Promo Ev based	Aging Partners	\$96,374	Y
14 Health Promo non ev based	Aging Partners	\$444,817	Y
23 Material Distribution	Aging Partners	\$46,197	Y
25 Counseling	Aging Partners	\$118,339	Y
35 Caregiver Support Groups	Aging Partners	\$500	N

Aging Partners requests a Direct Service Waiver for the services listed on the previous pages. As part of this process, a Public Notice was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on February 7, 2019. No comments were received by Aging Partners. The following page is a copy of the Proof of Publication of the Public Notice.

Please note that Nutrition Counseling was included in the Public Notice, but this service will not be provided directly by Aging Partners.

\*\*\* Proof of Publication \*\*\*

State of Nebraska )  
Lancaster County ) SS.

AGING PARTNERS

1005 O ST  
LINCOLN, NE 68508

ORDER NUMBER 817348

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that she/he is a Clerk of the Lincoln Journal Star, legal newspaper printed, published and having a general circulation in the County of Lancaster and State of Nebraska, and that the attached printed notice was published in said newspaper

One successive times(s) the first insertion having been on Feb 7, 2019 and thereafter on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and that said newspaper is the legal newspaper under the statues of the State of Nebraska.



Section: Class Legals

Category: 0099 LEGALS

PUBLISHED ON: 02/07/2019

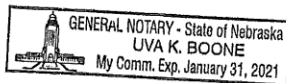
TOTAL AD COST: 24.31  
FILED ON: 2/7/2019

The above facts are within my personal knowledge and are further verified by my personal inspection of each notice in each of said issues.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me on

Feb 8, 2019

J Boone Notary Public



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that Aging Partners, an Area Agency on Aging, will submit a Direct Service Waiver Request as part of the Area Plan to the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, State Unit on Aging. Pursuant to the Older Americans Act, the Area Agency on Aging must seek approval to provide supportive services, nutrition services, or in-home services directly if necessary to assure an adequate supply of providers of such services. Aging Partners is seeking approval to provide health promotion/disease prevention activities, nutrition counseling, and counseling in the eight county service area of Butler, Fillmore, Lancaster, Polk, Saline, Saunders, Seward, and York counties. The Plan will again seek approval to provide additional services in Lancaster County: congregate meals, home delivered meals, material distribution, chore, nutrition education, assisted transportation, and transportation.  
Services are defined by the State Unit on Aging and can be found in the Area Plan SFY 20-23, Program Reference Guide, <http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/aging/pages/Resources.aspx> Comments regarding this request must be received on or before 2/22/19 via email with the subject line "Public Notice" to [agingpartners@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:agingpartners@lincoln.ne.gov) or by mail to Aging Partners, ATTN: Public Notice, 1005 "O" St, Lincoln NE 68508. 817348 11 Feb 7

Aging Partners researched the presence of providers for services to be provided by our agency. The following information supports Aging Partners' Direct Service Waiver request to ensure an adequate supply of services.

**Chore:** Subsidized lawn work, snow removal, and simple home repair commercial or private providers were not found when researched. There are pockets of volunteer groups who will remove snow for persons with disabilities and older persons. The City of Lincoln coordinates such a program. For snow removal, Aging Partners refers clients to such volunteers, but they are not able to assist all who need it. Aging Partners provides this service to maintain an adequate supply to meet the needs of individuals, especially those who are not able to afford fees.

**Home Delivered Meals:** The Network of Care maintains a directory of many services online at [Nebraska.networkofcare.org](http://Nebraska.networkofcare.org). No other home delivered meal providers are listed other than senior centers. Aging Partners contracts with the only Home Delivered meal provider in Lincoln, NE through Tabitha. Tabitha does not deliver these meals outside of Lincoln city limits.

**Congregate Meals:** The Network of Care directory included senior centers across Aging Partners' service area. There are some other meal sites located in Lincoln: Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, the Gathering Place, and the People's City Mission. Older persons are welcome to eat at the other sites, but transportation is not provided by those agencies. There is sufficient demand in the community to require Aging Partners to continue providing congregate meals to meet demand and ensure an adequate supply of services.

**Assisted Transportation and Transportation:** The Network of Care directory listed few options for transportation. Nebraska Public Transit, through the Nebraska Department of Transportation, maintains a provider list. Some will offer assistance to clients to get on and off the vehicle. Aging Partners provides door-to-door Assisted Transportation and Transportation to ensure senior center attendees can access the centers. In Lincoln, HandiVan, operated by StarTran, provides services, but does not operate enough vehicles to meet client needs. There is also a requirement that consumers for HandiVan have confirmed disabilities that must be vetted through the League of Human Dignity. Neighboring Counties have a variety of transportation options provided by their County Aging Programs in order to meet local demand. No duplication is occurring. Uber and Lyft transport options are available throughout the service area but require payment with no option of free or reduced fee service.

**Nutrition Education:** Aging Partners provides nutrition education that is focused on the health of older adults, and addresses needs as one ages. Other entities, such as the University of Nebraska Extension office, engage in nutrition education to a broader audience. UNL County Extension's major focus in nutrition education is *"Nebraska Extension helps children and youth improve eating and physical activity patterns with direct education and healthier home, school, and community environments."* Aging Partners differentiates in our delivery by a sole focus on seniors and Senior Health related nutritional needs. Karen Wobig, Unit Leader with County Extension and Randy Jones discussed opportunities for collaboration to enhance each other's work. Karen reports that they do not have the reach in rural areas of Aging Partners Counties.

This service is provided by Aging Partners so an adequate supply is available to meet the needs of our clients.

**Health Promotion/Disease Prevention (evidence based):** Across the service area of Aging Partners, other entities provide activities and classes on a fee basis. Aging Partners keeps Health Promotion/Disease Prevention services very affordable through voluntary contribution, and offers classes with a cultural minority focus and for persons who are deaf/hard of hearing. Aging Partners provides this service to maintain an adequate supply to meet the needs of individuals, especially those who are not able to afford fees.

**Health Promotion/Disease Prevention (non-evidence based):** Health clinics, health education and exercise opportunities are provided within the construct of senior centers and the Fitness Center. Transportation and assisted transportation is available to the location(s) where most services are provided. Other human service agencies make some of these services available, but do not provide transportation.

Aging Partners does not provide this service in a vacuum. Collaborations with area hospitals and medical providers allow us to reach a greater population of participants. For example, we recently collaborated with CHI Health to develop a Fall Prevention education approach to the minority community and people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Additional collaborations with City of Lincoln Health Dept.; State Health & Human Services; and Lincoln Parks and Recreation enhance our reach. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention activities are also taken into rural areas of our service area that would not otherwise have such training.

Aging Partners provides this service so an adequate supply is available to meet the needs of clients.

**Material Distribution:** Durable medical equipment, incontinence supplies and donated holiday gifts are the main items disseminated by Aging Partners. These are given at no cost to clients. Other human service agencies also donate items, but they tend not to be medical equipment/supplies. Care Managers assess what equipment is needed and if other payment sources are options, and can also deliver items if needed. The Assistive Technology Partnership sponsors the "AT4all" website, which maintains a listing of items available for sale, at no cost or on loan. Aging Partners accesses this program as needed if the equipment needed by the client is not available through our agency. In order to ensure an adequate supply is available to meet client needs, Aging Partners provides material distribution services.

**Counseling:** Aging Partners employs specialized financial counselors and trained case management staff who are subject matter experts on financial matters of older persons, Medicare, Medicaid, and long-term care insurance. Assistance from them is available at no cost to clients. Other health and human service agencies offer information on similar topics, but do not engage in details pertinent to older persons. A prime differentiator in Aging Partners services vs commercial providers is that Aging Partners provides unbiased guidance without emphasis on any specific commercial providers. Aging Partners services are necessary in order for consumers to receive accurate and unbiased information. Therefore, Aging Partners provides counseling so the service is adequate to meet the needs of clients.

**Caregiver Support Groups:** Aging Partners is planning to offer this service during the years covered by this four-year plan. Because details have not been finalized, and the agency may provide it directly, it is included in this Direct Service Waiver. Aging Partners researched caregiver support groups listed of the Network of Care online directory. Many groups were aimed at caregivers of persons with disabilities, developmental disabilities, and other specific diseases/injuries (e.g. Alzheimer's, stroke). In the survey conducted by Aging Partners, caregivers identified support groups as a need. In order to have an adequate supply of this service, Aging Partners plans to offer it.