

# FY26 Aging-In-Place Grant

## *Notice of Funding Opportunity*

### **Purpose:**

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) is pleased to announce a competitive funding opportunity for grant awards under the Aging-In-Place Program, in accordance with the State of Maryland Human Services Article §10-1201. This funding opportunity aligns with Longevity Ready Maryland and the Department’s commitment to supporting Marylanders to age with health, financial security, social connection, and purpose.

Like the rest of the country, Maryland is home to a population of older adults which will grow considerably over the next several decades. By 2030, nearly one out of every four Marylanders will be 60 years of age or older (census.gov). The majority of older adults want to age in their homes or have limited alternatives due to the high cost of institutional or assisted living options. The Aging-In-Place funding opportunity enables older Marylanders to live in their own homes and participate in a community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level.

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## **Description:**

This funding opportunity aligns with the Maryland Department of Aging's [Longevity Ready Maryland](#) multisector plan on aging. Successful applicants will propose projects that address the following strategies from the plan:

- Increase awareness and adoption of the neighbor-helping-neighbor Village model;
- Recruit older volunteers and multigenerational volunteer teams into coordinated service opportunities;
- Increase the number of volunteers of all ages providing support to older Marylanders;
- Expand aging-in-place options by providing wraparound services that include health care, transportation, and social services in coordination with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), Centers for Independent Living, Villages, and other community-based aging service providers;
- Increase access to home repair and modification programs that ensure safe and accessible home environments;
- Leverage technology and community-based services to enhance transportation options and operability for older adults, especially in rural communities;
- Promote innovative opportunities to connect Marylanders across all ages through technology, programming, and community spaces; and
- Promote the adoption of initiatives that increase intergenerational connection to reduce age-related bias.

Proposed projects should describe a clear alignment with one or more of the strategies and services identified in this section. The projects should offer supportive services that effectively assist older adults in maintaining their health, financial security, social connections, and sense of purpose within their homes and communities. The Department may make grants to nonprofit organizations and AAAs to expand and establish aging-in-place programs for older adults.

Any nonprofit organization or AAA may apply to the Department for a State grant to be applied toward the cost of expanding or establishing an aging-in-place program that provides to older adults:

- Assistance with the costs of in-home personal care services for activities of daily living, including bathing, personal hygiene and grooming, dressing, toileting, functional mobility, food preparation, laundry, and house cleaning;
- Psychological, economic, or functional assistance to enable successful health management, access to medical care, or compliance with treatment recommendations;
- Awareness of and access to resources, services, and benefits;
- Supportive services and care coordination;
- Affordable transportation;

- Assistance making in-home modifications or repairs to improve safety, mobility, and accessibility; and
- The opportunity to join or participate in a Senior Village – defined as a local, member-driven, nonprofit organization that supports community members to age in place by: Fostering social connections through activities and events; Coordinating volunteer help at home using a neighbor-helping-neighbor model; and is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code).

Preference will be given to projects that best align with the LRM strategies above and:

- Improve reach and access of services among underserved populations, including people living in or near poverty, rural communities, people living with HIV, people of color, LGBTQIA+ community, people with disabilities, people with sight or hearing accessibility challenges, Native Americans, and those at risk of nursing home placement.
- Establish or enhance partnerships across community-based organizations and sectors (such as health, human services, housing, and transportation); and
- Directly benefits older adults caring for children in poverty within jurisdictions eligible for or participating in the Governor’s Office for Children’s [Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households \(ENOUGH\) initiative](#). A map of the 27 ENOUGH-eligible communities can be [found here](#). Projects serving Baltimore City are of particular interest.

### ***Eligible Applicants:***

Applicants are nonprofit organizations and AAAs in good standing with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

### ***Project Term:***

The grant will run from the time of award, anticipated to be July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. All expenditures must be incurred by June 30, 2026.

### ***Funding Level:***

The total funding available to all jurisdictions is \$220,000. At least 20% of the funding appropriated shall be used to support Senior Villages, as defined above.

\* Sources of funding are both State and Federal. Organizations that provide a SAMS number are eligible for Federal funding.

### ***Cost Sharing Requirement:***

To be eligible for a State grant to expand an existing aging-in-place program under this section, grantees must demonstrate an equal match for funds requested. For every one dollar received in state funding, the applicant must contribute at least one dollar in non-state resources toward the proposed project's total cost.\*

There are two types of matches: 1) cash and 2) in-kind. In general, costs borne by the applicant and cash contributions of any and all third parties involved in the project, including sub-grantees, contractors, and consultants, are considered matching funds. Examples of cash match include budgetary funds provided from the applicant agency's budget for costs associated with the project. Generally, most contributions from sub-contractors or sub-grantees (third parties) will be in-kind matching funds. Volunteered time and use of third party facilities to hold meetings or conduct project activities may be considered in-kind (third party) donations. The Department suggests utilizing the Independent Sector's defined rate of \$33.49 per hour to calculate match for volunteer time.

\*Additional funding may become available to support projects in Baltimore City at a match rate of 25%, meaning that for every one dollar received in grant funds, the applicant must contribute at least three dollars in resources toward the proposed project's total cost. Please note that this opportunity will be made available for additional projects above those selected in the initial round and does not preclude Baltimore City projects from selection for the equal match rate. Baltimore City applicants are encouraged to submit a budget for an equal match and an additional budget for a 25% match, using the template provided.

## ***Application Instructions:***

### **I. Basic Eligibility Requirements:**

The following requirements must be met for an application to move to the review stage. Applications that do not meet all of these requirements will not be considered for award.

- Applicant is an eligible entity.
- The funding request does not exceed the total available funding.
- Sufficient match is provided, as defined in the Cost Sharing section.
- The project incorporates one or more of the allowable services, as defined in the purpose section.

**Please note:** There are no specific points assigned to these basic eligibility requirements; they are pass/fail criteria.

### **II. Project Narrative (no more than 5 pages):**

This section outlines the content you need to include in your narrative.

- **Description of Organization:** Provide a brief overview of your organization's purpose and current services.
- **Problem Statement:** Outline the unmet needs your program or service will address with a clear and data-driven justification.
- **Project Description:** Discuss your proposed program or service and clearly identify how it incorporates and aligns with any relevant preferences and strategies from the Purpose and Description section. This will be evaluated based on how it decisively addresses the problem statement, its feasibility within the project term and budget, and its incorporation of allowable services and strategies identified in the section.
- **Outcomes:** Identify anticipated outcomes and how they will be evaluated and demonstrated, including the use of measurement tools. Ensure your goals and objectives are SMART:
  - **Specific:** Clearly defined
  - **Measurable:** Quantifiable, with clear metrics for evaluation
  - **Achievable:** Realistic and attainable within the given resources and timeframe
  - **Relevant:** Aligned with the overall goals and purpose
  - **Time-bound:** With a defined timeline or deadline for completion.
- **Organizational Capacity and Project Management:** Provide an overview of how you will accomplish the project and manage its daily activities.
- **Sustainability:** Describe your next steps for sustaining services after the grant period. This is also a component of the Organizational Capacity and Management selection criterion.

### III. Required Components (not counted in 5-page limit):

These are supplementary documents that must be included with your application.

- **Budget Narrative and Justification** ([using the provided template](#)). This information will be considered in the Project Description (Approach) criterion, specifically regarding feasibility within the proposed budget.
- **Project Workplan** ([using the provided template](#)). This will support the assessment of the feasibility of your project and your organizational capacity.
- **Letters of Support from all partner organizations** (if applicable). Letters of support should outline the relevant experience, relationship, and commitment of key project partners. Applications that propose subgrantees must include a letter of support from the funded partner.
- **Cover Letter:** Include the specified contact and organizational information, [SDAT](#) verification, [SAMS Unique Identifier](#) (Entities without SAMS numbers are not disqualified, but may be considered for Federal funds, should they become available.), and [W-9 form](#). This ensures basic administrative requirements are met.

### ***Application Review Criteria:***

This section details how applications will be evaluated and scored. The total possible score is 100 points. Reviewers will assess applications based on the following criteria:

1. Alignment with Purpose and Proposed Activities (20 points): Reviewers will evaluate how clearly the applicant describes the project's alignment with at least one of the identified strategies and services. (5 points) A strong application will demonstrate how the project will directly contribute to helping older adults maintain health, financial security, social connection, and purpose within their homes and communities. (15 points)
2. Organization Description, Problem Statement and Project Description (Approach) (35 points): This is a significant portion of the scoring and focuses on the foundation and plan of your project.
  - a. Reviewers will look for a data-driven justification for the problem statement, ensuring the need for the project is clearly established (5 points).
  - b. The project description will be evaluated on how decisively it addresses the problem statement (5 points).
  - c. Reviewers will assess the feasibility of the project within the project term and proposed budget (20 points). This will be informed by the Budget Narrative and Workplan.

- d. The organization description will be evaluated based on clarity of what the organization is currently doing, and how it aligns with the needs being identified in the problem statement and project description (5 points).
3. Outcomes and Evaluation (20 points): Reviewers will assess the clarity and quality of your proposed outcomes and evaluation methods.
  - a. A strong application will present Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) goals and objectives. (10 points)
  - b. The plan for measuring and evaluating these outcomes, including the appropriateness and use of evaluation tools, will be closely examined. (10 points)
4. Organizational Capacity and Management (15 points): This criterion assesses your organization's ability to successfully implement and manage the proposed project.
  - a. Reviewers will evaluate the clarity of the description of how the project lead will manage and implement the project, including the project management plan. (7.5 points)
  - b. The feasibility of the sustainability plan after the grant period will also be considered. (7.5 points)
5. Budget Narrative, and Work Plan (10 points): This criterion assesses the applicants proposed budget and work plan for feasibility and clarity of the proposed project.
  - a. The Budget Narrative provided justification of identified category budgeted items that are in alignment with the proposed project. (7 points)
  - b. The Work Plan provided clear and concise objectives, identified those who would be responsible for completing the objective, and gave an estimated time frame. (3 points)

Incorporation of Preferences: If the funding opportunity outlines specific preferences, reviewers will assess how thoroughly the applicant details the incorporation of these preferences into the proposed project.

By understanding this breakdown, the applicant can strategically focus on each area of the application to maximize the potential for a high score.

### ***Submission Deadline:***

To be considered, applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm EST on Monday, June 9, 2025 on the [MDOA Smartsheet Platform](#).

(<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f4b28b1da6f64b57a95d9e841ae6db4d>)

## ***Questions:***

Submit questions electronically to [Chelsead.wheeler1@maryland.gov](mailto:Chelsead.wheeler1@maryland.gov)

Phone: 410- 767-5193

## **Join MDOA: Aging-In-Place Grant Opportunity Question and Answer Session**

Thursday, May 8 · 10:30 – 11:30am ET

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/fzo-sdcn-ynn>

Or dial: (US) +1 727-619-6237 PIN: 212 757 516#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/fzo-sdcn-ynn?pin=2551677338703>

## ***Suggested Resources:***

The following linked resources may be helpful in writing your application:

- [Introduction to Grant Writing](#)
- [Grant Writing Basic](#)