



## Wellness Kits Guidance for CARES Act Title III-B

May 22, 2020

This guidance is for area agencies on aging (AAA) on administration, planning and reporting of CARES Act funds to support the *Wellness Kits* initiatives.

### Goal of the Initiative:

This initiative seeks to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Provide older adults with supplies and resources to reinforce the importance of practicing preventative actions during the COVID-19 emergency; and
2. Introduce and/or remind older adults of local services and supports available.

### Program Overview

AAAs will receive CARES Act funds to support Title III-B (*Supportive Services*), Title III-C2 (*Home-Delivered Nutrition Services*) and Title III-E (*National Family Caregiver Support Program*). AAAs shall allocate a portion of CARES Act Title III-B funds to support wellness kits within their planning and service area (PSA).

In accordance with policy [AAA Funding Formula \(108-FIS-14\)](#), AAAs shall use their designated funding formula to allocate funds appropriately. Allocations are outlined below.

AAA	Title III-B Allocation
1	\$871,678
2	\$736,256
3	\$218,448
4	\$551,704
5	\$322,020
6	\$851,938
7	\$281,142
8	\$161,788
9	\$323,926
10A	\$1,443,260
10B	\$731,996
11	\$479,808

Administration of the program, including developing partnerships to leverage support for the storage, assembly, and distribution of wellness kits, and the tracking and distribution of wellness kits shall be completed by the AAA. AAAs shall use Title III-B funds to contract with service providers or other local organizations to administer this initiative. AAAs may accept donation of supplies and/or service to carry out this initiative.

***Fostering sound public policy, research, and initiatives that benefit older Ohioans.***

## Program Parameters

Funding must be used to support the creation of and distribution of wellness kits to older Ohioans. AAAs shall partner with state and local entities to procure kit contents, assemble kits, and distribute kits to older adults.

AAAs shall prioritize distribution of wellness kits to target populations. In accordance with the [Older Americans Act of 1965 \(Amended\)](#) and ODA policy [Service Priority to Specific Client Groups \(105-SVC-01\)](#), this program shall support services provided to older adults age 60 and over with greatest economic and social need, with special emphasis on low-income minority individuals. AAA outreach efforts shall identify individuals eligible with special emphasis on older adults: residing in rural areas; with greatest economic need; with greatest social need; with severe disabilities; with limited English-speaking ability; and with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

ODA strongly encourages AAAs to focus distribution efforts to older Ohioans residing in non-facility-based congregate settings, such as senior housing.

ODA is committed to providing AAAs with collateral materials to support this initiative, including but not limited to:

- Branding guidelines
- Sample press release
- COVID-19 consumer education resources

## Wellness Kits: Contents

Contents of the wellness kits may contain, but is not limited to:

- Washable cloth masks and/or disposable dust masks;
- Hand cleansing items (hand sanitizer, hand soap, etc.);
- Resources and/or other education materials on staying safe during COVID-19

## Wellness Kits: Planning and Distribution

State EMA will assist with the delivery of bulk quantities of masks and hand sanitizer to the designated location for each AAA region.

Using the *CARES Act AAA Project Plan Template* AAAs shall develop a proposed plan to engage local partners to procure, assemble, and distribute wellness kits to older adults.

To comply with social distancing recommendations and provide limited-contract distribution, AAAs and contracted partners should consider distribution of wellness kit to the doors of consumer households.

## Questions

AAAs are encouraged to connect with Kim Mobley ([KMobley@age.ohio.gov](mailto:KMobley@age.ohio.gov) / (614) 569-4425) with additional questions or concerns.