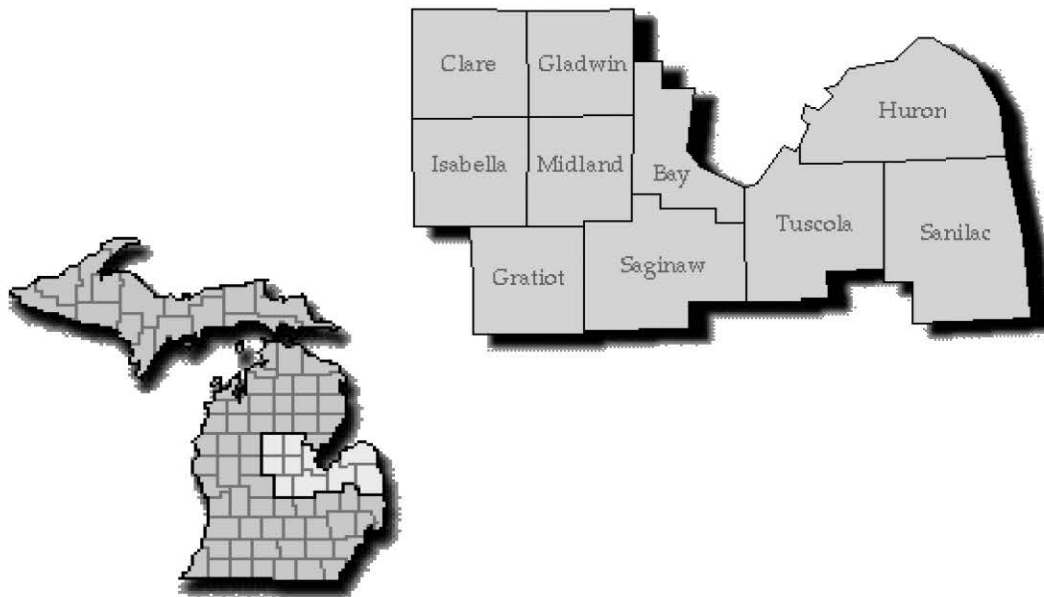


2027-2029 Multi Year Plan
FY 2027 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
REGION VII AREA AGENCY ON AGING 7



Planning and Service Area

Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron,
Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, Tuscola

Region VII Area Agency on Aging

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Regional Aging Representative

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Executive Summary

1. Provide a brief history of your AAA and PSA including the mission statement, vision, service population, and primary focus for the next three years.

Region VII Area Agency on Aging (Region VII AAA) was established in 1974 following an amendment to the Older Americans Act (OAA). The agency's mission is to provide effective and innovative care to improve the well-being of community residents in Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties using OAA funds, MI Choice Medicaid Waiver funds for home and community based services, grants, and local monies to meet the needs of vulnerable older adults and persons with disabilities.

Region VII AAA educates the public, its community partners, and service providers on the expectations of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the ACLS Bureau related to targeting older adults in the greatest social and/or economic need. Service providers are educated on the importance of utilizing a priority system for older individuals in greatest social or economic need with particular attention given to low-income minorities. These target populations will be served at the same level as the total population. Participants are assessed and those with the highest need are given priority access to services.

PSA Characteristics by County Type

• **Saginaw, Bay, and Midland Counties** have the largest concentration of adults age 60+, characterized by higher diversity, greater economic insecurity in urban cores, and more older adults living independently or in multi-unit/subsidized housing. These counties benefit from more comprehensive access to healthcare, transportation, and senior services as evidenced by higher utilization of OAA services, including meals, transportation, in-home services, care coordination, and evidence-based programs.

• **Isabella and Gratiot Counties** reflect a mix of small cities, townships, and rural areas. Older adults reside in both centralized and dispersed settings and include retirees, long-term residents, and aging caregivers. Access to services is moderate, however, gaps exist in transportation and specialty care outside city centers, requiring flexible service delivery and coordinated outreach to support transitions in care.

• **Clare, Gladwin, Tuscola, Huron, and Sanilac Counties** are predominantly rural with a greater number of older adults aging in place. Common challenges include limited transportation, long travel distances for healthcare needs, noted reliance on family caregivers, higher rates of chronic conditions and social isolation. OAA services in these areas rely heavily on home-based, mobile, and decentralized program models. Throughout Region VII AAA's PSA, older adults represent diverse cultural, economic, and lifestyle backgrounds, including both urban and rural residents, individuals on fixed incomes, veterans, widowed seniors, and those with limited digital access. These factors shape service access and engagement and require non-digital outreach, culturally appropriate communication, and trust-based approaches.

MYP Planning Implications

This MYP prioritizes planning for continued growth in the 60+ population, expanding access to home and community-based services, and ensuring equitable access to OAA services across geography, income, and culture.

Long-term strategies address transportation barriers, caregiver availability, and increasing service complexity as the population ages.

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2. Describe how the AAA used data from the assessment of unmet needs and the perspectives of older adults, family caregivers, service providers, and the public to inform and develop the multi-year plan.

[See OAA §1321.65(b)(3); OMA 400.586; Operating Standard for AAAs C-2(4).]

Region VII AAA conducted a PSA wide community needs survey. A total of 579 adults age 60+ participated in the survey. The goal of the survey was to identify key barriers that may affect older adults' ability to age in place.

Key barriers identified by the respondents include a need for in-home assistance (personal care, homemaking, respite, chore), isolation, medication management, nutrition/food access, and transportation. Region VII AAA and its contracted partners throughout the PSA offer programs to address these barriers. Most notably, the demand for Home Delivered Meals and in-home services continues to grow.

These findings assist Region VII AAA in shaping the MYP by identifying service priorities and guiding funding decisions. This reinforces the need to continue and grow home and community-based services, support non-digital and individualized outreach, and identify opportunities to strengthen caregiver support and coordinated service delivery across the PSA. Region VII AAA will continue to seek grant and collaborative opportunities to support caregivers. Additionally, Region VII AAA will continue to seek partnerships and grants to expand dental, vision, and hearing services.

3. List all awards and accreditations received by the AAA.

Region VII AAA is accredited by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for Case Management for Long-Term Services and Supports, demonstrating adherence to nationally recognized standards for quality, accountability, and person-centered service delivery.

Region VII AAA has a 10-county PSA and operates in compliance with all requirements of the Older Americans Act and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and is subject to ongoing state monitoring program review, and fiscal oversight to ensure compliance and quality of service.

4. Does your AAA have a Strategic/Long-Term Plan?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please describe your Strategic/Long-Term Plan and how it informed the development of the MYP.

Region VII AAA has a Strategic/Long-Term Plan that guides organizational priorities and informs program development, partnerships, and resource allocation. The Strategic/Long-Term Plan establishes a framework for responding to demographic trends, emerging needs, and Older Americans Act requirements across the PSA.

The plan focuses on supporting aging in place, strengthening home and community-based services, advancing equitable access, and enhancing coordination across the aging and health services network. Core priorities include addressing the needs of older adults with the greatest economic and social need, expanding caregiver supports, improving access to nutrition and transportation, reducing social isolation, and ensuring culturally responsive and accessible services.

Development and implementation of the Strategic/Long-Term Plan are shaped by community needs assessments, service utilization data, stakeholder input, Board and Advisory Council recommendations, and consumer feedback. These same data sources were used to shape and align the Multi-Year Plan (MYP).

The MYP reflects the Strategic/Long-Term Plan by:

- Translating long-range priorities into specific objectives and planned activities
- Aligning AAA efforts with the State Plan on Aging goals
- Targeting resources toward underserved populations and areas of greatest need

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- Emphasizing collaboration, outreach, and system integration
- Supporting continuous evaluation and quality improvement

Through this alignment, the Strategic/Long-Term Plan serves as the foundation for the MYP, ensuring that short-term actions and funding decisions advance long-term goals and respond effectively to the evolving needs of older adults and family caregivers across the PSA.

Demographic Data for PSA

Population	Census (most current data available)	AAA Population Served Last Fiscal Year (NAPIS)
Total Population 60+ (%)	28.05	6.37
Race/Ethnicity 60+ (%)		
a. Black/African American	4.49	5.70
b. Asian	0.57	0.13
c. White	90.95	77.75
d. Hispanic/Latino	2.69	2.91
e. Other	3.99	0.86
Total 60+ Population in Rural areas (%)	53.26	48.80
Total 60+ Population at Poverty Level (%)	11.27	17.70
Total 85+ Population (%)	8.60	26.03
Total 60+ Non-English-Speaking Population (%)	2.96	0.21

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Public Feedback

1. Did the AAA hold at least one public hearing on the MYP in your PSA? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Was the meeting held in an accessible facility or virtually following AAA requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Did the AAA send an official notification of the complete MYP to your county/local government and Tribes within the PSA for review and consultation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Was the Notice of Public Hearing(s) sent at least 30 days in advance of the scheduled hearing(s)? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Did the hearing notice include accessibility information for participants seeking to attend either in person or virtually? ☒ Yes ☐ No
6. Did a representative from either the Policy and/or Advisory Board(s) attend the hearing(s)? [See OAA 1321.63(a)(2)(3)(4)(5).] ☒ Yes ☐ No

7. Describe how your agency involved the Policy and/or Advisory Boards in encouraging and promoting participation to capture public feedback.

In January and February 2026, Region VII AAA created a survey to gather feedback from older adults. The primary focus of the surveys was to identify barriers that older adults face, as well as gauge their knowledge of existing programs that are available through Region VII AAA. The Advisory Council and Board of Directors members played a vital role in the distribution of the surveys within their communities. Each member was given 20 copies of the survey to distribute, with multiple members requesting additional copies. With their help, Region VII AAA received feedback from 579 older adults!

The Board of Directors and Advisory Council members each received copies of the Public Hearing flyer to assist with distribution in their respective counties. The members were emailed an invitation as well. The Region VII AAA Contract Department spoke about the upcoming Public Hearing at multiple Advisory Council and Board of Directors meetings. This topic was presented once again at Region VII AAA's Annual Meeting with various providers and community partners in attendance.

The Public Hearing was held on May 19, 2026. Three Board of Directors members and two Advisory Council members attended the Public Hearing, asking engaging questions and providing valuable feedback.

8. Please provide a description of the use of U.S. Mail and electronic means for MYP distribution.

Region VII AAA sends a copy of the AIP/MYP to the Chair of each of the County Commissions in the Planning and Service Area and to the Chief of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe with a cover letter requesting feedback of the plans by July 22, 2026. The letter invites Commissioners to request a presentation about the plans. This correspondence is sent to each entity by U.S. Mail.

9. Please provide a summary of oral and written testimony received, and its impact on the development of the MYP.

Region VII AAA has not received any written testimony regarding services to be provided through the MYP.

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During the Public Hearing, Region VII AAA received questions about:

Senior Project Fresh

We discussed Region VII AAA's role in providing technical assistance to older adults within our PSA. Our Regional Aging Representative was able to provide additional details, as Region VII AAA is awaiting information from the state.

MYP Cycles

A Board of Directors member inquired about when the last Multi Year Plan was completed, and how often they are reviewed. Region VII AAA explained the difference between a Multi Year Plan and an Annual Implementation Plan.

MYP Submission

Region VII AAA explained that our Regional Aging Representative is the agency's main point of contact for all OAA-funded services. In September 2026, Region VII AAA will go to Lansing, Michigan to present the Multi Year Plan.

OAA vs Non-OAA Funded Programs

An attendee inquired about how Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) centers are funded. Region VII AAA explained the various programs that are available in our PSA including OAA funded, Medicaid funded, and Medicare and Medicaid (dual-eligible) programs such as PACE.

10. Describe the AAA's approach to ensure the MYP was shared with the aging network, family caregivers, service providers and the public.

Notification for the public hearings was given to three local newspapers for publication on April 15, 2026. The Saginaw News, The Morning Sun, and the Cass River Trader were chosen as they represent many of the seniors in the greatest economic and social need along with the underserved populations in the Planning and Service Area. A flyer was posted on the Region VII AAA website, Facebook page, and directly sent to Region VII AAA service providers via email and Vendor View. The flyer included several ways to participate in the hearing. Participants could join in person, via Teams (virtual) on a computer or smart cell phone, or to call in to listen to the presentation and discussion after. Phone numbers and links were listed on the flyer for ease of participation.

A public hearing was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, both virtual (Microsoft Teams) and in-person at the Region VII AAA office. A PowerPoint presentation was presented by Region VII AAA that reviewed the FY 2027-29 AIP/MYP which outlines how the federal and state funding will be used for programs and services benefiting older adults in Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties.

The draft summary of the proposed plan was available on Friday, May 1, 2026, and copies were available by request via phone or email.

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Regional Service Definitions

Service Name/Definition

Rationale (Explain why activities cannot be funded under an existing service definition.)

Service Category	Fund Source		Unit of Service
Access	Title III PartB	Title III PartD	
In-Home	Title III PartE	Title VII	
Community	State Alternative Care	State Access	
Nutrition	State In-home	State Respite	
Caregivers of Older Adults	Other		
Older Relative (Kinship) Caregiver			

Minimum Standards

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Access Services

Care Management

<u>Starting Date</u>	10/01/2026	<u>Ending Date</u>	09/30/2027
<u>Total of Federal Dollars</u>	\$0.00	<u>Total of State Dollars</u>	\$470,202.00

Geographic area to be served

All 10 Counties

Specify the planned goals and activities that will be undertaken to provide the service.

Region VII AAA expects to continue with the following goals:

Goal: Ensure appropriate care delivery to program participants.

Person Centered Service Plans (PCSPs) and assessments will be created upon initial assessment and revised, as needed, at each of the routine re-assessments. Re-assessments are also conducted in the event of a significant change. The PCSP will emphasize community resources that are available and will be developed by un-biased Supports Coordinators.

Goal: Build and maintain professional relationships to ensure that quality care is provided to program participants.

Supports Coordinators' knowledge of community resources and communication with caregivers and service providers will ensure that each client receives quality care from trained professionals. On-site provider monitoring by trained staff and peer review processes reinforce the commitment to quality care.

Goal: Maintain ongoing communication with ACLS Bureau staff regarding Care Management policies, procedures, and practices.

Region VII AAA will seek opportunities to participate in collaborative Care Management meetings and trainings.

Case Coordination and Support

<u>Starting Date</u>	10/01/2026	<u>Ending Date</u>	09/30/2027
<u>Total of Federal Dollars</u>	\$14,958.00	<u>Total of State Dollars</u>	\$2,640.00

Geographic area to be served

Huron

Specify the planned goals and activities that will be undertaken to provide the service.

Goal: Region VII AAA will complete thorough assessments of each client on the Case Coordination and Support program.

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The initial assessment and reassessments will be completed in accordance with the timeframes established in the Operating Standards.

Goal: Maintain an up-to-date database of resources to ensure appropriate referrals.

The Supports Coordinators will utilize a centralized database of both OAA funded and non-OAA funded resources to refer clients to.

Information and Assistance

<u>Starting Date</u>	10/01/2026	<u>Ending Date</u>	09/30/2027
<u>Total of Federal Dollars</u>	\$0.00	<u>Total of State Dollars</u>	\$61,627.00

Geographic area to be served

All 10 Counties

Specify the planned goals and activities that will be undertaken to provide the service.

The Region VII AAA Information and Assistance database is maintained in a shared drive so that everyone has access, even when working remotely. The information is primarily updated by the supervisor, though all staff have the ability to add new information and remove old items. Staff are encouraged to seek new information and resources on a routine basis. Most information is kept in links to websites, so the newest forms, documents, and information are always utilized.

Goal: Region VII AAA staff in the Information and Assistance department will become certified through Inform USA upon meeting eligibility requirements to do so.

Region VII AAA will continue to provide access to training on various topics in preparation for certification.

Region VII AAA will maintain a centralized, up-to-date referral resource database for consistency and accuracy.

Goal: Provide scheduled and walk-in appointments to accomodate in-person inquiries.

Staff are readily available to assist individuals so they can receive information and resources in real-time.

Outreach

<u>Starting Date</u>	10/01/2026	<u>Ending Date</u>	09/30/2027
<u>Total of Federal Dollars</u>	\$116,497.00	<u>Total of State Dollars</u>	\$0.00

Geographic area to be served

All 10 Counties

Specify the planned goals and activities that will be undertaken to provide the service.

Goal: Increase attendance at events and community collaboration opportunities to form a robust network of resources for older adults.

Region VII AAA's Chief Executive Officer, Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator, and other staff will

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continue to present information about available Home and Community-Based Services for older adults to all local governments, legislators and senators, community partners, businesses, and to the general public to seek additional partnerships and spread awareness.

Goal: Revamp marketing materials and promote age-related campaigns.

Region VII AAA will create and/or revise existing marketing materials to utilize aging-friendly language.

Transportation

<u>Starting Date</u>	10/01/2026	<u>Ending Date</u>	09/30/2027
<u>Total of Federal Dollars</u>	\$9,765.00	<u>Total of State Dollars</u>	\$0.00

Geographic area to be served

All 10 Counties

Specify the planned goals and activities that will be undertaken to provide the service.

Goal: Region VII AAA will ensure that older adults and persons with disabilities within the Region VII AAA PSA are provided transportation based on their individual needs that are not otherwise being met, as funding allows.

Region VII AAA will assist clients in finding affordable transportation from both private and public entities prior to providing transportation to clients.

Region VII AAA will verify that any transportation source used meets or exceeds the standards of Region VII AAA's own transportation system.

Region VII AAA will work with community-based programs to find suitable solutions for those that need transportation and will only be a short notice, ride-of-last resort.

Region VII AAA will work with community-based programs to find suitable solutions for those that need transportation and continue to expand Region VII AAA's program as funding allows.

Care Transition Coordination and Support

<u>Starting Date</u>	10/01/2026	<u>Ending Date</u>	09/30/2027
<u>Total of Federal Dollars</u>	\$11,369.00	<u>Total of State Dollars</u>	\$45,536.00

Geographic area to be served

All 10 Counties

Specify the planned goals and activities that will be undertaken to provide the service.

Region VII Area Agency on Aging expects to continue our highly successful Care Transition Coordination and Support program at the three current hospital sites and continue to seek out further areas of impact. Care Transition Coordination and Support services are currently available in MyMichigan Saginaw, McLaren Central Michigan, and McLaren Bay Region hospital facilities. Care Transition supports include intake, assessment, development of service(s) plan, person centered planning, service arranging, primary care follow-up, medical transportation coordination, red flag warning education, and medication review.

Region VII AAA will continue to work with the communities to help reduce barriers to transitions home from the hospital and to reduce the risk of readmissions.

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Goal: Expand the Care Transition Coordination and Support program to underserved areas.

Region VII AAA will continue to seek grants to support the expansion of the Care Transition Coordination and Support program.

Goal: Community Health Workers, or other health care professional, will provide proactive discharge planning, extensive coaching, and post-discharge support.

The planning and coaching is intended to support adults age 60 or older discharging from a medical care institution to the place they consider to be home and prevent re-institutionalization. The post-discharge support consists of weekly calls for 1 month, then monthly calls for 3 months to ask how the client is doing and answer any questions they may have.

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Direct Service Request

Medication Management

Total of Federal Dollars \$0.00

Total of State Dollars \$47,305.00

Geographic Area Served All 10 Counties

Planned goals, objectives, and activities that will be undertaken to provide the service in the appropriate text box for each service category.

Goal: Provide medication education, review and consultation to older adults.

Objective: Help older adults understand what medications they are taking.

Activities: Discuss what each medication the older adult takes and provide information on why they take each agent.

Goal: Document what each medication the older adult is taking and provide to client.

Objective: Provide education to client on when to take their medications.

Activities: Conduct a thorough review of each medication the older adult is taking.

Goal: Review each medication to ensure safety when the older adult is taking.

Objective: Review for interactions between the medications the older adult is taking.

Activities: Connect with the older adult's medical providers for any concerns identified.

Section 307(a)(8) of the Older Americans Act provides that services will not be provided directly by an Area Agency on Aging unless, in the judgment of the State agency, it is necessary due to one or more of the three provisions described below. Please select the basis for the direct service provision request (more than one may be selected).

(A) Provision of such services by the Area Agency is necessary to assure an adequate supply of such services.

(B) Such services are directly related to the Area Agency's administrative functions.

(C) Such services can be provided more economically and with comparable quality by the Area Agency.

(A) Provision of such services by the Area Agency is necessary to assure an adequate supply of such services.

Provide a detailed justification for the direct service provision request. The justification should address pertinent factors that may include: a cost analysis; needs assessment; a description of the area agency's efforts to secure services from an available provider of such services; or a description of the area agency's efforts to develop additional capacity among existing providers of such services. If the service is considered part of administrative activity, describe the rationale and authority for such a determination.

Region VII Area Agency on Aging has identified that it will provide Medication Management services to older adults as a direct offered service. Region VII AAA has conducted outreach within the community and have not found a suitable credentialed individual or agency to provide this service in the community on a consistent and regular basis, with no regard to the older adults regularly used medical provider or pharmacy. Being able to provide this service directly ensure the service is available while also removing

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any bias in regard to the older adult's care.

Describe the discussion, if any, at the public hearings related to this request. Include the date of the hearing(s).

No questions were asked at the public hearing related to this request. May 19, 2026

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Regional Direct Service Request
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Total of Federal Dollars

Total of State Dollars

Geographic Area Served

Planned goals and activities that will be undertaken to provide the service in the appropriate text box for each service category.

Section 307(a)(8) of the Older Americans Act provides that services will not be provided directly by an Area Agency on Aging unless, in the judgment of the State agency, it is necessary due to one or more of the three provisions described below. Please select the basis for the direct service provision request (more than one may be selected).

- (A) Provision of such services by the Area Agency is necessary to assure an adequate supply of such services.**
- (B) Such services are directly related to the Area Agency's administrative functions.**
- (C) Such services can be provided more economically and with comparable quality by the Area Agency.**

Provide a detailed justification for the direct service provision request. The justification should address pertinent factors that may include: a cost analysis; needs assessment; a description of the area agency's efforts to secure services from an available provider of such services; or a description of the area agency's efforts to develop additional capacity among existing providers of such services. If the service is considered part of administrative activity, describe the rationale and authority for such a determination.

Describe the discussion, if any, at the public hearings related to this request. Include the date of the hearing(s).

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2027–2029 MYP Goals

MYP Goal

A. Enhance the Senior Project Fresh program within our PSA.

State Goal Match: 1

Objectives

Region VII AAA's goal to enhance the Senior Project Fresh program within our PSA ties into the State Plan Goal 1.3 "Improve access to food and nutrition services to ensure older adults can reliably access healthy and affordable food".

Region VII AAA is becoming the lead agency for Senior Project Fresh in our 10-county region.

The objectives are to:

- Assist older adults with enrolling in the program and accessing their benefits
- Troubleshoot any problems that occur
- Collaborate with MDHHS for technical assistance as needed
- Enhance outreach efforts to spread awareness of Senior Project Fresh

Planned Activities

1. Collaborate with MDHHS for technical assistance as needed

Timeline: 10/01/2026 to 09/30/2029

Planned

Region VII AAA staff will reach out to MDHHS for technical assistance.

Expected Outcome

MDHHS will assist Region VII AAA staff in resolving any outstanding benefit issues.

Progress

2. Enhance outreach efforts to spread awareness of Senior Project Fresh

Timeline: 10/01/2026 to 09/30/2029

Planned

Incorporate information about Senior Project Fresh into presentations and outreach conducted by Region VII AAA.

Expected Outcome

The outreach will result in increased awareness and engagement with the Senior Project Fresh program throughout our PSA.

Progress

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3. Assist older adults with enrolling in the program and accessing their benefits

Timeline: 10/01/2026 to 09/30/2029

Planned

Region VII AAA staff will stay up-to-date on the enrollment process to ensure successful enrollments.

Expected Outcome

Region VII AAA staff will guide older adults through the registration process.

Progress

4. Troubleshoot enrollment or benefit errors

Timeline: 10/01/2026 to 09/30/2029

Planned

Region VII AAA staff will assist older adults by troubleshooting enrollment issues and difficulties accessing their benefits.

Expected Outcome

Region VII AAA staff will troubleshoot the reason for denial or difficulty accessing services. If Region VII AAA cannot resolve the issue, staff will reach out to MDHHS for further assistance.

Progress

B. Seek grant and collaborative opportunities to support caregivers.

State Goal Match: 1

Objectives

Region VII AAA's goal to seek grant and collaborative opportunities to support caregivers ties into the State Plan Goal 1.2 "Strengthen direct care systems by expanding and stabilizing the workforce across all settings: HCBS, nursing homes, hospital systems, and other organizations that rely on Direct Care Workers".

Region VII AAA employs a full-time Director of Grants and Administrative Services that continuously explores grants that are available.

Planned Activities

1. Region VII AAA will identify available grant funds and partnerships to support caregivers within our PSA.

Timeline: 10/01/2026 to 09/30/2029

Planned

The Director of Grants and Administrative Services will continuously seek available grants to support caregivers within our PSA.

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Expected Outcome

Funds will be secured to assist caregivers and support the valuable work that they do.

Progress

C. Expand the Care Transitions and Medication Management programs to underserved areas.

State Goal Match: 2

Objectives

Region VII AAA's goal to expand the Care Transitions and Medication Management programs to underserved areas ties to State Plan Goal 2.1 "Create new or expand existing partnerships with public and private community partners, including healthcare providers, to leverage resources, expertise, and funding and to improve cross-sector communication, transitions of care, and access to medical and other services."

The Director of Grants and Administrative Services continuously seeks grant opportunities to support the expansion of the Care Transitions and Medication Management programs to underserved areas.

Planned Activities

1. Region VII AAA will secure any available grant funds to expand the Care Transitions and Medication Management programs to underserved areas of our PSA.

Timeline: 10/01/2026 to 09/30/2029

Planned

Region VII AAA will utilize grant funds and proven statistics to generate interest from hospital systems that do not have these services available currently.

Expected Outcome

Region VII AAA's Care Transitions and Medication Management programs will expand to the Thumb Region.

Progress

D. Seek partnerships and grants to expand dental, vision, and hearing services.

State Goal Match: 2

Objectives

Region VII AAA's goal to seek partnerships and grants to expand dental, vision, and hearing ties into State Plan Goal 2.1 "Create new or expand existing partnerships with public and private community partners, including healthcare providers, to leverage resources, expertise, and funding and to improve cross-sector communication, transitions of care, and access to medical and other services."

Region VII AAA employs a full-time Director of Grants and Administrative Services that continuously explores grants that are available.

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Planned Activities

1. Identify funds that are available to support a dental, vision, and hearing program.

Timeline: 10/01/2026 to 09/30/2029

Planned

The Director of Grants and Administrative Services, as well as other Region VII AAA staff, will continuously seek grant opportunities to cover the costs of dental, vision, and hearing services.

Expected Outcome

Region VII AAA will utilize grant funds, if available, to administer a dental, vision, and hearing program.

Progress

E. Increase our attendance at events and community collaboration opportunities to form a robust network of resources for older adults in our PSA.

State Goal Match: 3

Objectives

Region VII AAA's goal to increase our attendance at events and community collaboration opportunities to form a robust network of resources for older adults in our PSA ties to the State Plan Goal 3 "Enhance pathways for accessing information, so that older adults and their support network, including those of the greatest economic need and greatest social need, are aware of resources.

Planned Activities

1. Region VII AAA will attend a wide-variety of events throughout the PSA to spread awareness of current services and explore collaborative efforts with other community resources.

Timeline: 10/01/2026 to 09/30/2029

Planned

The Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator, along with other Region VII AAA staff, will map out upcoming community events to gain exposure to new community partners and resources.

Expected Outcome

Region VII AAA will have a presence at many community events and explore additional community resources that are available for older adults.

Progress

F. Revamp marketing materials and promote age-related campaigns.

State Goal Match: 4

Objectives

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Region VII AAA's goal to revamp marketing materials and promote age-related campaigns ties to State Plan Goal 4 "Utilize language and messaging that celebrates aging and communicates the strength and value of older adults and those who provide care."

Planned Activities

1. Region VII AAA will revamp marketing materials to utilize more age-friendly language and appeal to diverse groups.

Timeline: 10/01/2026 to 09/30/2029

Planned

Region VII AAA employs a full-time Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator that revises and creates all marketing materials.

Expected Outcome

Region VII AAA will revise its current marketing materials and create new materials, as needed, to utilize more aging-friendly language.

Progress

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Supplemental Documents

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Planned Service Array

Category	Services
Provided by Area Agency	Access • Care Management • Care Transition Coordination and Support • Case Coordination and Support • Information and Assistance • Outreach In-Home • Medication Management Community • Long Term Care Ombudsman
Contracted by Area Agency	Access • Care Management * • Case Coordination and Support * • Outreach * • Transportation In-Home • Chore * • Home Injury Control • Homemaking • Personal Care Community • Assistance to Hearing Impaired & Deaf Community • Disease Prevention/Health Promotion • Home Repair * • Legal Assistance • Long Term Care Ombudsman • Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation • Senior Center Operations * • Senior Center Staffing * Nutrition Services • Carry Out Meals *

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	Nutrition Services • Congregate Meals • Home Delivered Meals Caregivers of Older Adults Services • Adult Day Services * • Caregiver Case Management * • Caregiver Education • Caregiver Supplemental Services • Caregiver Support Groups • Caregiver Training • Respite Care Older Relative (Kinship) Caregiver Services • Kinship Caregiver Supplemental Services
Local Millage Funded	Access • Care Management * • Care Transition Coordination and Support • Outreach * • Transportation * In-Home • Chore * • Homemaking * Community • Home Repair * • Legal Assistance * • Senior Center Operations * • Senior Center Staffing * Nutrition Services • Carry Out Meals * • Congregate Meals • Home Delivered Meals Caregivers of Older Adults Services • Caregiver Education * • Caregiver Supplemental Services * • Caregiver Support Groups * • Caregiver Training *

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	Caregivers of Older Adults Services • Respite Care * Older Relative (Kinship) Caregiver Services • Kinship Caregiver Supplemental Services
Participant Private Pay	In-Home • Assistive Devices & Technologies • Home Care Assistance • Home Health Aide • Home Injury Control Community • Assistance to Hearing Impaired & Deaf Community • Counseling Services • Health Screening • Vision Services
Funded by Other Sources	In-Home • Home Health Aide Nutrition Services • Nutrition Counseling • Nutrition Education Caregivers of Older Adults Services • Adult Day Services • Caregiver Education • Caregiver Support Groups • Caregiver Training

* Not PSA-wide

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Program Development Spending Plan
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Does the MYP budget reflect the use of Program Development funds?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe how the funds will be used.

Service funds are used for program development and coordination activities for manager-level and above staff within the Agency. This may include, but is not limited to, developing current service offerings to better serve our Service Area, consideration of additional/different service offerings based on participant need, forecasting and planning for Agency growth as a recipient of OAA funds, and management of staff directly or indirectly providing current service offerings.

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Advocacy Strategy

Please describe the following:

1. How will the AAA monitor, evaluate, and comment on policies, programs, hearings, levies, and community actions which affect older individuals and family caregivers which the area agency considers to be aligned with the interests identified in the Act?

Region VII AAA maintains awareness of relevant issues through ongoing engagement with local, regional, and state partners, including participation in advisory councils, coalitions, local government meetings, professional associations, and statewide aging networks. Staff monitor proposed legislation, administrative policy changes, funding initiatives, and local ballot measures that may impact aging services, caregiver supports, healthcare access, transportation, housing, and long-term services and supports.

Input from client feedback, community needs surveys, service utilization data, care coordination staff, and contracted providers is used to evaluate how policies and community actions affect older adults, particularly those with the greatest social and economic need. This information identifies potential service gaps, barriers, or unintended impacts.

When appropriate, Region VII AAA provides comments, testimony, letters of support or concern, and data-informed feedback to policymakers, local decision-making bodies, and partner organizations. Region VII AAA also collaborates with other Area Agencies on Aging, advocacy organizations, and community partners to elevate shared priorities and promote coordinated advocacy.

Through education, participation in public forums, and engagement in statewide advocacy activities, Region VII AAA ensures that the perspectives of older adults and caregivers are represented and that community actions and policy decisions support independence, dignity, equity, and aging in place across the PSA.

2. How will the AAA solicit comments from the public on the needs of older individuals and family caregivers?

Region VII AAA solicits comments from the public on the needs of older individuals and family caregivers through multiple, accessible engagement methods designed to reach diverse communities across the PSA.

Public input is gathered through community needs surveys, focus groups, and stakeholder meetings that invite feedback from older adults, caregivers, service providers, and community partners. Survey tools are made available in non-digital and digital formats to ensure participation by individuals with limited internet access or digital literacy.

Region VII AAA also collects community feedback through in-person outreach and public events, including senior expos, health fairs, presentations, and listening opportunities at community centers, faith-based organizations, tribal facilities, and housing sites. Information and assistance staff and care coordinators regularly capture input during client interactions and service referrals.

Draft Area Plans and MYP documents are made available for public review and comment, with notice provided through community partners, postings, and direct outreach. Opportunities for comment include written submissions and verbal feedback during public hearings.

Input collected from the public is reviewed and incorporated into planning decisions to identify and address

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service gaps, prioritize funding, and guide program development. Through these varied and inclusive strategies, Region VII AAA ensures that the voices of older adults and family caregivers meaningfully impact planning and service delivery across the PSA.

3. How will the AAA represent the interests of older individuals and family caregivers to local level and executive branch officials, public and private agencies, or organizations?

Region VII AAA represents the interests of older individuals and family caregivers by serving as a trusted advocate and liaison with local governments, executive branch officials, public agencies, and private and nonprofit organizations throughout the PSA.

Data-driven advocacy is a valuable tool for drawing on community needs surveys, service utilization trends, consumer feedback, and care coordination insights to identify priorities and communicate the real-world impacts of policies and funding decisions. Region VII AAA shares these findings with local and state officials to assist with decision-making and highlight unmet needs, service gaps, and emerging issues affecting older adults and caregivers.

Representation occurs through active participation in local government meetings, advisory boards, coalitions, public hearings, and planning forums, where Region VII AAA staff provide testimony, input, and recommendations on issues related to aging services, transportation, housing, healthcare access, caregiver support, and long-term services and supports.

Region VII AAA also collaborates with state agencies, healthcare systems, county partners, and community organizations to ensure the perspectives of older adults are incorporated into program development and system improvements. When appropriate, Region VII AAA submits letters of support or concern, participates in statewide advocacy initiatives, and coordinates messaging with other Area Agencies on Aging and aging-focused organizations.

Through these efforts, Region VII AAA ensures that the voices of older adults and family caregivers are represented in policy discussions and that community actions and systems align with the Older Americans Act goals of independence, dignity, equity, and aging in place.

4. How will the AAA consult with and support the State's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program?

Region VII AAA assists the State with administering the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program throughout the Region V AAA and Region VII AAA planning service areas to protect the rights, well-being, and interests of older adults receiving long-term services and supports within the PSA.

Region VII AAA maintains ongoing communication and coordination with the Ombudsman Program to ensure effective referrals, information sharing, and timely resolution of concerns related to long-term care settings, including nursing facilities, assisted living, and home and community-based services. Region VII AAA staff routinely inform individuals, families, and caregivers about the role of the Ombudsman and how to access advocacy services.

Region VII AAA supports the Ombudsman Program by promoting awareness of resident rights and Ombudsman services through outreach activities, educational materials, and community presentations. This includes collaboration to identify systemic issues and trends affecting consumers, which may impact policy recommendations and planning efforts.

Region VII AAA ensures that Ombudsman activities remain independent and free from conflict of interest,

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while facilitating collaboration where appropriate to improve consumer access to advocacy and complaint resolution.

Through consultation, referral coordination, outreach, and shared planning, Region VII AAA supports the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in advancing resident protections, informed decision-making, and quality long-term care across the PSA.

5. How will the AAA coordinate with public and private organizations, including units of general-purpose local government to promote new or expanded benefits and opportunities for older individuals and family caregivers?

Region VII AAA coordinates with a wide range of public and private organizations, including units of general-purpose local government, to promote new and expanded benefits and opportunities for older adults and family caregivers across the PSA.

Region VII AAA builds and maintains collaborative relationships with county and municipal governments, commissions and departments on aging, health departments, community action agencies, healthcare systems, veterans' agencies, tribal organizations, faith-based groups, and nonprofit service providers. Through regular communication, joint planning efforts, and participation in coalitions and advisory groups, Region VII AAA shares information about emerging needs, service gaps, and opportunities to enhance or expand aging services.

Coordination occurs through referral partnerships, shared outreach efforts, and joint training or education initiatives, allowing organizations to align services, leverage funding, and reduce duplication. Region VII AAA works with local governments and community partners to promote access to benefits such as nutrition programs, transportation, caregiver supports, health promotion, housing assistance, and long-term services and supports.

Region VII AAA also promotes new or expanded opportunities by disseminating information through community events, public meetings, health fairs, and educational presentations, and by integrating partner programs into information and assistance, options counseling, and care coordination activities. Feedback from partners and the community is used to identify opportunities for service expansion and innovation.

Through these coordinated efforts, Region VII AAA strengthens service networks, enhances community capacity, and helps ensure older adults and caregivers are aware of and able to access benefits and opportunities that support independence, health, and aging in place.

6. How will the AAA take a leadership role in the PSA to assist communities in targeting resources from all appropriate sources to meet the needs of older adults and family caregivers with greatest economic and social need, particularly low-income minorities?

Region VII AAA takes a leadership role within the PSA by assisting communities in targeting and leveraging resources from all appropriate sources to meet the needs of older adults and family caregivers with the greatest economic and social need, including low-income minorities, rural residents, and other underserved populations.

Region VII AAA utilizes data-driven planning, including demographic analysis, community needs surveys, service utilization data, and input from frontline staff and community partners, to identify populations at higher risk of poverty, isolation, poor health outcomes, and limited access to services. These findings are shared with local governments, service providers, and community organizations to guide resource allocation, program

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development, and funding priorities.

Region VII AAA convenes and participates in community coalitions, advisory councils, and planning groups, bringing together public and private partners such as commissions and departments on aging, community action agencies, health departments, tribal organizations, faith-based groups, and nonprofit providers. These partnerships help communities coordinate funding sources, align services, and reduce duplication while expanding reach to those most in need.

Region VII AAA provides leadership by promoting equitable service delivery strategies, including targeted outreach, non-digital communication, culturally appropriate engagement, and flexible service models that reach low-income individuals, minority populations, and residents of rural or underserved areas. Coordination with benefit programs, nutrition assistance, transportation services, housing resources, and caregiver supports helps ensure comprehensive responses to complex needs.

Through advocacy, technical assistance, shared planning, and continuous community engagement, Region VII AAA strengthens local capacity to direct resources where they are most needed and advances the Older Americans Act goals of equity, access, independence, and aging in place for older adults and family caregivers across the PSA.

7. How will the AAA work with other aging network providers, including other AAAs, in coordinated effort?

Region VII AAA works collaboratively with other aging network providers, including other Area Agencies on Aging, to ensure a coordinated, efficient, and person-centered system of services for older adults and family caregivers across the PSA and statewide.

Region VII AAA maintains active coordination with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, supporting referral pathways, information sharing, outreach, and collaborative identification of systemic issues affecting residents of long-term care and individuals receiving home- and community-based services. This coordination strengthens consumer protections and ensures older adults and caregivers are informed of advocacy resources.

Region VII AAA works closely with county divisions and commissions on aging to align service planning, coordinate outreach, share data on emerging needs, and leverage local resources. These partnerships support consistent service delivery, reduce duplication, and expand access to nutrition, transportation, caregiver support, and social engagement programs at the local level.

Region VII AAA coordinates with partners by participating as a lead agency for Senior Project Fresh to promote food security and access to fresh, healthy foods for income-eligible older adults. Collaboration includes outreach, referrals, and education integrated into information and assistance, nutrition services, and community events.

Region VII AAA also participates in collaborative efforts such as the Michigan Community Care Collaborative, working with healthcare systems, community-based organizations, and other AAAs to improve care transitions, strengthen service coordination, and assist with social determinants of health for high-risk older adults.

Region VII AAA engages in statewide and regional AAA meetings, workgroups, and planning forums, coordinating cross-PSA referrals and sharing best practices, training opportunities, and innovative service models. Through these coordinated efforts with aging network partners, Region VII AAA enhances system

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integration, expands service reach, and ensures older adults and family caregivers receive seamless, equitable support that promotes independence and aging in place.

Planning and Service Area Aging Landscape

1. Describe notable changes in trends since the last MYP providing a picture of potentially eligible service population.

Since the last Multi-Year Plan, Region VII AAA has experienced continued and measurable changes in the characteristics and needs of the population eligible for services. The most significant trend is the steady growth of the age 60+ population across all counties, driven by aging Baby Boomers and increased longevity. This growth is occurring in both urban and rural areas, resulting in higher overall demand for aging services. The population is aging in place within homes, multi-unit housing, and subsidized housing at higher rates which is increasing the need for home and community-based services that support independence, home safety, and caregiver assistance.

There has been a noticeable rise in acuity and service complexity. More individuals are presenting with multiple chronic conditions, mobility limitations, cognitive decline, and need for caregiver services. This has led to greater demand for care coordination, medication management, transportation, and dementia-related services.

Economic insecurity among older adults has become more pronounced, particularly for individuals on fixed incomes facing rising costs for housing, utilities, food, and healthcare. This trend has resulted in increased reliance on nutrition services and emergency assistance referrals when benefit interruptions occurred.

Survey and service data reflect growing concerns related to social isolation and loneliness, compounded by health limitations and transportation barriers. In addition, limited digital literacy and broadband access remain significant barriers for many older adults, reinforcing the continued need for non-digital outreach and in-person service access.

Overall, these trends show that the potentially eligible service population is larger, older, more diverse, and experiencing more complex and interconnected needs than in the previous MYP. These changes underscore the growing importance of coordinated, equitable, and community-based aging services to support independence and quality of life across the Region VII AAA PSA.

2. Describe how the AAA coordinates a comprehensive system of aging services within the PSA.

Region VII AAA offers a robust variety of services for older and disabled adults.

Region VII AAA coordinates a comprehensive system of aging services across the PSA by providing leadership, planning, funding, and oversight for OAA programs. This includes the use of needs assessments, demographic data, and stakeholder input to guide service priorities and resource allocation. Services are delivered through a network of contracted providers offering nutrition, transportation, in-home supports, caregiver assistance, health promotion, and care coordination. Region VII AAA ensures quality and accountability through annual assessments and fiscal oversight.

Region VII AAA's Information and Assistance department utilizes a network of resources to connect individuals with necessary services. Beyond the array of OAA funded services, Region VII AAA directly offers services such as MI Choice Waiver, Community Transition Services, State Health Insurance Assistance Program, transportation, Options Counseling, and more.

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3. Describe ways in which the AAA is informing, educating and advocating within their communities.

Region VII AAA employs a full-time Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator that has attended 62 community events within the past year. Region VII AAA staff have also participated in numerous community events, health fairs, senior expos, cultural festivals, safety days, and educational presentations across all PSA counties, ensuring consistent visibility and direct engagement with older adults, caregivers, families, and community partners.

Through these events, Region VII AAA provides education on available aging services, benefits, caregiver support, nutrition programs, dementia resources, health promotion, disease prevention activities, and long-term care options. Presentations and informational booths at senior centers, housing sites, tribal facilities, faith-based organizations, libraries, schools, healthcare settings, and community centers allow staff to deliver accurate, accessible information and respond directly to questions and concerns.

Region VII AAA informs older adults and caregivers by distributing printed materials, offering one-on-one assistance, and making referrals to OAA services and community resources. Outreach efforts intentionally include rural communities, tribal populations, veterans, culturally diverse groups, and individuals with limited digital access, reinforcing commitment to equity and accessibility.

Advocacy occurs through active participation in local government meetings, health conferences, veteran-focused events, and statewide advocacy days for the elevation of issues affecting older adults, identifying service gaps, and strengthening partnerships. Feedback gathered during outreach contributes to the shaping of service planning, program improvements, and MYP priorities.

Maintaining a visible presence at a wide range of community-based events throughout the PSA builds trust, increases awareness of aging services, promotes informed decision-making, and advocates for systems and policies that support independence, health, and aging in place.

**4. Describe what home and community-based Medicaid services are available within the PSA.
(Examples: PACE, MI Choice Waiver, etc.)**

The following home and community-based Medicaid services are available within the 10 county Region VII AAA PSA:

Two Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) centers, with a third PACE center covering a portion of two counties

Two MI Choice Medicaid Waiver agents

Four Community Transition Services (CTS) agencies

Within the PSA, older adults and eligible individuals with disabilities have access to a range of Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) that support aging in place and help prevent or delay nursing facility placement. These services are primarily delivered through Michigan's MI Choice Waiver Program, Medicaid State Plan services, and related long-term services and supports.

Available HCBS include in-home assistance with activities of daily living (such as bathing, dressing, and

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mobility), instrumental supports (meal preparation, housekeeping, and errands), personal emergency response systems, home modifications, respite care, and skilled nursing or therapy services as authorized. Care coordination and case management are central components, ensuring services are person-centered and responsive to changing needs.

Behavioral health supports, adult day services, transportation for medical needs, and caregiver support services are also available for eligible participants. These services are delivered by a network of community-based providers and are coordinated with OAA-funded programs to maximize continuity of care.

Together, Medicaid HCBS and OAA services form a complementary system within the PSA that promotes independence, supports family caregivers, addresses health and functional needs, and enables older adults to remain safely in their homes and communities whenever possible.

5. Describe other significant initiatives and grants leveraged by the AAA. (Examples: MI Options, SCSEP, MHEP, etc.)

Region VII AAA's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is among the largest in the state with a slot count of 30 participants.

The Region VII AAA MI Options program was among the first to begin accepting referrals. Region VII Area Agency on Aging leverages multiple state and federal initiatives and grant programs to strengthen the aging services network and expand supports beyond core Older Americans Act funding.

MI Choice Waiver / MI Options

Region VII AAA supports Michigan's MI Choice Waiver Program by coordinating MI Options counseling, which provides person-centered information, assessment, and referrals for long-term services and supports. This initiative helps older adults and caregivers understand care options and supports informed decision-making to promote aging in place.

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

Through Medicare counseling and outreach, Region VII AAA supports older adults in navigating Medicare, Medicaid, prescription drug coverage, and related benefits. This initiative helps reduce healthcare costs, prevent coverage gaps, and improve access to needed care.

Caregiver Support Initiatives

Region VII AAA leverages caregiver support funding to expand education, respite, counseling, and supplemental services that reduce caregiver stress and sustain family caregiving arrangements.

Employment and Economic Stability Initiatives (SCSEP)

Region VII AAA collaborates with the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) partners to support older adults seeking employment, training, and income opportunities, promoting economic stability and continued community engagement.

Health Promotion and Prevention Initiatives (MHEP and Similar Grants)

When available, Region VII AAA leverages health-focused grants such as the Michigan Healthy Aging or Healthy Living initiatives to expand evidence-based disease prevention, chronic disease self-management, fall prevention, and mental wellness programs.

Community and Innovation Grants

Region VII AAA pursues and partners on additional grants that support nutrition, transportation, caregiver

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support, dementia education, and service coordination. These initiatives allow Region VII AAA to pilot new approaches, address emerging needs, and enhance equity across urban and rural areas.

Together, these initiatives strengthen capacity to deliver a coordinated, flexible system of services that supports independence, improves health outcomes, and responds to the evolving needs of older adults and caregivers across the PSA.

6. a. Describe how the AAA addresses unmet needs by referring individuals to organizations such as Commissions/Councils on Aging, Departments on Aging, Health Care Organizations/Systems, Veterans Agencies, Tribal Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, Public Health, Mental Health, Community Action Agencies, Legal Assistance and Elder Rights Programs, etc.

Region VII AAA addresses unmet needs by coordinating referrals to a broad network of community partners that expand access to services beyond OAA-funded programs. Through information and assistance, options counseling, and care coordination, Region VII AAA identifies individual needs and connects older adults and caregivers to appropriate local, state, and community resources.

Referrals are made to county commissions and departments on aging for supplemental local services; veterans' agencies for benefits, healthcare, and supportive services; and tribal organizations where applicable to ensure culturally appropriate support. Region VII AAA also partners with faith-based organizations and community action agencies to address food insecurity, utility assistance, housing stability, and emergency needs.

To support health and well-being, Region VII AAA coordinates referrals to public health and mental health providers, including behavioral health services, substance use supports, and chronic disease resources. Legal assistance providers are utilized to address issues such as benefits access, housing concerns, advance directives, and elder rights.

Through these coordinated referral pathways, Region VII AAA reduces service gaps, avoids duplication, and ensures older adults receive comprehensive, person-centered support that promotes independence and aging in place across the PSA.

6. b. How does the AAA foster relationships with these community partners?

Region VII AAA fosters strong working relationships with community partners through regular communication, collaboration, and shared planning efforts. This includes the engagement of commissions and departments on aging, veterans' agencies, tribal organizations, faith-based groups, public health and mental health agencies, community action agencies, and legal assistance providers as integral parts of the aging services network.

Partnerships are supported through ongoing referral coordination, participation in local coalitions and advisory groups, joint outreach and educational activities, and information sharing to improve service alignment. Region VII AAA promotes mutual understanding of roles and eligibility requirements to ensure timely, appropriate referrals and reduce service gaps.

Region VII AAA also incorporates partner input into needs assessments and planning processes and maintains open dialogue to address emerging issues affecting older adults. Through these collaborative relationships, Region VII AAA strengthens system capacity, enhances service coordination, and expands access to comprehensive supports that promote independence and aging in place across the PSA.

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7. Describe how the AAA identifies veterans during intake and coordinates veteran-related support services and/or referral programs with appropriate veteran agencies.

Region VII AAA identifies veterans and their spouses or surviving spouses during intake, information and assistance, and care coordination processes by consistently asking standardized questions related to military service. This ensures veteran status is recognized early and appropriate supports can be explored as part of person-centered planning.

When veteran status is identified, targeted information is provided and referrals to veteran-specific resources, including county and state veterans' service agencies, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and community-based veteran organizations are completed. Referrals may address benefits counseling, healthcare access, long-term care options, caregiver support, transportation, housing stability, and financial assistance.

Region VII AAA coordinates with veterans' agencies to support access to services such as Aid and Attendance benefits, VA healthcare enrollment, mental health services, and specialized supports for aging or disabled veterans. Staff assist with navigating eligibility requirements and connect veterans and caregivers to trained benefits counselors or accredited representatives when appropriate.

By integrating veteran identification into intake procedures and maintaining active referral relationships with veteran service organizations, Region VII AAA ensures veterans and their families receive timely, coordinated access to benefits and services that support independence, well-being, and aging in place across the PSA.

8. Describe services that address incidence of hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition, physical and mental conditions and/or self-direction. [See OAA 306(a)(16) (42 U.S.C. 3026(a)(16)).]

Region VII AAA addresses the incidence of hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition, physical and mental health conditions, and promotes self-direction through a coordinated system of home and community-based services delivered throughout the PSA.

Nutrition and Food Security

Region VII AAA supports access to nutritious meals through congregate meal programs and home-delivered meals, targeting older adults who are homebound, socially isolated, or at nutritional risk. Nutrition screening and education are incorporated to support healthy aging and prevent malnutrition. Referrals are made to community food resources and emergency food assistance to further address food insecurity.

Physical and Mental Health Supports

Older adults are supported through evidence-based health promotion programs, Case Coordination and Support, and referrals to healthcare, public health, and mental health providers. Services address chronic disease management, fall prevention, medication adherence, and behavioral health needs. Region VII AAA coordinates with mental health agencies to support individuals experiencing depression, anxiety, cognitive decline, or substance-related concerns.

Supportive Services and Self-Direction

In-home services such as personal care, homemaking, and respite care assist older adults with daily activities and help maintain independence. Information and assistance, options counseling, and care coordination empower individuals to make informed choices about their care and service options.

Self-direction is supported by honoring participant preferences, cultural considerations, and individual goals when developing service plans.

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Integrated Approach

By coordinating OAA and community-based services, Region VII AAA addresses the interconnected nature of nutrition, health, and functional needs. This comprehensive approach reduces risk of institutionalization, promotes dignity and autonomy, and supports older adults in remaining safely in their homes and communities across the PSA.

9. Describe how the AAA or its subcontractors are maintaining the fidelity of the health promotion/disease prevention programs.

Region VII AAA and its subcontractors maintain fidelity for evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention programs by adhering to program model requirements and established implementation standards.

Program fidelity is supported through approved, evidence-based curricula, delivered as designed without unapproved modifications. Instructors and facilitators are required to complete appropriate training and certification provided by program developers or authorized trainers and participate in refresher training as needed.

Region VII AAA ensures fidelity through contractual expectations, ongoing technical assistance, and monitoring activities that include documentation review, participant feedback, and outcome reporting. Subcontractors are required to track attendance, completion rates, and required program components to confirm compliance with model standards.

Data collection and reporting are used to evaluate program quality and effectiveness, while continuous communication between Region VII AAA and its providers allows for timely issue identification and corrective action if fidelity concerns arise.

Through these measures, Region VII AAA ensures that health promotion and disease prevention programs are delivered consistently, remain evidence-based, and achieve intended outcomes that support healthy aging across the PSA.

10. Describe how the AAA promotes health promotion/disease prevention programs to maximize community awareness and participation.

Region VII AAA promotes health promotion and disease prevention programs to maximize awareness and participation through coordinated outreach, education, and community partnerships across the PSA.

Region VII AAA works with contracted providers, commissions on aging, senior centers, healthcare partners, and community organizations to publicize evidence-based programs using print materials, newsletters, community calendars, presentations, and local events. Outreach efforts prioritize non-digital methods while also using websites, email, and social media when appropriate to reach a broader audience.

Information and assistance staff, care coordinators, and community partners actively promote programs during client interactions and referrals, ensuring older adults and caregivers are informed of relevant opportunities. Targeted outreach focuses on populations at higher risk of chronic disease, falls, social isolation, or limited access to services, including rural residents and individuals with mobility or transportation barriers.

By integrating program promotion into routine service delivery, leveraging trusted community partners, and using accessible, culturally appropriate messaging, Region VII AAA supports strong participation in health

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promotion and disease prevention programs that advance healthy aging across the PSA.

11. Describe Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders programs and education that the AAA offers and/or supports.

Region VII AAA supports individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders (ADRD), as well as their caregivers, through education, care coordination, and community-based supports designed to promote safety, independence, and quality of life.

Region VII AAA provides Information and Assistance to help individuals and families understand ADRD, plan for care needs, and access available services. Case Coordination and Support assists individuals experiencing cognitive decline by linking them and their caregivers to appropriate in-home services, respite care, and long-term supports as needs progress.

Region VII AAA offers and supports caregiver education and training, including workshops, support groups, and evidence-based programs focused on understanding dementia, managing behavioral symptoms, communication strategies, and caregiver stress management. Education is provided through partnerships with commissions on aging, senior centers, healthcare providers, and community organizations.

Region VII AAA also coordinates referrals to specialized ADRD resources, including memory care services, behavioral health providers, public health agencies, and legal assistance for advance planning and decision-making. Outreach efforts emphasize early identification, caregiver support, and culturally appropriate, non-digital education to reach underserved and rural populations.

Through these combined efforts, Region VII AAA strengthens community capacity to respond to ADRD, supports caregivers in their critical role, and helps individuals with dementia remain safely in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

12. Does the AAA administer a senior millage in the PSA?

☐ Yes ☒ No

13. Are there any counties or townships in the PSA in which the AAA is working with the local officials to initiate potential senior millage? If yes, please describe:

☐ Yes ☒ No

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Greatest Economic and Greatest Social Need

Please describe the following:

1. How the AAA defines Greatest Economic and Greatest Social need for the PSA.

Region VII AAA defines Greatest Economic Need and Greatest Social Need in accordance with OAA and applies these definitions consistently across the PSA to guide planning, outreach, and service prioritization.

Greatest Economic Need

Greatest Economic Need refers to older individuals who have limited financial resources, including those living at or near the federal poverty level or on fixed incomes that are insufficient to meet basic needs. Within the PSA, this includes older adults who:

- Have low household income or rely primarily on Social Security or other fixed benefits
- Experience difficulty affording housing, utilities, food, healthcare, or medications
- Are cost-burdened by rising expenses for housing, energy, food, or medical care
- May be eligible for or participating in public assistance programs

Economic vulnerability increases the risk of food insecurity, health decline, housing instability, and reliance on publicly funded services.

Greatest Social Need

Greatest Social Need refers to older adults whose circumstances place them at higher risk of isolation, reduced access to services, or diminished quality of life. In the PSA, this includes individuals affected by one or more of the following factors:

- Rural residence with limited transportation or service availability
- Social isolation, loneliness, or limited family or caregiver support
- Minority status, including racial, ethnic, tribal, or cultural communities
- Limited English proficiency, low literacy, or limited digital access
- Disabilities, chronic health conditions, or cognitive impairments
- Residence in communities with limited services or infrastructure
- Vulnerability related to age, health status, or living conditions

Application in the PSA

Region VII AAA uses these definitions, along with demographic data, community needs surveys, service utilization trends, and staff and community partner input, to prioritize outreach and target services to older adults and caregivers with the greatest economic and social need. Particular emphasis is placed on low-income individuals, minorities, rural residents, tribal members, and those experiencing isolation or functional limitations.

By applying these definitions consistently, Region VII AAA ensures that limited resources are directed to those most at risk and advances OAA goals of equity, access, independence, and dignity for older adults and family caregivers across the PSA.

2. How the AAA educates the public, its partners, and service providers on the Older Americans Act expectations regarding targeting older adults with greatest economic and greatest social need.

Region VII AAA educates the public, community partners, and service providers on OAA requirements related

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to targeting older adults with the greatest economic and greatest social need through a combination of public engagement, provider training, outreach, and ongoing communication.

Public Education and Engagement

Region VII AAA ensures transparency and public awareness of OAA priorities through robust outreach efforts related to planning and service delivery. Region VII AAA conducts extensive advertising of its Multi-Year Plan (MYP) public hearing, using multiple accessible platforms, including newspapers, social media, printed postings at nutrition meal sites, the Region VII AAA lobby bulletin board, and targeted electronic communications such as Vendor View messages to all MI Choice Waiver providers. Flyers are also distributed to Advisory Council and Board of Directors members to encourage broad community participation.

The Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator plays a key role in educating the public by attending widespread community events, health fairs, senior expos, and cultural gatherings, and by conducting informational presentations throughout the PSA. These activities emphasize eligibility priorities, available services, and Region VII AAA's focus on reaching individuals with the greatest need.

Education and Training for Service Providers

Region VII AAA ensures that contracted service providers understand and comply with OAA targeting requirements through structured and ongoing training. All service providers are required to attend a mandatory annual training that covers OAA expectations, including the definitions of greatest economic and greatest social need, service prioritization, equitable access, and documentation requirements.

Additional education is provided through Spring and Fall nutrition meetings hosted by Region VII AAA's Registered Dietitian, where providers receive guidance on nutrition risk, vulnerable populations, and service delivery approaches that prioritize those most at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. These meetings reinforce the importance of targeting services to low-income, isolated, and health-compromised older adults.

Ongoing Technical Assistance and Partner Education

Region VII AAA offers year-round technical assistance to service providers and partners upon request. Technical assistance addresses questions related to targeting, eligibility, outreach strategies, and service delivery challenges. Information and assistance staff, care coordinators, and outreach personnel further reinforce OAA priorities through regular communication with partners and during referral coordination. Through these combined efforts—public outreach, provider training, stakeholder engagement, and continuous technical support—Region VII AAA ensures that OAA expectations regarding targeting individuals with the greatest economic and social need are clearly understood and consistently applied across the PSA.

3. AAA's strategy to target priority populations for greatest economic and greatest social need.

Region VII AAA uses a data-informed, person-centered, and equity-focused strategy to target services and resources to older adults and family caregivers with the greatest economic and greatest social need across the PSA.

Data-Driven Identification and Planning

Region VII AAA employs multiple data sources to identify priority populations, including demographic trends, poverty and income indicators, community needs surveys, service utilization data, and input from frontline staff and community partners. This information is analyzed by county and community to identify concentrations of low-income older adults, minorities, rural residents, individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing isolation or limited access to services. Findings guide funding allocations, service design, and outreach strategies.

Targeted Outreach and Engagement

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Region VII AAA prioritizes outreach to individuals most at risk through non-digital, community-based engagement methods. Outreach occurs at nutrition sites, senior housing, rural communities, tribal facilities, faith-based organizations, health fairs, and community events. Printed materials, in-person presentations, and direct assistance are emphasized to reach individuals with limited digital access, low literacy, or transportation barriers. Outreach efforts intentionally include minority populations, veterans, and those living alone or in geographically isolated areas.

Service Prioritization and Coordinated Access

Through information and assistance, options counseling, and care coordination, Region VII AAA prioritizes access to services for individuals with the greatest need. Staff assess economic, social, health, functional, and caregiver factors to ensure that services such as nutrition, transportation, in-home supports, caregiver assistance, and benefits navigation are directed first to those most vulnerable. Referrals are coordinated with Medicaid HCBS, local commissions on aging, community action agencies, and other partners to maximize support and avoid service gaps.

Provider Expectations and Accountability

Contracted service providers are required to comply with OAA targeting requirements. Region VII AAA reinforces these expectations through mandatory annual provider training, nutrition meetings, technical assistance, monitoring, and performance review. Contracted service providers are expected to demonstrate how services reach priority populations and to adjust outreach and delivery methods when disparities or unmet needs are identified.

Continuous Feedback and Adjustment

Region VII AAA uses consumer feedback, advisory council input, and ongoing monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of targeting strategies. Information gathered through outreach and service delivery is used to refine priorities, adjust service levels, and strengthen partnerships that serve low-income, socially isolated, and underserved older adults.

Through these coordinated strategies, Region VII AAA ensures that limited resources are directed to older adults and family caregivers with the greatest economic and social need, advancing OAA goals of equity, access, independence, and dignity throughout the PSA.

4. How the AAA's Advisory Council assisted in targeting individuals with greatest economic and greatest social need. [See OAA § 1321.63(b)]

In accordance with OAA, Region VII AAA's Advisory Council plays an integral role in assisting with targeting older adults and family caregivers with the greatest economic and greatest social need.

The Advisory Council is composed of members who reflect the geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic diversity of the PSA. This includes representatives of older adults, caregivers, service providers, and community stakeholders. This composition ensures that perspectives of low-income individuals, minorities, rural residents, and underserved populations are represented in planning discussions.

The Advisory Council assists in targeting by:

- Reviewing community needs assessment findings, demographic data, and service utilization trends to help identify priority populations and emerging unmet needs.
- Providing input on the MYP and AIP updates and service priorities, with specific attention to whether proposed strategies effectively reach older adults with the greatest economic and social need.
- Advising on outreach strategies to improve access for individuals facing barriers such as poverty, isolation,

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limited transportation, disability, language barriers, or limited digital access.

- Reviewing public comments and community feedback, including input received during public hearings, and offering recommendations to ensure services remain equitable and responsive .

- Assisting in identifying service gaps or disparities based on lived experience, community knowledge, and partner feedback.

Advisory Council members also serve as community liaisons, sharing information about AAA services and OAA priorities within their networks and bringing forward concerns and observations from the communities they represent.

Through ongoing consultation, review, and input, the Advisory Council strengthens Region VII AAA's ability to target resources effectively, ensure compliance with OAA requirements, and advance equitable access to services for individuals with the greatest economic and social need across the PSA.

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Coordination to Serve Native American Elders and Family Caregivers

Please describe the following:

1. Methods for collaboration on and sharing of program information and changes.

Region VII AAA will collaborate with leadership, elder councils, and Title VI program staff of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan through proactive and transparent communication. Collaboration methods include:

- Sharing program information, service updates, and policy changes via email, newsletters, and direct outreach.
- Providing advance notice of program or service changes that may affect Native elders.
- Coordinating with designated Tribal contacts to ensure information is shared in culturally appropriate and timely ways.
- Engaging Tribal partners in planning discussions related to service delivery, system improvements, and unmet needs impacting Tribal elders.

2. How services will be provided in a culturally appropriate and trauma-informed manner.

Region VII AAA is committed to ensuring services are delivered in a culturally appropriate and trauma-informed manner for elders of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. This includes:

- Training staff and contractors on cultural humility, Tribal sovereignty, and the effects of historical and intergenerational trauma.
- Respecting Tribal customs, values, and communication preferences.
- Providing elder-centered services that emphasize dignity, choice, independence, and respect.
- Coordinating with Tribal programs to avoid duplication of services and support continuity of care.

3. Communication opportunities that service providers will offer to Title VI programs, such as participation in meetings, inclusion on email distribution lists, and presentation opportunities.

Region VII AAA will provide consistent communication opportunities for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan's Title VI program, including:

- Inclusion on AAA email distribution lists for program updates, meeting notices, and service announcements.
- Invitations to participate in AAA-hosted meetings, forums, and stakeholder discussions.
- Opportunities for AAA staff to present information on Title III services at Tribal or Title VI meetings and events, upon request.
- Identification of a designated AAA staff contact to support ongoing coordination and communication.

4. Opportunities to serve on advisory councils, workgroups and boards. AAAs please note whether your policy and advisory boards have tribal representation.

Region VII AAA values Tribal representation and meaningful participation in governance and planning activities. We are pleased to note that a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan currently serves on Region VII AAA's Board of Directors, ensuring Tribal perspectives are included in policy development, planning, and decision-making.

Additional opportunities for participation include:

- Invitations for Tribal representatives and elders to serve on advisory councils, workgroups, and planning committees.
- Ongoing outreach to Tribal partners to encourage participation in leadership and advisory roles.
- Engagement of Tribal representatives in discussions related to service priorities, outreach strategies, and system improvements impacting Native elders.

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Region VII AAA will continue to support and strengthen Tribal representation as opportunities arise and remains committed to inclusive, transparent governance.

5. How service providers will provide outreach to Tribal elders and family caregivers regarding Title III services for which they may be eligible.

Region VII AAA outreach efforts focus on increasing awareness of available OAA Title III services and strengthening communication with Tribal elders and service providers. These efforts may include:

- Sharing information about Title III services, eligibility, and access points with the Tribe's Title VI program and other Tribal departments.
- Participation in Tribal community events, elder gatherings, health fairs, and informational sessions, when invited.
- Providing culturally appropriate informational materials and direct staff contact to support access to services beyond Title VI.
- Ongoing communication with Tribal staff to ensure Native elders are informed of new or expanded services.

6. Is there a Federally Recognized Tribe within your PSA?

☒ Yes ☐ No

7. How Title VI programs may refer individuals for Title III services.

Region VII AAA will support referrals from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan's Title VI program to Title III services by:

- Providing clear referral pathways and designated points of contact.
- Sharing eligibility criteria and intake procedures with Tribal staff.
- Ensuring referrals are handled respectfully, confidentially, and based on informed consent.
- Coordinating with Tribal programs to support integrated, non-duplicative service delivery.

8. Describe any current and future collaborative efforts with Tribe(s) within the PSA including any anticipated outreach efforts.

Within the Program Service Area (PSA), Region VII AAA is committed to respectful, consultative engagement with Tribal Nations and Tribal-serving entities. Current efforts focus on maintaining open lines of communication and coordination where relationships exist, ensuring activities are supportive of Tribal priorities and do not duplicate or conflict with Tribal programs.

Existing collaboration activities include:

- Outreach to Tribal leadership, Tribal councils, or designated Tribal contacts to share information about available programs and services.
- Participation in meetings, consultations, or community discussions when requested or invited by Tribal partners.
- Coordination with Tribal departments or service providers to align services, referrals, and messaging where appropriate.
- Consideration of culturally appropriate approaches in program planning and service delivery.

These efforts are guided by respect for Tribal sovereignty, governance structures, and community-identified needs.

During the MYP period, Region VII AAA will work to strengthen and expand collaborative relationships with Tribes within the PSA. Planned efforts include:

- **Relationship Building:** Proactive but respectful outreach to Tribes within the PSA to establish or enhance working relationships.
- **Consultative Planning:** Offering opportunities for Tribal input during planning and review of programs that may impact Tribal members.
- **Coordination of Services:** Exploring opportunities for coordinated or complementary activities to

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maximize impact and reduce duplication.

- **Formal Agreements (as appropriate):** Assessing the feasibility of MOUs or similar agreements to clarify roles, expectations, and shared goals when mutually beneficial.

All planning activities will be flexible and responsive to Tribal guidance, timelines, and preferences for engagement.

During the AIP period, anticipated collaboration and outreach activities may include:

- Direct outreach (email, phone, or letter) to Tribal governments or designated contacts within the PSA to introduce or reaffirm program availability.

- Sharing program information, eligibility criteria, and referral pathways with Tribal partners.

- Participation in Tribal-hosted meetings, events, or planning sessions when invited.

- Incorporating feedback received from Tribal partners into program implementation, as feasible.

Activities will be documented as part of ongoing monitoring and continuous improvement efforts.