

2026 Title III: Freeborn County

Special Older Americans Act Fund Availability Announcement

Southeastern Minnesota Area Agency on Aging (SEMAAA)

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Contact:

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Timeline	
Deadline to submit applicant interest and intent:	November 19, 2025
Pre-application Q&A and technical assistance period:	November 13-26, 2025
Application period opens:	November 20, 2025
Last day to submit questions:	November 26, 2025
Applications due:	December 4, 2025, at 4:00pm
Applicants informed of award decisions:	December 15, 2025
Services begin (as early as):	January 1, 2026

Overview

SEMAAA invites proposals for Older Americans Act (OAA) III-B and III-E services for delivery to begin as early as January 1, 2026, in Freeborn County. This special 2026 Request for Proposal is an open invitation to nonprofits and for-profit agencies (with special approval by SEMAAA and the Minnesota Board on Aging) for the purpose of providing support services to people 60 years of age and older in Freeborn County. The following proposals will not be accepted: joint applications, applications that include subcontracts, and applications submitted by individuals.

Please note that this is a competitive grant round. Interested parties should submit interest and intended programs in writing to anna@semaaa.org before November 19, 2025, to begin the pre-application process and receive an invitation to the appropriate application(s).

Funding Details

Awarded applicants will be eligible to receive OAA funds for calendar year 2026. Applicants may renew for 2027, with SEMAAA's next open competitive grant round to take place for 2028. Renewal is contingent upon adequate performance, fund availability, and compliance.

Total 2026 Title III funds available for grants in Freeborn County:

- **III-B Supportive Services** - \$46,605
- **III-E Family Caregiver** - \$14,327

Service Definitions and Priorities

Title III-B Supportive Services

- **Assisted Transportation**

Services or activities that provide or arrange for the travel, including travel costs, of individuals from one location to another. This service includes escort or other appropriate assistance for a person who has difficulties (physical or cognitive) using regular vehicular transportation. Provides a gentle arm for assistance from the first door of the rider's residence, to any type of vehicle and from the vehicle to the first door of the destination. Assistance with mobility devices and other types of assistance to ensure the older individual is supported within this service delivery.

Assisted Transportation Program Details:

- Registered Service
- Subject to Cost Sharing and Voluntary Contribution requirements
- Measurement Unit: One-Way Rides

- **Chore**

Performance of heavy household tasks (including but not limited to washing floors, windows and walls; basic home maintenance; or moving or removal of large household furnishings and heavy appliances) provided in a person's home and possibly other community settings. Tasks may include yard work or sidewalk maintenance in addition to heavy housework.

Services must be provided by staff employed by the agency or volunteers.

Chore Program Details:

- Registered Service
- Subject to Cost Sharing and Voluntary Contribution requirements
- Measurement Unit: Hours

- **Homemaker**

Performance of light housekeeping tasks provided in a person's home and possibly other community settings. Tasks may include assistance such as preparing meals, shopping for food and other personal items, managing money, answering or making telephone calls/other electronic communication or doing light housework (including but not limited to laundry).

Services must be provided by staff employed by the agency or volunteers.

Homemaker Program Details:

- Registered Service
- Subject to Cost Sharing and Voluntary Contribution requirements
- Measurement Unit: Hours

- **Information Assistance**

A service that:

- Provides the individuals with current information on opportunities and services available to the individuals within their communities, including information related to assistive technology;
- Assesses the problems and capacities of the individuals;
- Links the individuals to the opportunities and services that are available;
- To the maximum extent practicable, ensures that the individuals receive the services needed by the individuals, and are aware of the opportunities available to the individuals, by establishing adequate follow-up procedures; and
- Serves the entire community of older individuals – particularly older individuals with greatest social need; older individuals with greatest economic need; and older individuals at risk for institutional placement.

Information and assistance topics include, but are not limited to: Medicare, long-term care insurance, prescription drug programs, forms assistance and pension rights. Information and

assistance services can be provided through county coordinators on aging, Minnesota Aging Pathways, or individual advocacy.

Information Assistance Program Details:

- Unregistered Service
- Exempt from Cost Sharing requirements (prohibited)
- Subject to Voluntary Contribution requirements
- Measurement Unit: Contacts

Applications for other III-B services may be considered as appropriate.

Title III-E Family Caregiver Services

- **Caregiver Respite**

A service which offers temporary, substitute supports, care, supervision or living arrangements for care recipients. It provides a brief period of relief or rest for caregivers. Caregiver Respite must be provided by screened and trained agency volunteers.

Caregiver Respite Program Details:

- Registered Service
- Subject to Cost Sharing and Voluntary Contribution requirements
- Measurement Unit: Hours

- **Caregiver Counseling**

A service designed to support caregivers and assist them in their decision-making and problem solving. Counselors are service providers that are degreed and/or credentialed as required by state policy, trained to work with older adults and families and specifically to understand and address the complex physical, behavioral and emotional problems related to their caregiver roles. Title III-E funded Caregiver Consultants will conduct a Caregiver Minimum Assessment with caregivers receiving ongoing support. Caregiver Consultants meet the Minnesota Board on Aging Title III-E Caregiver Consultant Standards and Competencies. This includes counseling to individuals or group sessions. Counseling is a separate function apart from support group activities or training.

Caregiver Counseling Program Details:

- Registered Service
- Subject to Cost Sharing and Voluntary Contribution requirements
- Measurement Unit: Hours

- **Caregiver Support Groups**

A service that is led by a trained individual, moderator, or professional, as required by state policy (moderators should have experience working with family, friends, and/or neighbors caregiving and older adults, strong interpersonal skills, and access to regular supervision or consultation from a trained professional with comparable training or experience), to facilitate caregivers to discuss their common experiences and concerns and develop a mutual support system. Support groups are typically held on a regularly scheduled basis and may be conducted in person, over the telephone, or online. For the purposes of Title III-E funding, caregiver support groups would not include “caregiver education groups,” “peer-to-peer support groups,” or other groups primarily aimed at teaching skills or meeting on an informal basis without a facilitator that possesses training and/or credentials as required by state policy.

Caregiver Support Group Program Details:

- Registered Service
- Subject to Cost Sharing and Voluntary Contribution requirements
- Measurement Unit: Sessions

Applications for other III-E services may be considered as appropriate.

Registered vs Non-Registered Services

Providers of registered services must agree to specific data collection and reporting requirements using the National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) forms. Clients receiving these services must have an initial and ongoing annual assessment using the NAPIS form, which includes collecting demographic and needs data. Participant data and monthly unit reporting must be entered into PeerPlace data application. Awarded applicants will be required to cover the cost of PeerPlace setup and licensing as applicable, which is an allowable expense under Title III and can be included in budget submissions.

Non-registered services do not require the completion of a NAPIS form or PeerPlace licensing but instead include, but are not limited to, Persons Served and units of service to be tracked by the awarded provider. These programs are still subject to data tracking, including generic demographic information, among other reporting requirements.

Target Populations

Title III-B: Individuals must be 60 years of age or older to be eligible for any OAA III-B Supportive Services.
Title III-E: Caregivers eligible for OAA Title III-E services include adults (18+) who are informal providers of in-home and community care to individuals age 60+ (or individuals with documented Alzheimer’s disease or related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction).

Awarded applicants will be responsible for ensuring the eligibility of service participants for reimbursement. Units reported for ineligible participants will be removed and may result in increased program oversight or termination of funding.

OAA requirements instruct providers to target services to older adults with the greatest economic and social need. Target populations identified by the OAA include: low-income older adults, minority individuals, those with limited English proficiency, older adults at risk for institutional placement, and individuals residing in rural areas.

Financial Stability and Oversight

Applicants will be subject to a Pre-Award Risk Assessment (PARA), completed by SEMAAA prior to final award. The purpose of this assessment is to confirm financial stability and ensure adequate internal controls are in place to safeguard public funds and protect the interests of the federal government and the State of Minnesota, in accordance with updates to the Older Americans Act (OAA) Final Rule.

Please note that no subcontracts will be allowable for these services. All tasks must be completed by organization staff or volunteers, with no third-party participation.

Match Requirements

A non-federal match is the portion of project costs not paid by federal funds. It represents the grantee's financial contribution toward the total cost of the project and demonstrates shared investment in achieving program goals.

Awarded applicants that receive federal Title III funding must contribute non-federal resources as a match. Allowable match sources can include city or county grants, agency cash, in-kind contributions, or other non-federal funding sources as approved by SEMAAA in compliance with state and federal guidelines.

III-B Supportive Services match requirement: **15%**

III-E Family Caregiver match requirement: **25%**

Cost Sharing and Client Contributions

Under the Older Americans Act (OAA), older adults may support the cost of services through voluntary contributions or cost sharing.

Voluntary Contributions

All service recipients must be offered the opportunity to contribute voluntarily toward the cost of services. Contributions must be entirely voluntary and free from pressure or coercion. Suggested contribution levels should reflect the actual cost of services and be encouraged from individuals with incomes at or above 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. Services may not be denied or reduced based on an individual's ability or willingness to contribute.

Cost Sharing

MBA requires the use of cost sharing, as permitted under Section 315(a) of the OAA, to expand service capacity and diversify funding. Cost sharing is determined using a sliding fee scale based on gross income and the cost of the service. Cost sharing is prohibited for individuals at or below the federal poverty level or persons receiving services through a Medicaid Waiver Program, Alternative Care Program, or Essential Community Supports Program. Providers must clearly inform clients of the service description, its value, and their opportunity to contribute. No client may be denied service due to inability or unwillingness to share in the cost.

For a full list of services requiring or prohibiting cost sharing, refer to [MBA Policy #15: Voluntary Contributions](#) and [MBA Policy #16: Cost Sharing](#), and/or contact SEMAAA's Grants Manager for guidance.

Use of Contributions

All revenue from cost sharing and voluntary contributions must supplement, not replace, existing funding and be used to expand service delivery.

Reporting

SEMAAA will monitor Title III activities through the following methods, including, but not limited to:

- Monthly reporting for Registered Services, to be submitted and/or entered into PeerPlace no later than the 10th of each month following service delivery.
- Quarterly reporting of financial, program, and statistical reports and data for all programs.
- Periodic on-site visits, conducted annually at minimum.
- Financial reconciliations and requests for special reports/data.
- Review of client satisfaction.

Information for Applicants

Services proposed in the application must align with the applicant organization's demonstrated capacity to deliver them. Providers must maintain ongoing compliance with all applicable requirements, including but not limited to nondiscrimination, civil rights compliance, insurance certification, and reasonable

accommodations for older adults with disabilities, individuals with limited English proficiency, and those with vision or hearing impairments.

Awarded applicants must accept the terms and conditions outlined in OAA/MBA/SEMAAA Assurances and Certifications as a condition of award. All grant terms are subject to change based on updates to the Final Rule, or as required by changes in state or federal regulations or legislation.

Compliance issues that conflict with the laws, regulations, and policies of the federal government, MBA, or SEMAAA; lack of financial accountability; fraud; unapproved subcontracts; failure to provide required services; noncompliance with reporting requirements; or any form of misrepresentation may result in suspension or termination of funding. Applicants have the right to appeal in accordance with MBA policy.

Selection Process

SEMAAA's Advisory Committee and Board of Directors will each convene to review applications received by the **deadline of December 4, 2025, at 4:00 pm**. Proposals will be selected that best meet the needs of the older adult population of Freeborn County while providing strong narrative service plans and demonstrating organizational capacity, financial stability, integrity, logistics, and thoughtfulness. Applications must support eligible individuals in the described service area. Further refinements may need to be made to proposals based on available funds, service outcomes, and Final Rule implementations. SEMAAA staff will notify all applicants of funding decisions.

Interested organizations must submit a written notice specifying their program/service interest to anna@semaaa.org no later than November 19, 2025, to initiate the pre-application process and receive an invitation to the appropriate application(s).

