

# Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) Summary

Fiscal Year 2025

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Our mission is to serve and advocate for older persons, adults with disabilities and caregivers by supporting their independence, dignity, and quality of life.

## Who we are and who we serve

### Part of an Aging Network:

- Federal: The Administration on Aging (AoA) awards funds for nutrition and supportive home and community-based services to 56 State Units on Aging based primarily on the number of persons 60 years of age and over in the state.
- State: The State Units on Aging (SUAs) award funds to 629 Area Agencies on Aging.
- Local: The Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) determine the needs of older persons locally and work to address those needs through the funding of local services and through advocacy. AAAs are required to prioritize funding for those with greatest social and/or economic need with particular attention to low-income minority individuals.

### The Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan (AAANM):

- A private, nonprofit agency which operates under the framework of the federal Older Americans Act and the state Older Michigianians Act.
- Designated as an Area Agency on Aging in 1974 by the State Unit on Aging (SUA), Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA), now known as the Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau).
- One of 16 AAAs in Michigan.
- Serves as a Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan (PAHP) administering the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program.
- Serves ten counties located in northwest lower Michigan: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties (Region 10).
- Places special emphasis on reaching the following older individuals:
  - Those residing in rural areas
  - With the greatest economic need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals)
  - With the greatest social need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals)
  - With severe disabilities
  - Who are Native Americans
  - With limited English proficiency
  - With Alzheimer's disease or related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction, and the caregivers of such individuals

### Key relationships and strategic partnerships:

- Commissions and Councils on Aging (COA) serve as visible focal points for aging services in their county, deliver a variety of home and community-based services to older adults, and advocate on aging issues and funding for senior services.

- Disability Network Northern Michigan (DNNM) works closely with AAANM to share information and resources to support older adults and persons with disabilities.
- AAANM supports local transportation initiatives including Wexford New Freedom Transportation program and the Grand Traverse/Leelanau Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA) senior transportation advisory committee. These agencies work diligently to address the transportation needs of older adults in these communities.
- AAANM recognizes the crisis level need for available, accessible, and affordable housing in northwest Michigan, and that the fastest growing homeless population is those over the age of 55. AAANM supports the efforts of the Coalition to End Homelessness and Goodwill in short- and long-term strategies to address homelessness. Additionally, AAANM partners with Housing North and is a Steering Committee member of the Northwest Michigan Regional Housing Partnership, an effort of MSHDA to expand availability of housing throughout the State.
- The Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA) is currently the largest meal provider/contractor of AAANM and has performed in that role for many years. In addition, a close referral relationship exists between AAANM and NMCAA.
- Access to food to promote health and to address food insecurity is a recognized need in northwest Michigan. AAANM participates in a number of efforts to support and advance the infrastructure of food systems for those in need.
- Policy and infrastructure in Michigan to address Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) is rapidly evolving. AAANM supports multiple statewide efforts and policy discussions to better align healthcare and social care to meet individuals where they are and find long term solutions for HRSN. AAANM, on behalf of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan, is a member of the recently formed State Community Information Exchange (CIE) Advisory Committee. The CIE Advisory Committee is charged with developing recommendations to support electronic data exchange in the Community Benefit Organization (CBO) space and appropriate alignment with healthcare data exchange requirements.
- AAANM is represented on a variety of regional committees and collaboratives including but not limited to, Michigan Model Vulnerable Adult committee (MVP), Family Support Team (FST), Partners and Collaboration for Kalkaska Seniors (PACKS), BATA Local Advisory Committee, WexExpress Transportation Advisory Committee, Regional Quality Collaborative, Grand Traverse-Leelanau Death Review Committee, Northwest Michigan Regional Housing Partnership Steering Committee, Manistee Human Services Collaborative Body (HSCB), Missaukee/Wexford Human Services Leadership Council (HSLC), Antrim-Charlevoix-Emmet Seniors (ACES) Collaborative, Senior Networking Advocacy Group (SNAG), Bay Area Senior Advocates (BASA), Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region (NMCHIR), Silver Key Coalition, and the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan (4AM).

## **What we do**

AAANM has approximately forty staff, consisting of Access and Eligibility Specialists, Registered Nurses, Social Workers, a Dietitian, a Housing Specialist, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Medicaid Specialist, Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program Coordinator, and other administrative/program support staff.

AAANM staff provide a combination of services including long-term services and supports case management and home and community-based services coordination. These services are targeted towards older adults at risk of or qualifying for nursing home placement. Additionally, AAANM staff provide navigation of community information and resources, Medicare/Medicaid options and caregiver support.

In addition to direct service provision, AAANM coordinates a regional system of home and community-based services partnering with and funding local agencies (COAs, in-home health care providers, and more) through contracts and/or Purchase of Service agreements to provide Long Term Supports and Services.

AAANM has a valued history with each COA in northwest Michigan. In addition to receiving Federal and State funding through AAANM, each COA has an approved senior millage. These resources help stretch State and Federal funding to meet the service needs identified in the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP), as well as sustain vital community services for older adults that are not funded under the AIP. That said, the need for services has outpaced the availability of Federal/State funding and millage dollars in many counties.

## **Advocacy Efforts**

A key priority of Area Agencies on Aging is advocating for older adults and caregivers. In FY25, AAANM advocacy efforts will focus on:

- Funding to adequately staff the ratio of Long-Term Care Ombudsman to long term care facility beds
- Increased State funding for In-Home services and senior nutrition programs
- Raising awareness of the consequences of the 1 mil cap on senior millages
- Rebalance funding between nursing homes and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) programs and increase the Medicaid asset limit (currently \$2,000) so that more Michigan residents can qualify for HCBS programs
- Successful reauthorization of the Older Americans Act

## Summary of proposed service provision/funding for FY25 AIP

1. AAANM plans to provide the following services directly using allocated Older Americans Act (OAA) and Older Michiganians Act (OMA) funding (as previously approved under the FY23-25 Multi-Year Plan/FY24 Annual Implementation Plan unless denoted as a new Service Definition request).

### Access Services:

- Information & Assistance
- Case Coordination & Support
- Care Management
- Self-Determination Option for Case Coordination & Support or Care Management, with Fiscal Intermediary (previously approved Regional Service Definition)

### Community Services:

- **Caregiver Education\***
- **Caregiver Training\***
- **Caregiver Support Groups\***
- Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (IIID funding)
- Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention
- Nursing Home Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Special Needs Gap Filling (previously approved Regional Service Definition)

***\*Caregiver Education, Training and Support was previously approved for AAANM to provide under the FY23-25 Multi-Year Plan (MYP) and FY24 AIP as one service definition. In FY25, the State of Michigan will implement these services as three distinct definitions. AAANM may or may not implement these definitions in FY25.***

2. AAANM plans to continue the provision of In-home Services via Purchase of Service agreements.

### In-Home Services:

- Assistive Devices and Technologies
- Chore
- Friendly Reassurance
- Homemaking
- Medication Management
- Personal Care
- Private Duty Nursing (previously approved Regional Service Definition)
- Respite Care

3. AAANM plans to continue previously approved Community Services through subrecipient grantee/contractor agreements.

Nutrition Services:

- Congregate Meals
- Home Delivered Meals
- **Carry Out Meals\*\***

**\*\*Carry Out Meals is a new service request with the FY25 AIP. Carry Out Meals is a newly approved State Service Definition in FY25. This Service Definition was initiated in response to the pandemic and has been formally codified by the State of Michigan and the Federal Administration for Community Living.**

Community Services:

- Adult Day Services (MATF funding requirements)
- Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (IIID funding)
- Kinship Support Services (required 9% III-E funding allocation)
- Legal Assistance (required 6% III-B funding allocation)

**Program Development priorities for the FY25 AIP**

AAANM will focus on maintaining existing programs and services provided directly, and those funded by AAANM through subrecipient/contract relationships and/or Purchase of Service agreements with local agencies and providers.

AAANM will continue work on the following Program Development goals in FY25 (as previously approved under the FY23-25 Multi-Year Plan/FY24 Annual Implementation Plan):

Goal 1: Continue to evaluate and implement programming to maximize ACLS Bureau funding streams for greatest community benefit and reduce wait lists.

- Continue to identify operational improvements (Information and Assistance/Intake functions) to reduce call wait time and improve more timely access to services.
- Evaluate the impact of providing "tiered" care management service levels in reducing wait lists and providing levels of care to meet people where they are.
- Develop plan for use of IIID funding that maximizes impact for older adults and caregivers.

Goal 2: Maintain and strengthen regional capacity to support paid and unpaid caregivers of older adults and persons with disabilities.

- Continue to promote Self-Determination worker option for Care Management and MI Choice Waiver to help alleviate workforce shortage to provide in-home care.
- Continue to support caregivers with a focus on caregivers of persons with dementia.

Goal 3: Improve the accessibility of services for veterans, Black, Indigenous (Tribal), and People of Color (BIPOC), and LGBTQ+ older adults and caregivers.

- Continue outreach efforts to veterans, Black, Indigenous (Tribal), and People of Color (BIPOC), and LGBTQ+ older adults and caregivers by providing information on AAANM available programs and services, care coordination, resources, and support referrals.
- Ensure that AAA staff and subrecipient/contractors are trained in diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Ensure that culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach is directed to non-English speaking persons and that providers are trained to adapt to diverse cultural needs.