

Virtual Programming Requirement Information and Guidelines for Certified Senior Centers (11/2020)

Purpose: The purpose of senior center virtual programming is to connect and create an interactive experience for participants and older adults in the community to be engaged in widely available activities, conversation, or instruction offered through a senior center to alleviate loneliness and address social isolation.

Delivery: DAAS will not require the use of a specific platform(s). The delivery method should be accessible by some form of electronic equipment including, but not limited to computers, tablets, cell phones or home phones.

Delivery methods allowed:

- Video or phone conference meetings (caregivers support, grief support, book club, etc.).
- Web based live interactive activities, special events, and advocacy events, etc.
- Collaborating with other senior centers to offer programming as described above.

Certification Requirements Summary:

DAAS expects all certified senior centers meet the following minimum requirement, respective of their certification status, for virtual programming.

Excellence – 1 occurrence weekly as a regularly scheduled activity AND 1 occurrence monthly as a special event or other

Merit – 1 occurrence monthly as a regularly scheduled activity, special event, or other

Implementation: This policy goes into effect on January 1, 2021. This will coincide with the release of the updated 2021 version of the SCOPE tool and Instructions, which will include a question(s) that captures this new requirement.

Expectation and Waiver Requests: If you will be unable to meet the requirement by January 1, 2021, please notify Leslee Breen by email, with your Area Agency on Aging copied, prior to this date. Your email should include an explanation as to why the requirement cannot be met at this time.

Once DAAS has been notified a six-month grace period will be granted. At the end of the six-month grace period DAAS will follow up with the center to check on its status and will advise how to proceed.

If the center still cannot meet the requirement after the six-month grace period, they must request a waiver as described below.

The senior center should follow these steps if the virtual programming requirement cannot be met at the end of the six-month grace period. The center should submit a waiver request, including the answers to the following questions, with their AAA copied, to Leslee Breen at DAAS.

Please explain why the center cannot meet the virtual programming requirement at this time. Include the following information:

- Why were you unable to meet the requirement within the initial grace period/ first year of implementation?
- What options were considered? If no options were explored, please state “N/A” and explain why. If options were explored but were unsuccessful, please describe why.
- Please provide a detailed plan for meeting this requirement, including a timeline.

If the submitted information is deemed justified a waiver of one year may be granted so the center can work toward meeting the requirement.

Example Timeline: *January 1-June 30, 2021 (no waiver required)*

July 1-Jan 1, 2022 under a six-month waiver

Jan 1, 2022-Jan 1, 2023 one-year waiver

DAAS Support and Assistance: DAAS will support senior centers by:

-Hosting/offering webinar series on different virtual platforms and service software

-Exploring additional collaborative efforts with Healthy Aging NC to utilize their current website for cross posting of available virtual programs

-Add virtual programming components to Module 5 of the Ann Johnston Institute for Senior Center Management

-Ongoing technical assistance and sharing of relevant information

-Working with the Senior Center Alliance to offer advocacy or other activities that can count toward the requirement and certification.

Additional Information: If you need additional information or have any questions please contact Leslee Breen at leslee.breen@dhhs.nc.gov or Selena Royal at Selena.royal@dhhs.nc.gov.