**NC DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES**

**Service Operations**

**SFY 2024 AAA SELF-ASSESSMENT:**

**FOCUS ON CAREGIVER RESPITE AND SENIOR NUTRITION SERVICES**

Caregiver Respite Services

Clients supported by regular funding for FCSP respite and/or Project C.A.R.E. respite may receive up to $2,500 per fiscal year in assistance through both programs (Administrative Letter No. 12-07). This annual cap was imposed to foster collaboration across respite programs with limited funding. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Administrative Letter No. 22-02 provided flexibility for a combined ARPA cap of $3,500 for FCSP respite and supplemental services. In addition, the normal 20% cap on FCSP Supplemental Services was waived for ARPA funding. Blending funding sources and using additional flexibility during the COVID-19 pandemic may have supported meaningful caregiver respite and other support services during a period of notable workforce shortages. While no agency complains about too much flexibility in support of person-centered services, the challenge is for multiple agencies and programs to coordinate services and also assure that caps are not exceeded.

1. Describe the process that caregiver support staff use to assure a seamless transition when referring caregivers from one program to another across FCSP, Project C.A.R.E., and Lifespan Respite services. What elements of this process were put in place to assure that the respite cap will not be exceeded?

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1. Please describe how the direct care workforce shortage has impacted the ability to provide respite in the AAA’s planning and service area. Did blended funding, coordination across agencies and programs, ARPA flexibilities, or any other strategy help address these challenges? Provide specific examples if applicable.

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Senior Nutrition Services

The senior nutrition program is a large and complicated operation in normal times, and the statewide program experienced major disruptions during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Please provide a big-picture overview of the meal program in the AAA’s service area, especially food preparation arrangements and current monitoring concerns if applicable. The purpose of these brief program descriptions is to help state staff to establish priorities for oversight and support. These descriptions do not have to be comprehensive reports, but please provide basic information about each county’s meal program as currently funded by both HCCBG and ARPA funding. Submit them as Attachment A to this AAA Self-Assessment in a format of the AAA’s choosing.

1. Give a brief overview of the congregate nutrition program in each county, such as:

* Number of congregate nutrition sites expected to be operational in FY24?
* Whether any sites are closed and why? Plans for reopening?
* Food preparation – cooked onsite – catered, delivered in bulk, and plated onsite – delivered pre-plated (no food prep onsite)?
* Any arrangements for drive-through, carry-out, or grab-and-go meals? If yes, describe the program including opportunities for congregating virtually while eating the meal at home.
* Any special monitoring concerns in FY24?

1. Give a brief overview of the home-delivered nutrition program in each county, such as:

* Number of HDN routes expected to be operational in FY24?
* Food preparation – cooked onsite and packaged for delivery – delivered in bulk for plating onsite – catered/hot meals delivered pre-plated for distribution (no food prep onsite) – catered/delivered pre-plated and frozen (no food prep onsite)?
* Any special monitoring concerns in FY24?

DAAS 10-31-23

**SFY 2024 SERVICE OPERATIONS AAA SELF-ASSESSMENT**

**ATTACHMENT A:**

**SENIOR NUTRITION SERVICES**

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