

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Commissioner's Office
11 State House Station
109 Capitol Street
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 287-3707; Fax: (207) 287-3005
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
FROM: Office of Aging and Disability Services
DATE: March 22, 2021
RE: Responding to questions re: LD 485

Is Maine drawing down the maximum amount of federal funding for meals on wheels allowed under the OAA given our demographics?

Yes. Appropriations for the Older Americans Act programs is determined by the US Administration for Community Living using an approved funding formula that is service population based.

How much funding does Maine have to provide to draw down that federal funding for meals on wheels?

The current state matching funds required is a minimum 5% of the total service costs. For FY21 the current state match is \$183,334.00.

The testimony mentioned that the ACL has indicated that an extension beyond September 30, 2021 might occur – would this allow for additional funding or an extension to the funding already received or allocated? If it is the latter, how much funding might still be available?

We have yet to receive information regarding extensions for current COVID related CARES Act federal funding. The Consolidated Appropriations Act funding is currently working its way through the encumbrance process and these funds will be available to the AAA's until Sept of 2022. The amount of funding that each AAA may have available is dependent on several factors: the initial allocation, the number of requests for meals, number of meals delivered, and the number of individuals moving on and off the program. The department has yet to receive the American Rescue Act HDM's allocation however, it is our understanding that these funds will be available until fully expended.

What was the expansion in federal eligibility guidelines during the pandemic?

In accordance with the U.S. Administration for Community Living's guidance on their COVID-19 website¹ and the CARES Act, the eligibility requirements for home delivered meals funded under these two Acts are the person must be: (1) age 60 and above (or a person with a disability under age 60 who resides with people receiving home delivered meals); and (2) be an individual unable to obtain nutrition because the individual is homebound by reason of illness or practicing social distancing due to the emergency.

¹ www.acl.gov/covid-19

Who is currently eligible that would no longer be eligible when the pandemic is over (or the funding depleted)?

Once the pandemic ends, those who are currently receiving HDM's in order to "practice social distancing due to the emergency" (listed in criteria above) will no longer be eligible for the program.