



Date: February 17, 2026

Re: 2nd Notice of Funding Availability: FY 2027-2030 Request for Proposals – Nutrition Services

This notice is being sent to all organizations that currently receive funding through AgeOptions, and to all organizations on AgeOptions' "Interested in Funding" list.

This notice of available grant funds is for the following Federal Older Americans Act programs and services administered by AgeOptions (the designated Area Agency on Aging for Cook County, Illinois outside the municipal boundaries of the City of Chicago):

Nutrition Services:

- Congregate Meals (*funded through Federal Older Americans Act Title III-C1*)
- Home Delivered Meals (*funded through Federal Older Americans Act Title III-C2 and Illinois General Revenue Funds*)
- Meal Kits (*funded through Illinois General Revenue Funds*)

This notice is an official statement that AgeOptions will seek proposals for the above referenced services to be provided in suburban Cook County, Illinois. The complete Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued in early March 2026 per the projected timeline detailed below. The complete RFP outlines the Area Agency's planning principles, funding plans, basic and general requirements, scoring criteria, and service standards.

AgeOptions is seeking proposals from public, private not-for-profit, or proprietary organizations in Fiscal Year 2027 (for the period October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027) under the AgeOptions Area Plan on Aging. AgeOptions reserves the right to extend these grants for additional years based on availability of funding, performance of recipients and agreement of recipient agencies to such an extension. Applicants will be expected to clearly identify the programs/services and geographic area for which they are applying in the application.

The RFP will allow applicants to use outside caterers OR to use their own kitchens for meal preparation. If applicants propose using an outside caterer, they may choose from a list of approved caterers. The list of approved caterers will be included in the Nutrition RFP accompanying documents. Any organization that hopes to use a specific outside caterer should encourage that caterer to contact AgeOptions for inclusion on the approved caterer list.

Please note that the Request for Proposal and accompanying documents will be posted to the AgeOptions online grants portal (Smart Simple). Information about how to access RFP/documents in Smart Simple will be published in the “Notice of Funding Availability: Request for Proposals” which will be issued around March 2, 2026. It is the potential applicant’s total and sole responsibility to assure receipt of the Request for Proposal.

Applicants need to review all materials to ensure that requirements are understood. AgeOptions reserves the right to issue clarifications of any of the requirements outlined in these documents. Such clarifications will be binding on all applicants.

Technical Assistance

Please plan to join us for a technical assistance session to learn more about the process. All sessions will be conducted via Zoom. The sessions will be held as follows:

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| Identical Technical Assistance Sessions – REQUIRED (choose 1 of the 3 sessions below). All potential applicants should attend one of these Technical Assistance Sessions. The March 9 th session is open to all but geared to first-time applicants. |
| March 9, 2026 (2:00-4:00 pm) Click here: March 9 ZOOM link Meeting ID: 881 1264 7308 Passcode: 545605 One tap mobile +13092053325,,88112647308#,,,,*545605# US +13126266799,,88112647308#,,,,*545605# US (Chicago) |
| March 11, 2026 (1:30-3:00 pm) Click here: March 11 ZOOM link Meeting ID: 865 9941 4628 Passcode: 514206 One tap mobile +13092053325,,86599414628#,,,,*514206# US +13126266799,,86599414628#,,,,*514206# US (Chicago) |
| March 12, 2026 (9:00-10:30 am) Click here: March 12 ZOOM link Meeting ID: 813 2493 7027 Passcode: 490220 One tap mobile +13126266799,,81324937027#,,,,*490220# US (Chicago) +13092053325,,81324937027#,,,,*490220# US |

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| Final Question and Answer session (no agenda) |
| April 6, 2026 (2:00-3:00 pm) Click here: April 6 ZOOM link Meeting ID: 859 1191 1855 Passcode: 461422 One tap mobile +13126266799,,85911911855#,,,,*461422# US (Chicago) +13092053325,,85911911855#,,,,*461422# US |

Available Funds

Funds are based on revenue projections for FY 2027 from the Illinois Department on Aging. The following may decrease or increase based on available revenues for Fiscal Year 2027: annual Federal and State appropriations; changes in the Federal Inter-State

Funding Formula to Illinois; and/or changes in the share of funds retained by the Illinois Department on Aging; and/or adjustments and any changes in the Illinois Department on Aging intrastate funding formula for the distribution of funds.

Non-Discrimination Statement

AgeOptions does not discriminate in admission to program or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; The Age Discrimination Act; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and the U.S. and Illinois Constitution. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have the right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department on Aging. For information, call 1-800-252-8966 (voice and TDD) or contact the AgeOptions Civil Rights Coordinator at 708-383-0258.

Projected Timeline

| Activity | Date |
|---|---|
| Request for Proposal Issued | March 2, 2026 |
| New Applicant Technical Assistance Session – WEBINAR | March 9, 2026 2:00-4:00pm |
| Technical Assistance Sessions (identical sessions) - WEBINARS | March 11, 2026 1:30-3:00pm March 12, 2026 9:00-10:30am |
| Grants Portal account requests due (new applicants only) | April 1, 2026 by 4:59pm |
| Final Technical Assistance Session (open Q&A) – optional, WEBINAR | April 6, 2026 2:00-3:00pm |
| Applications due online (fully submitted in AgeOptions Grants Portal) | April 10, 2026 by 4:59pm Central Time |
| Requested application edits due | TBD, approximately 3 business days after request |
| Final day to retract an application | May 10, 2026 |
| Award Announcement | Around July 1, 2026 |
| FY27 Budget updates to reflect awards | August 21, 2026 |
| Service Begins | October 1, 2026 |

Questions?

Please e-mail rfp@ageoptions.org.

The Area Agency on Aging of Suburban Cook County, since 1974

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