**Idaho Commission on Aging COVID-19 Aging Network Rapid Response Plan**

NOTE: Elements of this plan may change based on emerging circumstances or updated National or State guidance.

In this present crisis, all Idahoans over 60are at high risk of death, serious illness, social isolation, food insecurity and lack of needed medical support.Therefore, all Idahoans 60 and older can be considered at-risk, homebound elders.

As this creates an unprecedented need, the entire Aging Services Network must be mobilized for rapid action around key achievable goals. Together we will strive to enable older Idahoans to Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, and Stay Informed. Our goal is to mobilize resources to support access of Older Idahoans to medical, social and daily essentials in their home and communities, and thus reduce COVID-19 exposure and impact, while preserving State resources to coordinate a comprehensive statewide response to the COVID-19 needs of all Idahoans.

ICOA will follow guidance from credible sources of information including the White House, CDC, The Governor of Idaho, and state and local health departments. Financial resources for COVID-19 efforts will be provided primarily from additional Older Americans Act (OAA) monies including:

1. The Family First Act
2. The CARES Act

In summary, keeping older Idahoans safe from exposure to the coronavirus, while ensuring seniors are well-supplied, have access to medical and social services, and remain free from social isolation (while being physically separated) are now our collective top priorities as an aging network. We pledge to strategically utilize OAA funds to meet these challenges.

**Identified Goals**

**Stay Informed**

1. Enhance communication with homebound Idahoans and service providers through dissemination of credible information and resources.

**Stay at Home**

1. Mobilize volunteers or paid support to connect via telephone, internet, social distancing face-to-face, with homebound seniors and people with disabilities to check on basic, medical and social service needs, as well as engaging them in meaningful one-to-one social interactions that raise self-esteem and activate hope.
2. Coordinate with agencies and partners to assess older homebound Idahoans for unmet needs generated by the stay at home order.

**Stay Healthy**

1. Facilitate access of daily health requirements (food, medication, hygiene supplies, transportation to needed medical care) and mobilize community resources to meet prioritized needs.

**Stay Safe**

1. Enhance safety and promote resiliency through Ombudsman, APS and SMP services.

**Strategic service modifications for core OOA Programs**

To meet the identified goals, necessary modification must be made to normal service delivery. Area Agency on Aging planning should focus on the following questions:

1. Can normally face to face services be delivered with appropriate social distancing
2. Can services usually delivered in person be provided virtually
3. Can services usually delivered by a professional provider be delivered by a trusted insider via consumer direction
4. Can programs and services be delivered through new partnerships
5. Can existing contracted providers expand or modify the services they currently provide

**Strategic funding decisions for OAA programs**

To meet the identified goals, it will be necessary to strategically reallocate OAA funds (federal dollars and required state match) to new titles. Once Targeted COVID-19 awards are received and distributed it is important to fund COVID activities with COVID funds. Area Agency on Aging planning should focus on the following questions:

1. Can payments be expedited to keep local programs functioning?
2. Can money be redistributed to better support identified goals?
3. What new processes are needed to properly track expenses and units delivered?

**Strategic Tracking**

It is crucial for transparency, efficiency, accurate payments, and reporting requirements to track COVID-19 activities, separate from other services provided. ICOA is working with our data management vendor to provide data sets to make the process as efficient and accurate as possible. Area Agencies on Aging must:

1. Consistently use the data sets
2. Communicate if more sets or modification is needed
3. Produce invoices that match COVID 19-activities to budgeted COVID-19 funds