
—PROGRAM INSTRUCTION—

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) – Access and Intake Division

TITLE:	Older Americans Act Focal Point Requirements	NUMBER:	AAA-PI 301
SECTION:	Area Agencies on Aging	APPROVAL:	Betty Ford
ISSUE DATE:	2/1/08	REVISION DATE:	12/30/08
RELEVANT CITATION(S):	OAA §102 (21) and §306 (a)(3) & (6); 45 CFR §1321.53(c); 40 TAC §85.201		
DISTRIBUTION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AAA Section Staff		

The Department is revising the program instruction (PI) to reflect the correct number for 40 TAC (Texas Administrative Code) §85.201 AAA Administrative Responsibilities. The revision of December 8, 2008 listed an incorrect number for the AAA Administrative Responsibilities TAC.

The purpose of this PI is to clarify the policy and procedures for identifying, reporting and collaborating with focal points within the Area Agency on Aging’s (AAA) region. The Department requested clarification from the Administration on Aging (AoA) regarding compliance with the language in Section 306 of the Older Americans Act (OAA). AoA provided clarification regarding the requirements for State Units on Aging and AAAs. The requirements identified in this PI are based on the OAA, 45 CFR §1321 and TAC.

The definition of a focal point and requirements for the use of focal points are found in the OAA and 45 CFR §1321. These requirements are supported through 40 TAC §85.201 regarding Area Plan requirements.

Focal Points – Definition & AAA Requirements

OAA, Section 102 DEFINITIONS

“(21) The term “focal point” means a facility established to encourage the maximum collocation and coordination of services for older individuals.”

OAA Section 306 AREA PLANS

“(a)(3)(A) designate, where feasible, a focal point for comprehensive service delivery in each community, giving special consideration to designating multipurpose senior centers (including multipurpose senior centers operated by organizations referred to in paragraph (6)(C)) as such focal point; and

(B) specify, in grants, contracts, and agreements implementing the plan, the identity of each focal point so designated;...”

“(6) provide that the area agency on aging will—

(B) serve as the advocate and focal point for older individuals within the community by (in cooperation with agencies, organizations, and individuals participating in activities under the

plan) monitoring, evaluating, and commenting upon all policies, programs, hearings, levies, and community actions which will affect older individuals;

- (C)(i) where possible, enter into arrangements with organizations providing day care services for children, assistance to older individuals caring for relatives who are children, and respite for families, so as to provide opportunities for older individuals to aid or assist on a voluntary basis in the delivery of such services to children, adults, and families;
- (ii) if possible regarding the provision of services under this title, enter into arrangements and coordinate with organizations that have a proven record of providing services to older individuals, that—
 - (I) were officially designated as community action agencies or community action programs under section 210 of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 for fiscal year 1981, and did not lose the designation as a result of failure to comply with such Act; or
 - (II) came into existence during fiscal year 1982 as direct successors in interest to such community action agencies or community action programs; and that meet the requirements under section 676B of the Community Services Block Grant Act; and
- (iii) make use of trained volunteers in providing direct services delivered to older individuals and individuals with disabilities needing such services and, if possible, work in coordination with organizations that have experience in providing training, placement, and stipends for volunteers or participants (such as organizations carrying out Federal service programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service), in community service settings.”

The definition of community is afforded to the state under 45 CFR 1321.53(c). The Department defines “community” as the AAA’s planning and service area. It is the AAA’s responsibility, where feasible, to identify focal points within their region based on the criteria identified in the OAA and CFR as provided. Once identified, the focal points must be identified in the AAA’s area plan and all provider contracts or vendor agreements.

Please direct any questions to the Department’s Help Desk at T3Ahelp@dads.state.tx.us.