

FY 2025 Application for Title III Funding
Area Agency on Aging
South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

The following information is required to be considered for Title III funding for FY 2025 (October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025). Failure to provide information will delay your application or cause it to be denied. (You may use this document to fill in the information requested.)

1. Legal Name of Organization: Baldwin County Commission – Council on Aging
2. Are you considered a minority organization? Yes
3. Main contact person: Kelly Childress, Council on Aging Coordinator
4. Email for main contact: kchildress@baldwincountyal.gov
5. Name and Title of person authorized to sign contracts for organization: Current Baldwin County Commission Chairman, Billie Jo Underwood.
6. Mailing address: 22251 Palmer Street, Robertsedale, AL 36567
7. Telephone: 251-972-8506
8. Fax: 251-972-8507
9. Organization mission statement: Our mission is to serve as an advocate for Baldwin County seniors. To educate and enlist the support of all levels of government, service agencies and private organizations that can assist with securing resources and implementing programs. The Council on Aging is dedicated to preserving dignity, independence, and peace of mind for the elderly citizens of Baldwin County.
10. The BCCOA currently operates two nutrition centers in rural areas of the County. The Loxley Nutrition Center is West of the City of Loxley. This community has low-income senior residents and remains near low-income minority residents in the Ellisville Community. Two vital homebound meal routes operate out of this center. The first serves the Ellisville Community and the City of Loxley residents. The second route provides homebound meals in the Robertsedale area, with several clients residing in low-income senior apartments in addition to those in private residences. We often have a waiting list for both homebound meal routes. The Loxley center hosts a variety of recreational activities for participants, and occasional guest speakers.

The Baldwin County Commission completed construction of a new building for the Little River Nutrition Center in May 2022. Little River is in the rural Northernmost part of rural Baldwin County. The Little River center hosts an onsite congregate meal program and activities for

seniors. We are excited to offer a place for seniors to gather and enjoy a hot meal and fellowship. The Little River center also provides us with the opportunity to assess and case manage this isolated area of the County.

Center managers are the first line of screening of seniors reserved to ask for assistance. Center managers refer any concerns or questions regarding participants and their needs to the BCCOA staff. The Loxley Center manager also conducts in-home evaluations for all homebound meal clients. The addition of the center assistants provides support to center managers.

BCCOA staff visits all nutrition centers in Baldwin County, as well as Senior Centers, promoting senior programs and evaluating the needs of participants. In addition, we continue to target the Bay Minette and North Baldwin areas reaching out to the low-income seniors residing in the rural areas that could benefit the greatest from senior programs.

The BCCOA office hosts two weekly sessions of ceramic classes. Many participants have entered their creations in the County Fair, claiming first place finishes. In addition, we offer weekly crochet classes. The crochet classes offer lessons for beginners or those with more experience. Many projects from this class are donated to area nursing homes, ARC transition homes, USA Women's and Children's Hospital and the VA home in Bay Minette. Recreational activities abound at the Nutrition Centers, ranging from the always popular Bingo to exercise classes and more. The seniors also have access to a wealth of information on programs and services available to them. Guest speakers offer educational programs. Occasionally, a senior blue grass band entertains the seniors at the Loxley Center.

The BCCOA staff finds it important to get out into the community via health fairs, promotional presentations to civic and church groups as well as networking with service agencies including public, private, profit and non-profit.

The BCCOA contracts with BRATS transportation service to provide transportation for seniors to the S.A.I.L. Centers.

S.A.I.N.T.S. is a program operated out of the BCCOA office, providing one on one assisted transportation service to frail elderly, who cannot ride public transportation due to mobility or dementia issues. This service is vital in maintaining the independence of these seniors. It provides one on one transportation service to grocery stores and drug stores.

Seniors who are not able to physically come to our office are evaluated in their home by BCCOA staff. Their needs are reviewed, and a case plan developed; the same as if they had made an office visit.

The Telephone Reassurance program is a vital service provided by the BCCOA. The program is designed for the frailest seniors who desire to remain at home. Often these clients are alone and isolated. A BCCOA staff member calls each client every weekday morning to check on their wellbeing. We have emergency contacts for most participants in the event our calls go unanswered. For those clients who do not answer the call and do not have any family or emergency contact, we send a staff member to physically check on clients.

During the 2023 Medicare Open Enrollment, October 15th through December 7th, the Council on Aging staff held 1,723 insurance review assessments saving clients over \$964 thousand dollars.

The Council on Aging has launched the You Matter program. This service provides 2 monthly in-home visits to isolated homebound seniors. These visits serve as a time to talk with the client, reminisce and potentially discover any fraud attempts or needs.

In 2024, the BCCOA partnered with the Strengthen Alabama Homes program to provide grants to senior homeowners seeking to obtain FORTIFIED roof status on their homes resulting in lower insurance premiums. In the first 4 months, \$200k in grants were awarded in Baldwin County.

11. The Baldwin County Council on Aging (BCCOA) serves the seniors of Baldwin County by offering one-on-one personal service tailored to address individual needs. Serving clients from a diverse income base, providing programs ranging from the homebound meal program to insurance counseling and wide array of services and assistance not typically covered by an established program. If a client has a need beyond the programs we offer, we attempt to locate additional resources to meet their needs. BCCOA staff has over one hundred years of dedicated personal service to the growing senior population of Baldwin County. We provide a service to most all Area Agencies on Aging and Councils on Aging provide, with a strong emphasis on individualized personal service. The BCCOA is comprised of 1 – Coordinator, 1- Administrative Support Specialist IV, 3 – Case Managers, 2 – Case Workers, 2 – Center Manager/Activities Coordinators (one is part-time) 1 – Office Assistant IV, 1 – Part time homebound meal driver, 1 – Program Support Specialist, 1 – Part time Office Assistant IV and 2 – PT Center Assistants. In addition to serving in their area of expertise, the Coordinator, Case Managers and Case Workers are cross trained to better serve citizens. We provide resource referrals, locate housing, legal referrals, insurance counseling, prescription assistance, telephone assistance, tax aid, solid waste exemption referrals, property tax exemption referrals, telephone reassurance and in any capacity needed to assist clients. We do not stop where our programs stop; if a need is there, we work diligently to address needs and provide follow-up. The BCCOA is housed in the heart of Baldwin County located in the Central Annex in Robertsedale.

Baldwin County is a rural county of over 1,600 square miles. BCCOA strives to serve all areas of the county, especially those areas with inherently limited access to elderly support services. The proportion of elderly in Baldwin County is greater than and is increasing at a rate faster than the national average. Approximately 90% of BCCOA's target clients are rural dwellers, 80% are high risk frail elderly, 50% are minorities, and 1% are Indian American.

The BCCOA partners with the local Social Security office. SSA staff screen their clients for services offered by BCCOA and make referrals to our office. In addition, we value strong networking relationships with service agencies, local municipalities and county departments servicing the public. We have reached out within the Departments of the Commission to educate other departments in what we do. Our own Citizen Service Center staff, BRATS, Revenue, Solid Waste and EMA department have interceded in the course of their own work and will refer a citizen in need to us. We place a strong emphasis on networking and will continue to do so to reach potential clients.

BCCOA staff have served and continue to serve on the board or steering committee for Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), Emergency Food & Shelter Committee, Baldwin Regional Area Transportation System (BRATS) and the Lighthouse's Sexual Assault Team.

The BCCOA continues to provide appointment assistance to the income tax assistance program. In addition, this provides the opportunity to expose BCCOA's services and programs to potential clients.

12. See attached Excel spreadsheet.

13. This proposal requests continued Title III funding of \$146,106.14 for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

Personnel costs of \$100,413.94 will provide two case managers, one administrative support specialist, one case worker, two center managers and two part-time center assistants. The funding requested for personnel is 12.96 percent of the BCCOA personnel budget. The Center Managers manage operations of the Nutritional Centers (Loxley & Little River) ensuring congregate meals are served; homebound meals are delivered, and informative programs and activities are developed and provided in a nurturing environment for the rural elderly of Baldwin County. The part-time center assistants support the operations of both Loxley and Little River. The administrative support specialist provides support for both central office and centers and helps in information/referral, support, and development of innovative programs. The Case Managers and Case Worker provide client case management, benefit screenings, insurance counseling, prescription assistance and aid clients with concerns regarding any problem. Continue marketing to area doctor's offices, senior centers, activity groups and the public as to the lower age requirement of 55 years or anyone on disability or applying for disability. This targeted group is growing at a steady rate replacing those lost to Medicare Part D.

Travel costs of \$3,495 support the continued delivery of homebound meals to the elderly from two nutrition centers and supplement mileage for Little River deposits to Bay Minette.

Utility costs of \$2,100 to support the operations of the new Little River Senior Nutrition Center.

Postage costs of \$2,200 to assist with the expense incurred on behalf of the SenioRx program.

Transportation costs of \$37,897.20 will continue providing services targeted to support the rural elderly of Baldwin County. Baldwin County is the largest county in the State and BRATS will transport any senior that calls in to a Senior Nutrition Center for lunch. Transportation services are contracted with the Baldwin Rural Area Transportation System (BRATS).

For detailed breakdown of Title III funds and Contractor's Cash of Personnel and Utility funds please refer to the attached Budget for Title III Funds.

Applications must be submitted no later than Friday, July 12, 2024. If this is your first time applying, please submit the following with your application: current certificate of insurance, W-9, business license, and if appropriate your letter from the IRS for non-profit status.

Email applications should be submitted to: rthompson@sarpc.org

Mailed applications must be submitted to Julie McGee, Director, Area Agency on Aging at the following address:

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
ATTN: Ms. Julie McGee, Director
Area Agency on Aging
P.O. Box 1665
Mobile, AL 36633

Please feel free to email or call (251-706-4643) Rita Thompson, Grants Manager with any questions, concerns, or to request technical assistance.