

**FY 2023 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 2023 (October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023). 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. Name and Title of person authorized to sign contracts for organization: Current Baldwin County Commission Chairman, James E. Ball. This changes each year.
5. Mailing address: 22251 Palmer Street, Robertsdale, AL 36567
6. Telephone: 251-972-8506
7. Fax: 251-972-8507
8. Email for main contact: Kchildress@baldwincountyal.gov
9. Organization mission statement: Our mission is to serve as an advocate for all 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. Both Centers are new construction, the Loxley Nutrition Center and the Little River Nutrition Center. The Loxley Nutrition Center is West of the City of Loxley. This community has many senior low-income residents and remains near low-income minority residents in the Ellisville Community. Two vital homebound meal routes are operated out of this center. The first serves the Ellisville Community and the City of Loxley residents. The second route provides homebound meals in the Robertsdale 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. We have partnered with the Baldwin County Library Cooperative to provide a Bookmobile stop at Loxley and Little River Centers. This will provide access to library services including the new wifi program. It offers seniors the opportunity to check out a wifi hot spot.

Often Center managers are the first line of screening for seniors reserved to ask for assistance. Center managers are strongly encouraged to 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.

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 knitting/crocheting classes. The knitting/crocheting 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 gardening 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 senior nutrition centers. In Stockton, the BRATS bus provides transportation for seniors and delivers homebound meals in the community.

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; those who cannot ride public transportation due to mobility or dementia issues. This service is vital in maintaining the independence of these seniors

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 each participant in the event our calls go unanswered. For those clients who don't answer the call and don't have any family or emergency contact, we send a staff member to physically check on clients. In some instances, we contact the local law enforcement to conduct a wellness check.

We assist families and individuals when help is needed for caregiver support/respite care. Individuals and families receive case management and guidance through this transitional period.

From May 2021 thru April 2022, the COA has provided over 3,000 units of Case Management. This number does not include the number of requests for Information and Assistance which exceeded 21,000 contacts. With the growth of Baldwin County our contacts should continue to rise. Our goal is to provide the best service to all Seniors and their families making them aware of the programs that could potentially benefit them. Especially targeting the low-income minority seniors by getting out in the communities, attending health fairs, distributing literature, and seeking opportunities to speak about programs. Hosting Nutrition centers in rural areas of the county provides a means of getting information out to those citizens most at-risk. The Northern area of Baldwin County has the greatest potential of low-income seniors. The BCCOA staff visits the Northern end of the County monthly, targeting medical offices, senior centers, civic groups, Nutrition centers and public avenues to educate potential clients. We have contacted food pantries in the county and provided our program literature for their clients. The BCCOA is represented at health fairs across the County. We have a close working relationship with the local Social Security office. The SS Office makes referrals and distributes our literature to clients. BCCOA also make referrals to Adult Protective Services with DHR and attends intervention meetings on occasion. In addition, COA is represented at the Prodissee Pantry twice a month reaching out to potential clients.

11. The Baldwin County Council on Aging (BCCOA) serves the seniors of Baldwin County by offering one-on-one personal service tailored to address the 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 programs we offer, we attempt to locate additional resources to meet their needs. BCCOA staff has over 100 years of dedicated personal service to the growing senior population of Baldwin County. We provide 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, 2 – Case Managers, 2 – Case Workers, 1 – Center Manager/Activities Coordinators, 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 it. The BCCOA is housed in the heart of Baldwin County located in the Central Annex in Robertsedale.

Baldwin County is generally 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 is well represented at the local Social Security office. SSA staff screen their clients for services offered by BCCOA and referrals are made. 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 of 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 in 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 \$207,032 for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Personnel costs of \$137,045 will provide two case managers, one administrative support specialist, one case worker, two center managers and the addition of two part time center assistants. 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 addition of the part time center assistants will support the operations of both Loxley and Little River. The administrative support specialist will continue to provide support for both central office, centers and help in information/referral, support, and development of new programs. The Case Managers and Case Worker provides 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 \$4,541 supports the continued delivery of homebound meals to the elderly from two nutrition centers.

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/Wellness program.

Transportation costs of \$61,146 will continue providing services targeted to support the rural elderly of Baldwin County. The Vaughn Center generates the bulk of the costs for transportation and meal delivery. Vaughn sits in the rural northern part of County. Baldwin County is the largest county in the State and BRATS will transport any senior that calls in to a S.A.I.L. Center for lunch. Transportation services are contracted with the Baldwin Rural Area Transportation System (BRATS). BRATS will continue to provide access to nutrition/activity centers, special events.

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, June 17, 2022. If this is your first time to apply, 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.