



## Redesignation for Hill County Older Americans Act Services Public Comments – March 11, 2024 through April 10, 2024

**Geographically it makes sense for Area III Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to take on Hill County, though we do not have a lot of extra money in our budget right now to help support this move.**

*As a minimal funded state, it is extremely challenging for all AAAs to have enough funding to run the Older Americans Act programs. With the Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF), Area III federal funds increase by \$148,866, along with additional general fund increase of \$236,267 for a total increase of \$385,133. This is an increase from the current projected amounts for SFY24. The amount for Administration will be approximately \$56,500.*

*The director of Area III can review the needs of the planning and service area to allocate the funds fairly. technically AAAs, do not have to run this funding through another formula. However, a base allocation could be developed and subsequently request subcontractors to submit Additionally Capstone data regarding number of unduplicated participants served in each of the programs offered and the number of meals served for the previous year could be used for allocation.*

**The county itself has no money as is, and additional funding is expected by the Older Americans Act. I don't know if I can bill a taxpayer next for more funding to support these programs.**

**The increase in current funding was going to match the amount that Hill County would have received at this time, or is that true?**

*During this interim period, Hill County is getting the same amount that they would have received as a AAA. Moving forward, the Area III Director will have authority to allocate the funding out as deemed most appropriate for service provision. When the state runs the funding through the IFF, it considers all nine AAAs. Hill County still plans to continue the support through their general funds as they have been doing.*

**So, if Area III chooses not to take on Hill County, then what?**

*The OAA requires statewide coverage. We are looking forward to having Area III on board with this opportunity.*

**Is there any way to put Hill County back to the way they were as Area X?**

*Not at this time. The SUA and the other AAAs agree that Area III taking on Hill County makes sense.*

**Obviously, Hill County has had its challenges in the past. So, if we (Area III) were to consider taking them on, what challenges are we going to face?**



*Hill County is looking to streamline the contract with Area III to go directly to the Hill County Council on Aging, this means all fiscal reporting requirements will be tracked and reported by the Senior Center Director and reporting will be provided to the Council's Board of Directors which will have at least one commissioner represented. A separate contract for Rocky Boy's Reservation is the planned approach by Area III.*

**Does Hill County have active local support?**

*Yes. Hill County is actively seeking ways to increase revenue for the Senior Center. They have begun selling frozen meals to participants to supplement their meals outside of senior center hours. In addition, they are looking at fundraising activities. The older adults utilizing the center are very involved and vocal. They want to see these programs sustain and be strong for the future.*

**How will this affect the Western Hill County side? Will Rudyard still be a part of Havre or Blaine County?**

*There should not be any notable changes as far as service provision. Rudyard will still be part of the Hill County Council on Aging.*

**Other Comments:**

- "My mother used the center and became a regular. It was a lifesaver for the both of us."
- "A vehicle for meals delivery would be helpful to sustain local drivers for the program."
- "Having two part time positions (job sharing) for the cook position would help with flexibility, cross training and transitioning when there is turnover."
- "My concern is that there is not enough funding to address demands for services. The problem is money. We need more of it to accomplish quality aging services in a state with such vast geography, rapid population growth in urban communities, large percentages of residents 60 and older. As well as those 60 and older who are low income and members of minorities."
- "It's unfortunate that the federal funding allocation does not consider the massive size of Montana which comes with more costs."

Thank you for your participation, your comments are appreciated.