

Scaling Evidence-Based Solutions for Vulnerable Older Adults Funding Opportunity

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: *Is our organization required to have 501(c)(3) tax status to be eligible for this grant competition?*

A: No, your organization is not required to have 501(c)(3) tax status to be eligible. However, AARP Foundation does not make grants to individuals.

Q: *What is AARP Foundation willing to fund through this competition? Will AARP Foundation fund direct service costs such as salaries, administrative costs, and other direct costs?*

A: Direct service organizations are eligible for this competition; however, the grant funds must be used toward a project that seeks to scale interventions, with independent evaluations demonstrating evidence of effectiveness, which serve vulnerable older adults, to increase economic opportunity and social connectedness.

Q: *Are current grantees and/or current programs of AARP Foundation eligible for this competition?*

A: Current AARP Foundation grantees are eligible; however, existing AARP Foundation programs are not.

Q: *Does AARP Foundation provide evaluation services for its selected grantees?*

A: We provide some technical assistance with evaluation to grantees, but the evaluation process is managed and led by the grantee.

Q: *Can the grant funds be used to implement an evidence-based program that is new to our organization?*

A: Yes.

Q: *Can my organization submit more than application for each of the impact area RFAs?*

A: No, you must select one of the four impact areas (Housing Security, Social Connection, Income Security, or Food Security) and submit only one application per organization.

Q: *Do the character limits for the online application include spaces?*

A: Yes. Please log on to the grant portal in advance of submission to view the character limits.

Q: *Are the logic model and business model canvas attachments required?*

A: Yes, please submit all attachments listed under “Required Attachments” in the RFA.

Q: *What type of for-profit companies are eligible to apply?*

A: All for-profit companies are eligible to apply if they meet the other eligibility criteria.

Q: *If an application has a program that serves the target audience but has not been evaluated, is the applicant still eligible to apply?*

Q: *Will you fund interventions that are under development?*

A: The focus of this opportunity is very much on supporting the scaling of interventions with independent evidence of effectiveness. You can apply; and know that decisions will be made about

how applications stack up against each other in meeting all the areas identified in in this funding opportunity (i.e. potential to scale, number of individuals served, etc.)

Q: Does “within the U.S.” include U.S. territories?

A: Yes.

Q: *Might a collaborative partnership among a university and several nonprofits that serve a largely urban county be eligible?*

A: Yes. This type of collaborative partnership is eligible for this funding opportunity.

Q: *Can a fiscal sponsoring agency – a collaboration of smaller agencies that works at the state level – apply?*

A: Yes, if the fiscal sponsoring agency/collaboration meet the other eligibility criteria.

Q: *Would an intervention that is focused on a single municipality but involves thousands of participants be eligible?*

Q: *Is a program limited to older adults in a large city eligible?*

A: Yes, if the organization (intervention) meet the other eligibility criteria.

Q: *The three food banks in Alabama involved in this statewide initiative are local and independent charities; however, we are all members of the national association of food banks – Feeding America.*

- Are we ineligible to apply due to our membership in a national association?
- Should we approach this exciting opportunity through Feeding America?

A: For this opportunity, it would be our recommendation that you approach this opportunity through Feeding America.

Q: *It appears that this is geared towards large, established firms. We are a start-up charity and want to clarify whether this opportunity is appropriate for our consideration.*

A: This specific opportunity is geared towards organizations that have an evidenced-based program and the ability to scale the program through an established network (for example, a national organization with established affiliates).

Q: *What level of individual project funding is available from this mechanism?*

A: For the Scaling Evidence-Based Solutions for Vulnerable Older Adults opportunity there is not a specified level of funding. Funding will align with the scope and breadth of the proposed evidence-based solutions.

Q: *It's really important to know if we're talking about funding in the 50-100K range, 100-250K or higher, and for how many years the projects are expected to last. If you could provide any type of ballpark estimates, that would be most helpful.*

A: In the next three years AARP Foundation is looking to reach almost 5 million low-income older adults through programs and services, and our expectation is that roughly 50% of those individuals served will achieve an outcome related to food security, housing security, income security or social

connectedness. Through the Scaling Evidence-Based Solutions for Vulnerable Older Adults Funding Opportunity we are seeking to support organizations that can help us make noticeable progress towards those goals. We are open to multi-year project proposals that may include appropriate budgets.

In this opportunity we are interested in learning the number of low-income older adults currently served by programs with independent evaluations; how many additional individuals could be served ; and what the cost/person served is.

As a reference, it may be helpful to review the funding amounts for a grant competition we held in Fall 2016. <http://www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/grants/info-2016/grantees.html>

Q: *You mentioned a funding amount per person. Can you repeat that figure?*

A: AARP Foundation generally believes the landscape supports a cost/person served of \$75 - \$125/person served.

Q: *Will AARP provide funding for planning and evaluation a new innovative intervention?*

A: No. In this particular funding opportunity AARP Foundation funds will not be used to support wholesale evaluation of interventions. The focus for this opportunity is on scaling existing interventions with independent evaluations.

Q: *Does the foundation have a policy on limiting the indirect costs?*

A: Yes. Indirect costs cannot exceed 15% of direct costs.

Q: *What use of funds is typical for a grant?*

Q: *Can you please define direct costs?*

A: We would expect to see budgeted direct costs that are necessary for implementation of the intervention. For example, personnel and fringe costs, supplies/materials, travel/transportation, evaluation tracking, etc. may be typical direct costs for a grant.

Q: *Can the grant funding be scaled to assist older adults outside the U.S. if the organization is based in the U.S.?*

A: No.

Q: *This is a 1 year of multi-year grant opportunity?*

A: Funding could be provided for on-year of multi-year (2-3 year) projects, depending on the intervention. Please develop your application for the time period that is most-appropriate for the intervention.

Q: *Must grantees fundraise a required match?*

A: No. A match is not a requirement of this funding opportunity, though AARP Foundation is interested to see if interventions have other revenue streams.

Q: *What are the reporting requirements?*

A: Grantees will submit required quarterly reports and must be in regular contact with the AARP Foundation Grants Officer.

Q: *Does the project need to serve tens of thousands during the project period, or does it need to provide scalable solutions that may not reach tens of thousands until after the project period?*

A: The project should serve tens of thousands during the project period.

Q: *Can you define “regional?”*

A: “Regional” would be inclusive of a large state, grouping of states, larger metropolitan area, grouping of counties, etc.

Q: *Could you provide examples of “method of distribution” for program to enter new markets?*

A: Methods of distribution could include a national organization utilizing its affiliate network to have affiliates implement the program in new markets; or technology used with a specific population group, etc.

Q: *What does replication fidelity mean when entering a new market?*

A: Replication fidelity means that the program, as previously implemented and evaluated, would be implemented in new markets.

Q: *Is the objective “support 117,000 individuals to maintain at least \$400 in savings for 6 months out of 12 months after being served” a combined total goal for all grantees awarded?*

A: That objective is an overall strategic objective for AARP Foundation. Our expectation is that grantees would help us make progress towards that goal.

Q: *Is the Duke Social Support Index the only measurement recognized for social connectedness?*

A: Yes.

Q: *If the application is working with other organizations for distribution do you want letters of support or MOUs between the orgs?*

A: Letters of support or MOUs are not required; however if you do have those, please attach those documents as part of your application.

Q: *We are currently in the process of going through an audit and do not have audited financials. Would a letter stating such along with our 990s suffice in place? Or does not having audited financials disqualify us from applying?*

A: Please do include a letter about the current status of your audit and the 990s.

Q: *When you say step by step, can you elaborate when it says to briefly walk us through your intervention from the beneficiary’s perspective?*

A: AARP Foundation is curious to know what activities, events and experiences a program participant will have when involved with your program/intervention. Please detail what the program participant experience is.

Q: *I am having a hard time to understand “revenue stream.” Could funding from AARP be my revenue stream?*

A: Funding from AARP Foundation could be your revenue stream. We are also interested to see if additional funding is part of your program’s revenue mix.

Q: *Will there be another round of funding?*

A: Another round of funding is not guaranteed, but AARP Foundation is looking to likely host another funding opportunity round in Spring 2018.

Q; *What kind of technical assistance and support can the grantee expect to get from AARP?*

A: AARP Foundation have staff with specific program, evaluation and communications expertise. We expect to leverage the expertise of those staff with grantees.

Q: *What is the definition of low income?*

A: AARP Foundation defines low income as households with less than \$40,000 annually.

Additional questions?

Please contact the AARP Foundation Grants Management team at
aarp_foundation_grants@aarp.org