



**Vermont  
Association of  
Area Agencies  
on Aging**

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**Member Agencies:**  
Age Well  
Central Vermont Council on Aging  
Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging  
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging  
Senior Solutions

**TO:** Senator Jane Kitchel, Chair of Senate Appropriations Committee  
**FROM:** Janet Hunt, Executive Director  
**DATE:** June 18, 2020  
**RE:** H.965, Sec. 17. Food Distribution to Older Vermonters Coronavirus Relief Fund;  
Appropriation

On behalf of the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), I want to thank you for your overall dedication to the legislative work that needs to be done during this challenging time. I especially want to commend all of you for ensuring that older Vermonters nutritional needs are met by way of including \$2,000,000 for the purpose of providing nutrition services to older Vermonters and other vulnerable populations in compliance with public health or social distancing requirements implemented in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The following has been identified by all of the AAAs as necessary items to address the increased demand for nutrition services and the added costs of public health precautions incurred by the AAAs due to or resulting from COVID-19 because the public health emergency has increased food insecurity in Vermont and has restricted the availability of community/congregate settings in which many older Vermonters are typically served.

**Areas of Need:**

1. Purchase additional frozen meals and shelf stable meals to be readied for any future crisis
2. Provide extra meals per day/per person and to support increasing demand due to COVID-19
3. Increased meal re-imbusement per meal to help close existing gaps in funding and increased demand
4. Cover costs of storage of meals including freezer storage spaces
5. Extra funding for gleaning programs to provide additional fresh food for clients
6. Increased Restaurant Meals/Ticket Program Support
7. Extra funding for additional and adequate Personal Protection Equipment supplies
8. Extra funding for additional meal preparation
9. Additional funding for the meal packaging supplies for safe home delivery
10. Funding to support the meal delivery model and to support transportation systems
11. Updated packaging system to increase efficiency for cold/frozen meals  
"Cold Pack Packaging System"
12. Increased mileage reimbursement costs for volunteers
13. Increase support to community meal providers who have been impacted by COVID-19

Thank you for your consideration to the needs of older Vermonters and for this allocation. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the above areas of need. I may be reached at [janet@vermont4a.org](mailto:janet@vermont4a.org) or by calling 802-578-7094.