



MEMO

To: Area Agencies on Aging

From: Vermont State Unit on Aging, Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living

Date: April 13, 2020

Re: OAA Direct Service Waiver due to COVID-19 Major Disaster Declaration

According to the Older Americans Act, Section 307 (a)(8), neither the State nor the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) shall provide direct service, “unless, in the judgment of the State agency— (i) provision of such services by the State agency or the area agency on aging is necessary to assure an adequate supply of such services.”

Due to the COVID-19 crisis and subsequent staffing shortage, many traditional providers of in-home direct services for older Vermonters are not able to meet current or increased demand for supports. For this reason, the Vermont State Unit on Aging (SUA) is providing a temporary blanket direct service waiver to all AAAs for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis. The waiver applies to Title III-B, III-C, and III-D programs (III-E is already allowable via direct service).

This direct service waiver will end when the emergency ends, and the regular process, outlined in the [Vermont Older Americans Act Policy and Operations Manual](#), for direct service waiver requests will be reinstated.

If any AAA takes advantage of this waiver ability , please notify the State Unit on Aging of the service being provided and the location where the service is being provided (town or region) so that the SUA may track the usage of the waiver appropriately.

If you have questions about this policy, please contact Angela Smith-Dieng, angela.smith-dieng@vermont.gov, 802-989-0454.

Thank you for all you are doing for older Vermonters during COVID-19.