



2020-2021 Senior Community Center Grants - \$2 Million

The present COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted senior community centers (SCCs) and the programs and services they provide to participants. On behalf of Governor Tom Wolf, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) is pleased to announce \$2 million in grant funding to be awarded equally to all Area Agency on Aging (AAA)-affiliated SCCs for the fiscal year 2020-21 to help support centers in a variety of ways.

Unlike previous years, the grant funding will not be awarded through a competitive grant process and SCCs are not required to apply for the funding. PDA will provide the grant funding to the AAAs who shall disburse the grant funding equally amongst its eligible centers. Eligible SCCs are centers currently in existence with a contractual relationship with the AAA in accordance with APD #96-04-01, whether operational or temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Satellite centers, centers that will remain permanently closed, and any other center that does not currently have an existing contract with the AAA are ineligible for funding. PDA shall validate the operational status of each AAA's list of current centers.

Each AAA can expect to receive approximately \$4,500 (final amount to be determined at the time of disbursement) for each eligible SCC in their planning and service area and shall allocate the funds to each center within 30 business days of receipt of the funds from PDA. Each eligible SCC will have the flexibility to use this funding for a variety of purposes to best meet the needs of the center and their participants during this pandemic. There is no AAA administrative fee for disbursing this funding to the SCCs.

Allowable uses of the funding include, but are not limited to:

COVID-19 Mitigation

- Items or modifications to the center to assist with mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as cleaning supplies or services, protective equipment, purchase/installation of plexiglass dividers/guards, etc.

Capital Improvements & Renovations

- Small capital improvements/renovations such as painting, new flooring, lighting, cabinets, countertops, etc.
- Renovations to upgrade or repurpose space within the center to allow for social distancing, for additional programming or activities, or to improve safety and/or accessibility
- Repairs or replacement of essential equipment or furniture

Programs & Services

- Equipment and supplies for new or existing programming
- Contracted instructors or speakers for programming activities



Technology

- Technology equipment and supplies for new or existing programs in the center
- Technology equipment and supplies to provide virtual programming
- Purchase of Copilot or MySeniorCenter hardware, software, and/or annual subscription fees

Nutrition Services

- Improvements for the provision of meal services, including appliance upgrades/replacements
- Covering increased costs of acquiring or serving food for congregate/take-out meals during the pandemic, such as fresh fruits/vegetables, to-go containers, etc.

Marketing & Outreach

- Marketing and outreach tools and materials to reach new and existing center participants

Other

- Utilities and/or rent
- Costs to provide alternative transportation for participants to the center (i.e. Uber/Lyft)
- Any other need directly related to the operation of the senior center, except for those items which are not allowed

Unallowable uses of the funding include:

- Staff salaries/wages or other personnel costs
- Administrative costs or any fees associated with administering the grant funding
- Projects, repairs, renovations, equipment in spaces that are not primarily used by senior center participants or for their direct benefit.
- Renovations to other locations, including future senior center sites
- Renovations that change the “footprint” of the building
- Renovations/repairs that are the responsibility of the landlord
- Consultant fees
- Travel expenses for staff or contractors
- Vehicles
- Handouts/gifts

Grant funding shall be expended by the SCC by **June 30, 2022**. SCCs are required to complete the attached **2020-2021 Senior Community Center Grants Reporting Form** and submit it to their AAA once all funds are expended. The AAA shall compile all SCC reporting forms and complete the attached **AAA Summary Report**. All completed forms must be returned to PDA no later than 30 business days from the end of the grant period. The AAA shall require all SCCs to retain receipts and/or invoices pertaining to their use of the grant funding and be able to produce them at any time if requested by PDA. Completed forms shall be sent to SCCgrants@pa.gov.



If you have questions regarding this grant announcement, please contact PDA's Senior Center Grant Program Administrator, Robert J. Cherry, at (717) 772 2551 or email questions to SCCgrants@pa.gov.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to serving Pennsylvania's older adults.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Torres".

Robert Torres
Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Aging