

Older Americans Act Title III-B Legal Support Services for Tribal Nations and Providers in Minnesota

Timeline

Application period opens:	September 28, 2026
Application Q&A and technical assistance period:	September 28 – October 19, 2026
Last day to submit questions:	October 19, 2026
Applications due:	October 20, 2026
Applicants informed of award decisions:	October 30, 2026
Fully executed contract due:	December 18, 2026
Services begin (as early as):	January 1, 2027

Introduction

Minnesota Indian Area Agency on Aging seeks a qualified legal service provider to provide comprehensive legal support – including direct representation before federal, state, and tribal legal and administrative entities; education; and outreach- to Tribal elders in Minnesota in accordance with the Older Americans Act (OAA). Delivery of services to begin as early as January 1, 2027, to people 60 years of age or older in the following 9 federally recognized American Indian tribes with reservations throughout Minnesota: Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Red Lake Nation, White Earth Nation, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Prairie Island Indian Community, Lower Sioux Indian Community, and Upper Sioux Community.

The following proposals will not be accepted: applications that include subcontracts without prior approval from the MIAAA, applications submitted by individuals, and applicants from agencies who do not have permission from Tribal Nations to provide services on their reservation.

The selected provider will assist Tribal Nations in addressing legal issues impacting older adults, including but not limited to the following priority legal areas:

- Elder Abuse and Neglect: Providing legal representation and advocacy for elders who are victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- Defense of Guardianship: Providing education and representation for older individuals in reducing unnecessary or overbroad guardianships, offering assistance to individuals and Tribal Nations in the area of supported decision making and use of least restrictive alternatives, including developing and implementing guardianship and conservatorship procedures that respect individual rights are culturally appropriate and comply with federal and state law and tribal code.
- Long-Term Care: Advising elders on long-term care planning (including wills, health care directives and power of attorney forms), Medicaid eligibility, and nursing home regulations.
- Housing and Homelessness: Providing legal assistance to older adults facing housing instability or homelessness, including eviction defense, fair housing, public housing and utilities issues.
- Benefits and Entitlements: Helping older adults access and maintain eligibility for Social Security, Health Care Programs, Long Term Care Programs, Nutrition Programs and other Federal and State benefits.
- Age Discrimination: Providing consultation and assistance in situations involving discrimination related to age and educating others on ageism.

Services are to be provided to eligible individuals with the most economic and social need, as determined through consultation with MIAAA and the Minnesota Board on Aging's Legal Assistance Developer. Services, including pro bono legal representation, must be provided in accordance with Legal Service Corporation (LSC) guidelines, either by an LSC funded agency or an entity working in conjunction and coordination with an LSC funded agency.

The legal provider is expected to work collaboratively with elder justice partners including, but not limited to, those listed within the OAA such as the Office of Ombudsman for Long Term Care, Adult Protection, and the MBA Legal Assistance Developer.

Funding Details

Awarded applicants will be eligible to receive OAA funds for calendar year 2027. MIAAA next open grant round to take place for 2028. Services are to be provided from the contract start date of January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027. Award amounts will be \$19,500.

Total 2027 Title III funds available:

- OAA Title III-B Legal Assistance - \$18,500
- OAA Title III-B Legal Professional Development - \$1,000

Service Definitions and Priorities

Service	Unit	Service Definition	Registered
Legal Assistance	1 Hour = 1 Unit*	Legal advice, counseling and/or representation by an attorney or other person acting under the supervision of an attorney. * Billed in 6 minute or 1/10 of an hour increments	No
Legal Professional Development	N/A	Supports participation at conferences, trainings, and other continuing education opportunities relevant to serving older Minnesotans.	N/A

Target Populations

Supportive services are not intended to reach every individual in the community. Programs target adults aged 60 and older who are in greatest social and economic need with particular attention to the following groups.

- Low-income older adults
- Minority older individuals
- Older adults in rural communities
- Older individuals with limited English proficiency
- Older adults at risk of institutional care

Reporting Requirement and Service Monitoring

Effective monitoring of provided services is required, including quarterly reporting on persons served and funding expended on the Grant Utility system; quarterly reporting on cases, outreach and education through provided template forms; and an annual report of the services provided by the agency within the previous federal fiscal year on a provided template form.

MIAAA will monitor Title III activities through the following methods, including, but not limited to:

- Quarterly reporting of financial, program, and statistical reports and data for all programs.
- Periodic on-site visits, conducted annually at minimum.
- Financial reconciliations and requests for special reports/data.

- Review of client satisfaction.

Registered or Unregistered Services

Registered Services require elder service recipients to complete National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) form and data entry of their information into the State's NAPIS reporting database, PeerPlace, for reimbursement under OAA Title III. Each registered service entails an additional license cost in PeerPlace.

Unregistered Services do not require elder service recipients to complete National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) form and data entry of client information into the State's NAPIS reporting database, PeerPlace, for reimbursement under OAA Title III and the number of service units provided may be reported in aggregate by date.

The NAPIS form must be completed for each type of service the elder receives and must be completed annually. For example, if an elder receives both chore service and transportation service, they would need to complete a NAPIS form once a year for each service (2 NAPIS forms total each year).

Financial Stability and Oversight

Applicants will be subject to a Pre-Award Risk Assessment (PARA), completed by MIAAA prior to final award. The purpose of this assessment is to confirm financial stability and ensure adequate internal controls are in place to safeguard public funds and protect the interests of the federal government and the State of Minnesota, in accordance with updates to the Older Americans Act (OAA) Final Rule. Please note that no subcontracts will be allowable for these services without prior approval from MIAAA. All tasks must be completed by organization staff or volunteers, with no third-party participation.

Match Requirements

A non-federal match is the portion of project costs not paid by federal funds, except for Tribal Self-Governance Funds. It represents the grantee's financial contribution toward the total cost of the project and demonstrates shared investment in achieving program goals.

Awarded applicants that receive federal Title III funding must contribute non-federal resources as a match. Allowable match sources can include city or county grants, agency cash, in-kind contributions, Tribal Self-Governance Funds, or other non-federal funding sources as approved by MIAAA in compliance with state and federal guidelines.

III-B Legal Services match requirement: 15%

Request for Proposal (RFP) Requirements

MIAAA is requesting a proposal from interested providers. Providers should provide a proposal including a detailed workplan and budget addressing the following:

1. Experience and Qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience in providing legal services to Tribal Nations.
- Knowledge of federal, tribal and state laws impacting tribal elders, including the OAA.
- Understanding of Tribal sovereignty and cultural sensitivity.
- A team of licensed and qualified attorneys and paralegals with expertise in the priority legal areas. Pro bono attorneys and legal interns may provide services under the direct supervision of a supervising or managing attorney.

2. Proposed Services:

- A detailed description of the legal services to be provided, including the scope of representation and the number of hours allocated to each priority legal area.
- A plan for outreach and education to Tribal Nations to inform them of available legal services.
- A plan for engaging in an annual legal clinic for Indian Elders at Wisdom Steps or another multi-tribal nation gathering. This plan should include provisions for educating attorneys (pro bono and other) to offer assistance, providing technical assistance and offering direct legal services to eligible elders.
- A plan of outreach and education to Tribal elders and others regarding available legal services and information about legal rights.
- A system for case management and tracking to ensure timely and effective delivery of services and outcomes.
- A plan for providing services to all the listed tribal nations - whether this is education / outreach events, direct service through the larger events (Wisdom Steps), coordination with another LSC provider in the local area, etc.

3. Staffing and Resources:

- A description of the staff assigned to the project, including their qualifications and experience.
- A plan for allocating resources, including personnel, technology, and funding.

4. Performance Measures and Reporting:

- A proposed performance measurement system to track the impact of the legal services provided and type of legal case handled (under which priority legal area).
- A plan for regular reporting on the number of cases handled, outcomes achieved, and lessons learned.

5. Budget and Cost Rate (Template Available):

- A detailed budget outlining the costs associated with providing the legal services, including personnel costs, travel expenses, and administrative fees.

Submission Deadline: Letters of Intent must be submitted by October 20, 2026, to Michelle_Reynolds@redlakenation.org.

Questions: For any questions or clarifications, please contact Michelle Reynolds at Michelle_Reynolds@redlakenation.org or (218) 542-6145.