Service Definitions for

Area Agencies on Aging

 

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

## This document includes services which may be provided through an Area Agency on Aging (AAA). Because resources vary across the state, not every service will be available from every AAA in Texas.

**TERMINOLOGY**

***Caregiver:*** *Refer to attached chart for eligibility requirements for caregivers. For NAPIS, any caregiver supplemental service requires unduplicated persons and units of service. Older relative caregivers is reported separately in NAPIS and also requires unduplicated persons and units of service*

***Contractor*** *An entity that receives a contract as defined in Contract.*

***Unit of Service:*** *Description of the quantity adopted as a standard of measurement;*

*may include limitations or descriptors of the unit of service.*

## CAREGIVER RESPITE CARE – IN\_HOME

Temporary relief for caregivers including an array of services provided to dependent older individuals who need supervision. Services are provided in the older individual’s home environment on a short-term, temporary basis while the primary caregiver is unavailable or needs relief. In addition to supervision, services may include meal preparation, housekeeping, assistance with personal care and/or social and recreational activities.

The Care Recipient:

* Must be unable to perform a minimum of two activities of daily living identified through the consumer needs evaluation (CNE).
* Due to a cognitive or other mental impairment, requires substantial supervision because the care recipient behaves in a manner that poses a serious health or safety hazard to themselves or to another individual.

Unit of Service: One Hour.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Services for homebound, frail older individuals provided to establish an automatic monitoring system which links to emergency medical services when the individual’s life or safety is in jeopardy. ERS services include the installation of the individual monitoring unit, key lockbox, training associated with the use of the system, periodic checking to ensure that the unit is functioning properly, equipment maintenance calls, response to an emergency call by a medical professional, para-professional or volunteer, and follow-up with the older individual.

Unit of Service: One Month of ERS Service. Report one unit for each month of service if an older individual received services at any time during the month. If an installation fee is charged, a separate unit rate may be established for this charge.

## HEALTH MAINTENANCE

Services that include one or more of the following activities:

* Medical treatment by a health professional
* Health education and counseling services for individuals or groups about lifestyles and daily activities. Activities may include, but are not limited to:
* Art and dance –movement therapy
* Programs in prevention or reduction of the effects of chronic disabling conditions
* Alcohol and substance abuse
* Smoking cessation
* Weight loss and control
* Stress management
* Home health services including, but not limited to, nursing, physical therapy, speech or occupational therapy.
* Provision of medications, nutritional supplements, glasses, dentures, hearing aids or other devices necessary to promote or maintain the health and/or safety of the older individual. Note: this also includes the provision of dosage alert systems and the purchase of software, technical support, and materials that connects eligible older individuals to free or reduced cost prescription medication services.

Unit of Service: One Contact. Record one contact each time an older individual receives a health service as described above.

## HOME DELIVERED MEALS

Hot, cold, frozen, dried, canned, fresh, or supplemental food (with a satisfactory storage life) which provides a minimum of 33⅓ percent of the dietary reference intakes established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and complies with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans, published by the Secretary of Agriculture, and is delivered to an eligible participant in their place of residence. The objective is to reduce food insecurity, help the recipient sustain independent living in a safe and healthful environment. There are two types of home delivered meals:

* Standard meal - A regular meal from the standard menu that is served to the majority or all of the participants.
* Therapeutic meal or liquid supplement - A special meal or liquid supplement that has been prescribed by a physician and is planned specifically for the participant by a dietitian (e.g., diabetic diet, renal diet, pureed diet, tube feeding). “Liquid supplement” meals are included in the allowable category of therapeutic meals, such as diabetic, renal or heart safe meals. The AoA defines "liquid supplement" meals as those meals provided through a feeding tube, to meet the needs of a specific individual. These meals require a doctor’s prescription and close monitoring. Dietary supplements, such as vitamins or Ensure, can be authorized by a doctor, dietitian/nutritionist or the need may be identified through the nutritional risk assessment. These items do not require a prescription, nor do they necessarily require oversight. As items such as these are not considered meals (stand-alone), they must be purchased under Health Maintenance. If a AAA is providing these services through Health Maintenance as a result of a doctor’s prescription, some monitoring should be conducted, whether

through a home health nurse or follow-up nutritional risk and functional assessment (Consumer Needs Evaluation). The circumstance would dictate the follow-up.

Unit of Service: One Meal.

## HOMEMAKER

A service provided by trained and supervised homemakers involving the performance of housekeeping and home management, meal preparation, or escort tasks and shopping assistance provided to older individuals who require assistance with these activities in their place of residence. The objective is to help the recipient sustain independent living in a safe and healthful home environment.

Unit of Service: One Hour.

## PARTICIPANT ASSESSMENT – ACCESS & ASSISTANCE

Activities directly related to the initial assessment and required reassessment of program participants for residential repairs.

Unit of Service: One Contact. One complete assessment or one complete re- assessment is one contact.

## PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

Assisting an older individual having difficulty in performing a minimum of two activities of daily living identified in the assessment process, with tasks an individual would typically perform if they were able. This covers assistance in all activities of daily living.

Unit of Service: One Hour. Does not include travel time, unless it is directly related to the older individual's care plan.

## RESIDENTIAL REPAIR

Services consist of repairs or modifications of dwellings occupied by older individuals that are essential for the health and safety of the occupant(s).

Unit of Service: One unduplicated dwelling unit occupied by older individuals and may include all the services committed to repairing/modifying one unit in one program year, not to exceed a total of $5,000. Note: Caregivers may serve more than one care recipient, resulting in more units of service than the number of unduplicated persons.