

programs supported under Titles II, III and VII of the OAA, and Indian Tribal Organizations administering projects under Title VI. Review OAA State Plans on Aging and approve acceptable plans or recommend disapproval to the Assistant Secretary for Aging, as appropriate. Recommend approval or disapproval of regional Title IV applications to the Assistant Secretary. Review applications and recommend approval or disapproval of Title VI applications to the Assistant Secretary.

Advise the Assistant Secretary of problems and progress of programs through the Director, Office of Program Operations and Development; recommend to the Assistant Secretary changes that would improve OAA operations; evaluate the effectiveness of OAA and related programs in the Region and recommend to the Assistant Secretary or take positive action to gain improvement; and guide agencies and grantees in applications of policy to specific operational issues requiring resolution. Facilitate interagency cooperation at the Federal, Regional Office, State and Tribal levels to enhance resources and assistance available to the elderly. Disseminate and provide technical assistance regarding nutrition guidelines and developments to State and Area Agencies, Indian Tribal Organizations and nutrition service providers.

Monitor and assist State and Area Agencies and Indian Tribal Organizations in the implementation and execution of the long-term care ombudsman, elder abuse prevention, elder rights and legal assistance development, and outreach, counseling and assistance programs, and the implementation of elder rights under Title VII of the OAA.

Office of State and Community Programs (BF1)

Serves as the focal point within AoA for the operation, administration, management and assessment of the programs authorized under Title III of the OAA. Also carries out the following responsibilities of Title II: encourages and assists in the provision of information to older people with the need for Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid and Food Stamps; implements and oversees the supportive services and nutrition programs; implements and oversees the uniform data collection procedures for States; implements and oversees the responsibilities for consultation with other Federal agencies and with State and Area Agencies on Aging.

Implements Title III of the OAA through the development of regulations,

policies and guidance governing the development and enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated home and community-based care service delivery systems by State and Area Agencies on Aging. Provides guidance regarding State Plan processing and approval, the process and criteria for approval of States' Intrastate Funding Formulas for the allocation and targeting of resources within States, and implementation of the Interstate Funding Formula for distribution of Title III funds among States. In the field, implements Title III through the provision to Regional Office staff of guidance and information concerning AoA programs, and interpretation of Title III program regulations and policy. In addition, fosters, oversees, and assesses the implementation of Title III by States and Area Agencies through guidance and direction to Regional Office staff regarding program reviews, compliance monitoring, program and system development and enhancements. Designs and provides training and technical assistance for program compliance, effectiveness, and enhancement.

Develops and designs the criteria for collecting, analyzing and distributing program performance data on State and Area Agencies' implementation of OAA programs, and prepares that data for reporting to Congress, the public and the National Aging Information Center.

Provides specialized input on Title II and III programs to long-range planning, operational plans and the budget process. Develops program plans and instructions for AoA Regional Offices and State and Area Agencies to improve Title III programs and to ensure that the objectives of the OAA in fostering independence and life with dignity are met.

Develops policies, guidance and technical assistance to State and Area Agencies on Aging with respect to programs under Title III of the OAA, including the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated systems for supportive services, congregate and home-delivered nutrition services, the development and operation of multipurpose senior centers and the delivery of legal assistance; provides guidance and technical assistance to AoA Regional Office Staff in the effective implementation of programs under Title III of OAA; designs, implements and provides guidance and technical assistance to State and Area Agencies on Aging and service providers on data collection and analysis (Section 202(b)(28)) and on uniform data collection procedures for State Units on

Aging (Section 202(b)(29)); consults with State and Area Agencies on Aging, service providers and other appropriate stakeholders in the development of goals, regulations, program instructions and policies regarding comprehensive and coordinated supportive and nutrition systems of services for older individuals.

Develops regulations for use by State and Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers responsible for programs under Title III of the OAA. Carries out the functions of the designated nutrition officer, who coordinates nutritional services under the Act and develops the regulations and guidelines, and provides technical assistance regarding nutrition to the AoA Regional Offices, State and Area Agencies, nutrition service providers, and other organizations; in coordination with the Office of Governmental Affairs and Elder Rights, serves as the liaison to the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies and organizations related to nutrition policy and program issues.

Administers the State plan hearing process required by Section 307(c)(1) of the OAA and provides the analysis and recommendations for the Assistant Secretary's decision resulting from the hearing.

Provides timely and accurate responses to requests for policy interpretation and technical assistance from Congress, State and Area Agencies on Aging, and the general public.

Develops and operates a National Aging Program Information System focused on the information needs of AoA and the Network on Aging to both manage and advocate for the delivery of effective and efficient services to the elderly. Coordinates and conducts operational studies, program analyses, and evaluations on special issues of concern to the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, Regional Offices, and State and Area Agencies on Aging. Prepares reports on program operations under Title III for the Assistant Secretary, other AoA offices, the Secretary, the President, Congress and the public.

Through the analysis of State Plans, evaluation findings and other relevant material, identifies potential Title III program and management issues and develops recommendations to the Assistant Secretary on possible solutions.

Carries out the Title II responsibilities related to facilitating the continuing development, expansion and improvement of home and community-based service systems to be more responsive at the community level to meet the social and human service