



COVID-19 UPDATE ON SERVICE PROVISION
Response from LTADD Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living

On March 6th, 2020 Governor Andy Beshear declared a State of Emergency after the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Kentucky. After the Declaration was announced, the agency began implementing emergency plans and procedures to maintain services and protect the community members we serve in Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and Washington Counties.

COVID-19 is most harmful to older adults, especially those with compromised immune systems, diabetes, respiratory disease, heart, lung and kidney disease. As the designed Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living (AAAIL), the Lincoln Trail Area Development District (LTADD) serves thousands of the most vulnerable adults in the region. In addition to those programs serving older adults, service is also provided to hundreds of vulnerable younger adults and children with special needs through the Medicaid Waiver programs. It is our duty to protect and advocate not only for those we provide direct service, but for the entire community.

LTADD has been fortunate to partner with providers and community organizations across the region to meet this unprecedented challenge and will continue these partnerships as we move forward in order to maintain services. Additionally, there has been a constant line of communication with local and state agencies to identify and address needs.

At the onset of this crisis, the LTADD AAAIL immediately submitted a plan to the Kentucky Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) outlining efforts to assure the continuation of home delivered and congregate meal service to older adults in the region. With the approval from Governor Beshear, the plan has been implemented and meals are being provided to Kentuckians over the age of 60. This includes drive-by pick up for our congregate participants.

While Senior Centers have been closed to general public, staff remain on site. LTADD has maintained communication with providers and, by working together, have developed creative methods to administer supportive services. Senior Center services are still being provided to the extent possible through telephone and communications.

LTADD is working very closely with our In-Home Service providers in the region. Information was disseminated to educate and train staff to protect the older adults they serve as well as themselves. Services are being monitored very closely – all In-Home services such as personal care, homemaking, and chore continue uninterrupted.

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These services are necessary to maintain health, safety, and welfare of older adults in the community and will continue to be provided in the home while all necessary precautions are being taken to avoid contraction and spread of COVID-19. Additionally:

- In-Home Services Case Managers and Medicaid Waiver staff are now working through telephone and video options to provide services.
- Non-emergency Transportation services are still being provided throughout the region.
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman services are being provided throughout the region.
- Personal Care Attendant Program continues to be operational and services are being provided.
- The network is supporting the needs of our Caregivers.
- SHIP (State Health Insurance Program) consultants continue to work with the community via phone.
- KPAP (KY Prescription Assistant Program) continues to assist people to obtain needed prescriptions.
- The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Intake staff are fully operational and will continue to provide information and referral, intake, and updated to the community at large and to active clients.

In order to meet the needs of the community we also implemented methods internally to ensure that we follow COVID-19 guidance for social distancing in order to continue providing services to the community during this crisis while also maintaining the health and safety of our employees. LTADD has equipped staff to work remotely and implemented staggered schedules to reduce the number of individuals on-site at any given period for those that must come into the office. Through these methods, LTADD is maintaining normal business hours.

LTADD Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living and our providers are proud to be a part of #TeamKentucky and remain dedicated to serving you.