

**§5118. Area plans**

**1. Plans.** In order to be approved by the state agency, an area plan must be developed by the area agency designated with respect to such area under section 5116, subsection 1, paragraph B and must:

A. Provide for the establishment of a coordinated community program for the delivery of social services within the area covered by the plan, including determining the need for social services in such area, taking into consideration, among other things, the number of older persons with low incomes residing in such area, the extent to which existing public or private programs meet such need, evaluating the effectiveness of the use of resources in meeting such need, and entering into agreements with providers of social services in such area, for the provision of such services to meet such need; [PL 1973, c. 630, §1 (NEW).]

B. In accordance with criteria established by the commissioner by regulation relating to priorities, provide for the initiation, expansion or improvement of social services in the area covered by the area plan; [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

C. Provide for the establishment and maintenance of information and referral sources in sufficient numbers to assure that all older persons within the planning and service area covered by the plan will have reasonably convenient access to such sources. For purposes of this paragraph, an information and referral source is a location where a public or private agency or organization:

(1) Maintains current information with respect to the opportunities and services available to older persons, and develops current lists of older persons in need of services and opportunities; and

(2) Employs a specially trained staff to inform older persons of the opportunities and services that are available, and assists these persons to take advantage of these opportunities and services; [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

D. Provide that the area agency will:

(1) Conduct periodic evaluations of activities carried out pursuant to the area plan;

(2) Render appropriate technical assistance to providers of social services in the planning and service area covered by the area plan;

(3) When necessary and feasible, enter into arrangements, consistent with the area plan, under which funds under this Title may be used to provide legal services to older persons in the area carried out through federally assisted programs or other public or nonprofit agencies;

(4) Take into account, in connection with matters of general policy arising in the development and administration of the area plan, the recommendations of older people in need of or served by social services provided under such plan;

(5) When possible, enter into arrangements with organizations providing children services so as to provide opportunities for older persons to aid or assist, on a voluntary basis, in the delivery of such services to children; and

(6) Establish an advisory council, which may be the board of directors or a subcommittee thereof, of the area agency consisting of at least 65% older people representatives of the target population and the general public, to advise the area agency on all matters relating to the administration of the plan and operations conducted thereunder. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

E. Provide for the use of such methods of administration as are necessary for the proper and efficient administration of the plan; [PL 1981, c. 470, Pt. A, §115 (AMD).]

F. Provide that the area agency will make such reports, in such form and containing such information as the commissioner may from time to time require, and comply with such requirements as the commissioner may impose to assure the correctness of these reports; [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

G. Establish objectives consistent with the purposes of this Title toward which activities under the plan will be directed, identify obstacles to the attainment of those objectives and indicate how it proposes to overcome those obstacles; [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

H. Provide that no social service will be directly provided by the state agency or an area agency, except when, in the judgment of the state agency, provision of that service by the state agency or an area agency is necessary to assure an adequate supply of that service; and [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

I. Provide that preference must be given to persons aged 60 or over for any staff positions, full-time or part-time, in area agencies for which these persons qualify. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

J. [PL 1981, c. 470, Pt. A, §116 (RP).]

K. [PL 1981, c. 470, Pt. A, §116 (RP).]

L. [PL 1981, c. 470, Pt. A, §116 (RP).]

M. [PL 1981, c. 470, Pt. A, §116 (RP).]

[PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

**2. Approval of area plan.** The commissioner shall approve any area plan that the commissioner finds fulfills the requirements of subsection 1, paragraphs A to I. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

**3. Notice and opportunity for hearing.** The commissioner may not make a final determination disapproving any area plan, or any modification thereof, or make a final determination that an area agency is ineligible under section 5116, without first affording the area agency reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

**4. Findings.** Whenever the director, after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing to the area agency, finds that:

A. The area agency is not eligible under section 5116; [PL 1981, c. 470, Pt. A, §117 (NEW).]

B. The area plan has been so changed that it no longer complies with subsection 1, paragraphs A to I; or [PL 1981, c. 470, Pt. A, §117 (NEW).]

C. In the administration of the plan, there is a failure to comply substantially with any provision of subsection 1, paragraphs A to I, the commissioner shall notify the area agency that no further payments from its allotments under section 5115 and Section 306 of the federal Older Americans Act of 1965, 42 United States Code, Section 3026 will be made to the agency or, in the commissioner's discretion, that further payments to the agency will be limited to projects under or portions of the area plan not affected by the failure, until the commissioner is satisfied that there will no longer be any failure to comply. Until the commissioner is so satisfied, further payments may not be made to the agency from its allotments under section 5115, or payments may be limited to projects under or portions of the area plan not affected by the failure. The commissioner shall, in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner, disburse funds so withheld directly to any public or nonprofit private organization or agency of the area, submitting an approved plan in accordance with section 5116. Any payment or payments must be matched in the proportions specified in section 5116. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

[PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

**5. Final action; dissatisfaction.** An agency that is dissatisfied with a final action under subsection 2, 3 or 4 may appeal to the commissioner by filing a petition with the commissioner within 60 days after final action. The judgment of the commissioner affirming or setting aside, in whole or in part, any action is final.

[PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 630, §1 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 470, §§A113-117 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 510, §B8 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §8 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.