

## FY25 SIG Field Demonstration Project - Questions and Answers

Q: Is this a reimbursement grant or do we get the funds up front.

A: All contracts are “cost reimbursement” contracts, i.e., COAs must incur costs and submit invoices with back up for reimbursement to MCOA during the project period.

Q: Will this presentation be available for viewing online?

A: Yes, the recording will be available on MCOA’s website and on MyMCOA.

Q: Could you help me find architects that other senior centers have used to assist us with the Senior Center Modernization?

A: This is a great question to ask the network on MyMCOA! You may also reach out to Member Services Manager, Kelly Burke at 413-923-1972 [kelly@mcoaonline.org](mailto:kelly@mcoaonline.org) who can put you in touch with COAs that have recently constructed or expanded their facilities.

Q: Can we apply for additional MSC monitors/check in station for new wing of senior center?

A: Yes, this is an eligible cost under the Senior Center Modernization project area.

Q: Can we update the furnishings? Add a canopy to the Patio?

A: Furnishings that enhance safety and access of the public areas in your center that will provide a more welcoming environment for older adults (i.e., chairs with arms that provide support to an older person so they can safely stand up) are eligible under Senior Center Modernization project area. The proposal should state how the furniture will benefit the population served by the COA. Improvements to outdoor spaces to allow for safer access and expanded programming using outdoor spaces will also be considered.

Q: Will the points in the slides you showed during the presentation be shared somewhere?

A: Yes, the slide deck will be available on the MCOA website - <https://mcoaonline.org/fy25-fdp-grants/>

Q: How would we manage a project that overlaps 2 categories?

A: In instances where a project/program could fit into multiple project areas, we recommend that you use your best judgement as to selecting the project area that it best aligns with, factoring in your anticipated budget, as project areas each have an individual cap to maximum funds awarded. You can also reach out to Madeline Noonan at 413-326-6479 or [madeline@mcoaonline.org](mailto:madeline@mcoaonline.org) for guidance and technical support.

Q: We were funded in FY24 for a Memory Café? Is it possible to apply for the next grant cycle to continue our Memory Cafe?

A: A COA that was funded in a prior year may reapply for FDP funds in their chosen project area(s). As FDP funds are not intended to be used for ongoing operational or programmatic expenses, if a COA plans to reapply for the same project area for FY25, the proposal cannot be for a repeat of the prior funded project. There would need to be an expansion to the program to provide additional support, or the funds would need to support elements of the project that were not specifically funded in past grant cycles.

Q: Is there a list of successful past projects we can use as models?

A: As MCOA has recently modified the RFP application and reporting forms, we encourage you to reach out to Madeline Noonan at 413-326-6479 or [madeline@mcoaonline.org](mailto:madeline@mcoaonline.org), if you have specific questions or are seeking examples of past-funded projects.

Q: The things other centers have done to become "talk of the town" or launch memory cafes rather than the grant language itself would be interesting to me.

A: There are many examples of projects that COAs have implemented to launch memory cafes and to increase visibility and public awareness of their Senior Centers and the programs and services they offer to the community. Some examples include rebranding your COA, using local access cable programming, and sending out welcome packets to send out to current older adults as well as residents who are going to soon become 60.