Background: All community members have been required to adapt to a new way of life as a result of the COVID-19. As older people are at high risk of complications from this virus, the Aroostook Agency on Aging, has responded through a combination of existing and new programs and services. In response, a unique funding opportunity is available through the Agency to community organizations serving older adults in northern Maine.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law March 27, 2020, provided additional funding to Area Agencies on Aging across the country for various programs authorized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965. This additional funding is intended to help strengthen services that support the health, safety, and independence of older adults challenged by the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

The Aroostook Agency on Aging has primarily used these funds to support enhanced nutrition services, as well as other programs that respond to the unique challenges of social isolation and in-home support for those at highest risk. It has designated some CARES Act funds to support other community organizations who offer vital services to older residents living in Aroostook County.

Funds will be distributed through a competitive application process. Organizations may apply for one-time award of $500 to $2,500.

If you represent a community-based organization serving older Mainers or their caregivers, that has: seen a significant increase in demand for your services, lost revenue due to closure, loss of ability to fundraiser, or have identified financial challenges in returning to full operations post-pandemic, you may be eligible to apply.

Eligibility: The following groups are eligible to apply for a CARES Act Mini-Grant:

- Community-based organizations in Aroostook County serving older Mainers and/or their caregivers, including:
  - Programs that are at risk of closure and/or are struggling to manage increased demand due to COVID-19.
  - Organizations providing services that meet essential needs including, but not limited to: adaptive equipment, heating and/or cooking fuel, services that mitigate social isolation, home modification/repair, transportation, grocery shopping, and in-home support such as homemaking and personal care.

Priority: Priority will be given to organizations that address the needs of the underserved, underrepresented, and/or rural populations.

Amount: Awards will range in size from $500 to $2,500. All applications must provide a brief budget to justify all mini-grant award expenses.

Timeframe: Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on July 31, 2020.
Award notices will be announced August 7, 2020. Funds will be disbursed in August. Funding period runs 8/7/2020-1/31/2021. Funds can be used for expenses that have already been accrued during the COVID crisis, with documentation and receipts provided.

**Reporting:** Basic data reporting at the end of 6-months will be expected as a means of capturing the community impact of CARES Act funding. Reporting requirements will include at a minimum: 1) How many unduplicated clients were served and 2) How many “units of service” were provided during the grant period. Please indicate in your application how you will measure success, including: 1) what metrics you currently collect; 2) your ability to report on such metrics; and 3) how you define a unit of service.

**Application:** Application should be submitted in the form of a letter addressed to the Joy Barresi Saucier, Executive Director, Aroostook Agency on Aging, PO Box 1288, Presque Isle, ME 04769 and submitted via mail or email to joy.b.saucier@aroostookaging.org no later than 5 p.m. on July 31, 2020. The letter of application should include the following information:

- Applicant organizational information, including organization name, contact name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address.
- Organization mission statement and one paragraph overview of services provided.
- Explanation of need and how it relates to eligibility and priority criteria.
- Amount requested ($500-$2,500) with brief budget explanation to justify expenses.
- Expression of agreement to comply with reporting requirements outlined in guidelines.