

Scope of Project

Background and Purpose

The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission's (ARDC) Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging (AAAA) has been designated by the Minnesota Board on Aging to administer Gerontology Certificate education funding appropriated by the MN legislature. Funds shall be used state-wide.

Program Goals

It is a goal of the Agency on Aging to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and professional capacity of Minnesota's aging services network by supporting education and training related to elder justice, autonomy, decisional support, and the legal and protective systems that affect older adults.

The purpose of this funding is to support the development, delivery, and/or expansion of an Elder Justice Certificate Program designed for Minnesota Aging Pathways/MAP staff, Area Agency on Aging partners, legal services partners, community-based organizations, direct service providers, and other professionals serving older adults across Minnesota.

Program goals include:

1. Expanding access to elder justice education for professionals who support older adults, caregivers, and communities across Minnesota;
2. Strengthening the capacity of Minnesota Aging Pathways/MAP staff and aging network partners to identify, understand, and respond appropriately to elder justice concerns;
3. Increasing knowledge of aging-related legal issues, autonomy, decisional support, supported decision-making, guardianship, financial exploitation, abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and protective service systems;
4. Supporting consistent, high-quality training that reflects current research, best practices, legal service needs, and the lived experiences of older adults;
5. Promoting professional development opportunities, including certificate-based learning and continuing education, for individuals working in aging services, legal services, and related community-based systems.

Elder Justice Certificate Education and Training

Funds allocated under this solicitation must be used to support an Elder Justice Certificate Program that builds knowledge and professional competency among individuals serving older adults in Minnesota. Funding may be used for curriculum development, instructional design, on-line training delivery, evaluation, outreach, coordination, continuing education development, and other activities necessary to develop or implement a structured elder justice education program.

The program may include certificate-based education, continuing education opportunities, and training modules designed for Minnesota Aging Pathways/MAP staff, Area Agency on Aging partners, legal services providers, community-based organizations, direct service providers, volunteers, and other aging network professionals.

The curriculum should address elder justice topics, including but not limited to autonomy and decisional support, elder abuse, neglect, self-neglect, financial exploitation, guardianship, supported decision-making, mandated reporting, protective services, legal resources, and the larger systems that affect older adults' rights, safety, dignity, and independence.

The program should be designed to strengthen participants' ability to recognize elder justice concerns, understand available legal and community resources, and support older adults in ways that preserve dignity, choice, and self-determination.

Available Funding

Funding is available to support the development, implementation, or expansion of an Elder Justice Certificate Program for Minnesota Aging Pathways/MAP staff and other aging network partners in Minnesota.

Programs receiving funding under this solicitation must demonstrate how the proposed certificate program will strengthen the knowledge and capacity of professionals serving older adults, caregivers, and communities across Minnesota.

Applicants should describe how the proposed program will incorporate information from relevant legal service needs assessments, elder justice data, community experience, and aging network priorities to define curriculum topics and training content.

The accepted proposal will become a binding part of the contract award agreement, and the applicant will be monitored to ensure compliance with the proposal.

This is a solicitation for applications and is not to be construed as an offer, guarantee, or promise that the proposed services will be funded by the AAAA.

Timeline

06/16/2026	Request for Proposals Released
07/17/2026	Proposals Due to AAAA by 3:00 PM
07/20/2026	Review Team Members review de-identified proposals individually and score according to consistent guidelines and scoring weights.
07/25/2026	Review Team meets (virtually) to discuss proposals and make funding recommendations.
07/2026	ARDC Board approves resolution to enter a contract with recommended applicant.
07/27/2026	Applicant and ARDC enter contract negotiation.
07/30/2026	All applicants notified of funding decisions.
08/01/2026	Funding period begins.

Application Checklist

Elder Justice Certificate Education and Training Funding Proposal Documents

The following sections must be submitted to be considered a complete application.

Request for Proposal Information	
Project Proposal Narrative (attachment A)	
Required Assurances (attachment B)	
Service Agreement Budget and Narrative (attachment C)	

Applications Due By 3:00 PM July 17, 2026