

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 MN Gerontology Certificate Instruction funding appropriated by the MN legislature. Funds shall be used state-wide.

Program goals

It is a goal of the Area Agency on Aging to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and professional capacity of Minnesota's aging services network by supporting access to gerontology-focused education and training.

The purpose of this funding is to support the development, delivery, and/or expansion of a Gerontology Certificate Program designed to increase understanding of aging, older adult needs, service systems, and best practices in person-centered support.

The program should support professionals who serve older adults across Minnesota, including Minnesota Aging Pathways/MAP staff, Area Agency on Aging partners, aging services providers, community-based organizations, and other professionals working within the aging network.

Program goals include:

1. Expanding access to gerontology education for professionals serving older adults, caregivers, and communities across Minnesota;
2. Strengthening the capacity of Minnesota Aging Pathways/MAP staff and aging network partners to provide informed, responsive, and person-centered support;
3. Increasing knowledge of aging-related topics, including aging biology, social determinants of health, dementia, caregiver support, elder justice, cultural responsiveness, community-based services, and aging policy;
4. Supporting consistent, high-quality training that reflects current research, best practices, and the lived experiences of older adults;
5. Promoting professional development opportunities, including continuing education and certificate-based learning, for individuals working in aging services.

Gerontology Certificate Education and Training

Funds allocated under this solicitation must be used to support a Gerontology 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, and other activities necessary to develop or implement a structured gerontology education program.

The program will include certificate-based education, continuing education opportunities, and training modules designed for Minnesota Aging Pathways/MAP staff, Area Agency on Aging partners, direct service providers, volunteers, community-based organizations, and other aging network professionals. The program should be designed to improve understanding of the aging experience and strengthen the ability of participants to connect older adults and caregivers with appropriate services, supports, and resources.

Available Funding

Funding is available to support the development, implementation, or expansion of a Gerontology 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 education or certificate program will strengthen the knowledge and capacity of professionals serving older adults and caregivers across Minnesota.

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

Gerontology Certificate and Continuing Education 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 Budget Narrative (attachment C)	

Applications Due By 3:00 PM CDT, July 17, 2026