

(d) If the State denies an applicant for designation as a planning and service area under paragraph (a) of this section, the State shall provide a hearing on the denial of the application, if requested by the applicant, as well as issue a written decision.

§ 1321.31 Appeal to Commissioner.

This section sets forth the procedures the Commissioner follows for providing hearings to applicants for designation as a planning and service area, under § 1321.29(a), whose application is denied by the State agency.

(a) Any applicant for designation as a planning and service area under § 1321.29(a) whose application is denied, and who has been provided a hearing and a written decision by the State agency, may appeal the denial to the Commissioner in writing within 30 days following receipt of a State's hearing decision.

(b) The Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, holds a hearing, and issues a written decision, within 60 days following receipt of an applicant's written request to appeal the State agency hearing decision to deny the applicant's request under § 1321.29(a).

(c) When the Commissioner receives an appeal, the Commissioner requests the State Agency to submit:

(1) A copy of the applicant's application for designation as a planning and service area;

(2) A copy of the written decision of the State; and

(3) Any other relevant information the Commissioner may require.

(d) The procedures for the appeal consist of:

(1) Prior written notice to the applicant and the State agency of the date, time and location of the hearing;

(2) The required attendance of the head of the State agency or designated representatives;

(3) An opportunity for the applicant to be represented by counsel or other representative; and

(4) An opportunity for the applicant to be heard in person and to present documentary evidence.

(e) The Commissioner may:

(1) Deny the appeal and uphold the decision of a State agency;

(2) Uphold the appeal and require a State agency to designate the applicant as a planning and service area; or

(3) Take other appropriate action, including negotiating between the parties or remanding the appeal to the State agency after initial findings.

(f) The Commissioner will uphold the decision of the State agency if it followed the procedures specified in § 1321.29, and the hearing decision is not manifestly inconsistent with the purpose of this part.

(g) The Commissioner's decision to uphold the decision of a State agency does not extend beyond the period of the approved State plan.

§ 1321.33 Designation of area agencies.

An area agency may be any of the types of agencies under section 305(c) of the Act. A State may not designate any regional or local office of the State as an area agency. However, when a new area agency on aging is designated, the State shall give right of first refusal to a unit of general purpose local government as required in section 305(b)(5)(B) of the Act. If the unit of general purpose local government chooses not to exercise this right, the State shall then give preference to an established office on aging as required in section 305(c)(5) of the Act.

§ 1321.35 Withdrawal of area agency designation.

(a) In carrying out section 305 of the Act, the State agency shall withdraw the area agency designation whenever it, after reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing, finds that:

(1) An area agency does not meet the requirements of this part;

(2) An area plan or plan amendment is not approved;

(3) There is substantial failure in the provisions or administration of an approved area plan to comply with any provision of the Act or of this part or policies and procedures established and published by the State agency on aging; or

(4) Activities of the area agency are inconsistent with the statutory mission prescribed in the Act or in conflict with the requirement of the Act that it function only as an area agency on aging.

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(b) If a State agency withdraws an area agency's designation under paragraph (a) of this section it shall:

(1) Provide a plan for the continuity of area agency functions and services in the affected planning and service area; and

(2) Designate a new area agency in the planning and service area in a timely manner.

(c) If necessary to ensure continuity of services in a planning and service area, the State agency may, for a period of up to 180 days after its final decision to withdraw designation of an area agency:

(1) Perform the responsibilities of the area agency; or

(2) Assign the responsibilities of the area agency to another agency in the planning and service area.

(d) The Commissioner may extend the 180-day period if a State agency:

(1) Notifies the Commissioner in writing of its action under paragraph (c) of this section;

(2) Requests an extension; and

(3) Demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Commissioner a need for the extension.

§ 1321.37 Intrastate funding formula.

(a) The State agency, after consultation with all area agencies in the State, shall develop and use an intrastate funding formula for the allocation of funds to area agencies under this part. The State agency shall publish the formula for review and comment by older persons, other appropriate agencies and organizations and the general public. The formula shall reflect the proportion among the planning and service areas of persons age 60 and over in greatest economic or social need with particular attention to low-income minority individuals. The State agency shall review and update its formula as often as a new State plan is submitted for approval.

(b) The intrastate funding formula shall provide for a separate allocation of funds received under section 303(f) for preventive health services. In the award of such funds to selected planning and service areas, the State agency shall give priority to areas of the State:

(1) Which are medically underserved; and

(2) In which there are large numbers of individuals who have the greatest economic and social need for such services.

(c) The State agency shall submit its intrastate formula to the Commissioner for review and comment. The intrastate formula shall be submitted separately from the State plan.

§ 1321.41 Single State planning and service area.

(a) The Commissioner will approve the application of a State which was, on or before October 1, 1980, a single planning and service area, to continue as a single planning and service area if the State agency demonstrates that:

(1) The State is not already divided for purposes of planning and administering human services; or

(2) The State is so small or rural that the purposes of this part would be impeded if the State were divided into planning and services areas; and

(3) The State agency has the capacity to carry out the responsibilities of an area agency, as specified in the Act.

(b) Prior to the Commissioner's approval for a State to continue as a single planning and service area, all the requirements and procedures in § 1321.29 shall be met.

(c) If the Commissioner approves a State's application under paragraph (a) this section:

(1) The Commissioner notifies the State agency to develop a single State planning and service area plan which meets the requirements of section 306 and 307 of the Act.

(2) A State agency shall meet all the State and area agency function requirements specified in the Act.

(d) If the Commissioner denies the application because a State fails to meet the criteria or requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section, the Commissioner notifies the State that it shall follow procedures in section 305(A)(1)(E) of the Act to divide the State into planning and service areas.