

LIMITED-SCOPE AUDIT PROPOSAL

Evaluating Aging and Disability Resource Center Contract Changes

SOURCE

This audit was requested by Senator Rick Billinger.

BACKGROUND

In 1965, Congress passed the Older Americans Act, establishing the nationwide network of Area Agencies on Aging. Kansas has 11 Area Agencies on Aging, each serving a different geographic area of the state. Each Area Agency on Aging is either a unit of county government or a non-profit organization. Their primary responsibilities include things like advocating for, providing information to, and coordinating services for older adults and people with disabilities. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) contracts with and oversees the state's Area Agencies on Aging.

During 2013-2024, one of KDADS's contracts with the Area Agencies on Aging enabled them to serve as Aging and Disability Resource Centers. As such, they referred older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers to the public and private services and benefits available to them. Under this contract, Area Agencies on Aging also conducted home- and community-based service assessments. These assessments determine which services and benefits older adults and people with disabilities qualify to receive to help them live independently.

In August 2024, KDADS issued 2 requests for proposals, separating Aging and Disability Resource Centers and home- and community-based service assessments into 2 contracts for the first time. KDADS officials said they did this in response to federal concerns about the potential conflict of interest in having a single entity both help individuals access services and determine which services they qualify for. Area Agency on Aging officials said this concern wasn't communicated to them before, and that KDADS officials said they could bid for the contracts. 2 private companies from outside Kansas were awarded these contracts and will provide these services separately during 2025-2028.

Legislators have expressed concern that the Department for Aging and Disability Services' decision to separate the contracts may not be in the best interest of Kansans.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND TENTATIVE METHODOLOGY

The audit objective listed below is the question we would answer through our audit work. The steps listed for the objective convey the type of work we would do. These may change as we learn more about the audit issues.

Objective 1: Why did KDADS change how it contracts for Aging and Disability Resource Center services? Our tentative methodology would include the following:

- Review federal law and regulations, contracts, and other documentation and talk to officials from the Area Agencies on Aging, KDADS, and the Centers for Medicare and

Medicaid Services to identify and summarize at a high level what Aging and Disability Resource Centers do and the requirements related to preventing potential conflicts of interest.

- Talk to officials and review available documentation from KDADS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Area Agencies on Aging to identify the reasons for KDADS's decision to change how it contracts for Aging and Disability Resource Center services. Follow up with KDADS officials as necessary to understand the reasons for any identified issues.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES

We estimate this audit would take **100 staff hours** to complete.