

Older Americans Act (OAA) – Appropriations

Providing Vital Support for Older Adults to Remain Living at Home

Core Member Organizations

- Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW)
- Alzheimer's Association SE Wisconsin Chapter
- Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA)
- Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A)
- Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS)
- Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND)
- Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC)
- Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA)

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network is a collaborative group of individuals and associations working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy to improve their quality of life.

WAAN Federal Issue Brief
November 2016

WAAN's Position: Restore OAA program funding to at least FY 2010 levels. Prioritize restoring funding to OAA programs that have had little to no relief from sequestration.

The Older Americans Act (OAA) is the foundation of our national system of home- and community-based services for older Americans. The OAA funds programs—such as home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation, legal assistance, employment services, health promotion, and caregiver support services (including personal care and chore services)—that help older adults remain in the much-preferred and lower cost setting of their homes and communities. The OAA also funds vulnerable elder rights protections. In Wisconsin these funds are used to support the work of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in protecting the safety, welfare, and rights of older individuals who receive long-term care services.

Consecutive years of OAA funding erosion has reduced service capacity and constrained the ability of local agencies to help older adults age with dignity and respect.

Funding Priorities

OAA funding for Title III-B supportive services such as transportation and in-home assistance with chores has seen no relief from sequestration cuts and continues to decline—yet the demand and cost of providing services that help keep older adults living in their own homes increases each year. Title III-B supportive services funding has fallen to the lowest levels since 2004.

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Though the FY 2016 appropriations provided a small increase (3.4%) for the National Family Caregiver Support Program (Title III-E), funding remains below the 2010 level and the supports and services provided through this program remain in high demand.

FY 2016 appropriations levels for Title VI Native American aging programs remain woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Indian elders. Funding formulas need to reflect the inclusion of an under age 60 population in need of home- and community-based services.

The demand for long-term care ombudsman services continues to grow, yet Title VII funding to provide these much needed services has not. This funding needs to be restored to at least FY 2010 levels to ensure these critical services remain available.

OAA Programs Save Money

OAA programs save taxpayers money by preventing unnecessary hospital stays and readmissions, delaying or avoiding costly institutional placements, preserving and promoting health, and promoting efficiencies within the health care system by coordinating care and managing care transitions. To maximize the impact of the OAA, these federal funds are designed to leverage and complement other state and local funding. OAA programs require cash and

in-kind support and depend on older adult volunteers and other local supporters who give their time

and talents and contribute voluntary financial donations toward the delivery and/or expansion of the services they receive.

To keep pace with inflation and the growing population of people needing aging services, we support restoring OAA program funding to **at least** FY 2010 levels.



Contact WAAN

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