

July 24, 2024 Update:

House Labor-HHS Subcommittee Advances FY 2025 Appropriations Bill

Earlier this month, the House Appropriations Committee passed the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill. Details are now available regarding funding numbers for all Older Americans Act (OAA) programs.

Good News: The House bill includes increases over the FY 2024 funding for OAA Title III B – Supportive Services, Title III E – National Family Caregiver Support Program, and Title VI – Native American Nutrition, Supportive and Caregiver Services.

- *Title III B – Supportive Services*

Home and Community-Based Supportive Services received a \$5 million increase (1.2%). While not a large increase, this program is often overlooked, so even a small gain for these critical services is appreciated.

- *Title III E – National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)*

NFCSP received a \$3 million increase. Note, it is unclear at this time if the additional funding is intended for formula funding that goes out to the Aging Network or if it is intended for a special initiative such as implementation of the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, & Engage (RAISE) Act's National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers.

- *Title VI – Native American Nutrition, Supportive and Caregiver Services*

Native American Nutrition and Supportive Services program received a \$4 million increase (10.5%) and the Native American Caregiver Services received a \$4 million increase (33%), for a total Title VI funding increase of \$8 million.

Additional *good* news includes a \$20 million increase for the OAA Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP). This increase would help offset some of the loss from the \$48 million funding cut in FY 2024. The House bill also proposes to move the NSIP authorizing agency from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) back to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) where the program was administered prior to 2006. It is unclear why House Appropriators chose to make this change.

Bad News: The House bill makes significant funding cuts for some programs, including the complete elimination of two programs:

- *Title C1 and C2 Nutrition Programs*

Funding for C1 Congregate Meals was reduced by \$22 million and C2 Home-Delivered Meals funding received a \$15 million cut. These funding cuts bring funding for the Nutrition programs nearly back to FY 2023 funding levels.

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- *Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)*

The SCSEP received **no funding** under the House Committee bill. Based on an evaluation of the SCSEP that found the program led to unsubsidized employment for less than half of program participant available for employment and even lower rates of unsubsidized employment for participants with a disability and for older adults and participants with lower levels of education.

- *Adult Protective Services (APS)*

The House Committee **did not provide any funding for APS**. No details were provided as to why this decision was made.

- *Community Care Corps, the Direct Care Workforce Demonstration and the Older Adult Equity Collaborative* also received no funding under the House Committee bill.

The OAA Title III D - Evidence-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP), Senior Medicare Patrol program and Life Span Respite Care program all received level funding (no change from FY 2024). See USAging's [full appropriations chart](#) for more detail.

It is not too late to change the outcome of this funding, but we will need to act soon! It is unlikely this appropriations bill will be the final bill enacted into law. The full House is expected to take up (and likely pass) the bill in August. The U.S. Senate's Labor – HHS bill is expected to move later this month. The Senate bill is expected to include an overall 1% increase over FY 2024 (due to the funding caps included in 2023-2024 bipartisan budget agreements).

Our advocacy is critical to ensure the OAA program increases in the House bill are maintained, while restoring Title III C and Title V funding. Efforts must continue to help legislators understand just how harmful funding cuts will be to local programs in their districts and to the many older adults in need of services.

Every August, members of Congress take a summer recess and are back in their home states and district for the month. August is a great time to reach out to federal legislators and invite them to ride along on a home-delivered meal route, visit a congregate dining site, or help with a health promotions class. Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) and aging units are encouraged to extend an invitation to their Congressional Representative and/or Wisconsin's U.S. Senators soon (see [Wisconsin Members of the 118th Congress](#) for contact information). Additional direction, from our national partners at USAging, on how we can get more involved is coming soon!

If you have questions or concerns about this *Advocacy Alert*, please contact:

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Core member organizations

Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW) • Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) • 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 Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) • Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) Wisconsin Senior Advocates • Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA) • Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association

Mission

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) works with and for all older adults by educating community members and policy makers on priority issues while advocating for meaningful change. Learn more at <https://gwaar.org/waan>.

(released July 2, 2024)