

**Statewide Caregiver Support Meeting
Advocacy Update
July 14, 2026**

Federal Office of Management and Budget Grantmaking Rule

In late May, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a proposed regulation that would change the way Federal grants are awarded and administered with the goal of improving “transparency, accountability, and oversight.” Please note that the below analysis is our best understanding derived from trainings and overviews provided by several organizations. We are awaiting official guidance from ACL and the State when the rule is finalized in the coming weeks.

This proposed rule implements the President’s 2025 Executive Order on Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking. The following provisions are included and relate to discretionary grant awards:

- Awards must match presidential priorities—awards must “demonstrably advance the President’s policy priorities.”
- Potential awardees are reviewed by senior political appointees to ensure they meet these priorities and do not promote “anti-American values” or “undermine public safety.”
- Awards can be suspended or cancelled for any reason, with no warning, justification, or appeal.
- Broad condemnation for any grant activities that are considered “woke”, “DEI”, or dealing with gender ideology.

Discretionary grants are those awarded via a competitive application process. For example, if a federal agency announces they are seeking applicants for a \$1,000,000 limited term project and it is open for any agency to apply, that is likely a discretionary grant because there are reviewers determining which agency will receive the grant based on the merits of the application. Formula grants are non-competitive, non-application grants. They are awarded to a subset of awardees based on a formula. The Older Americans Act is a formula grant because it is awarded to all states based on formula derived from the number of older adults per state.

Many of the provisions in this rule, including those listed above, will not apply to funds awarded through the Older Americans Act. Provisions included in the rule that apply to all grant types are:

- Grant funds cannot be used to pay conference registrations or related expenses unless explicitly allowed by the federal agency awarding the grant or if it is written in the grant rules.
- Grant funds cannot be used to pay for membership in any association where issue advocacy or lobbying is a primary goal or activity.

- Grant recipients and subrecipients would need to use E-Verify for any employees or contractors working on federal grants.
- Grant recipients, subrecipients, and pass-throughs would need a SAM ID number and to report grant activity in SAM.

This rule will go into effect October 1, 2026. Now that the comment period is over, the official rule will come out in the next several weeks. We anticipate that, once the official rule is released, the State Aging Unit will analyze it and provide guidance to Area Agencies on Aging in the coming months. AAAs will then share additional guidance to OAA grant recipients.

Although the most onerous provisions of this rule would not apply to Older Americans Act funds, many agencies are recipients of discretionary awards that may be supplementing OAA activities. It is important to evaluate all funding sources to determine if they may be impacted by this rule. If so, prepare to receive that additional guidance prior to the October 1, 2026 implementation date.

Upcoming Elections

There are two very important elections coming up in 2026—make sure you have a plan to vote!

Partisan Primary: Tuesday, August 11, 2026

General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Check your registration status, what's on your ballot, and where your polling place is at <https://myvote.wi.gov>.

The Disability Vote Coalition has a helpful fact sheet (English and Spanish) so you can be ready to vote this year! <https://disabilityvote.org/2025/be-ready-to-vote-in-2026/>

Need a ride to the polls? The Disability Vote Coalition has compiled a list of transportation providers that are offering free rides to the polls for individuals with disabilities and older adults. Please share this resource with anyone who may be interested! <https://disabilityvote.org/2025/rides-to-the-polls/>

The number one call to the Disability Vote Coalition voter hotline is from individuals who need a ride to the polls—even though this list has been available for several years now! We are very eager to spread the word about this list so we can ensure anyone who needs a ride to the polls has one.

AARP Wisconsin asked all candidates how they would help older Wisconsinites 50+ as they age and prepare for retirement. View their video responses here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGXD68hWEy7c>

Lunch and Learn: Guardianship and Voting: Tuesday, July 28 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Join the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition on July 28 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. to learn more about preserving and restoring the right to vote in a guardianship. In this webinar, you will learn how voting rights are addressed in the guardianship process and hear directly from a panel of experts and advocates. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/DVC728>

Act Now! Advocate for increased Older Americans Act funding!

On Tuesday, June 9, the House Appropriations Committee held a full Committee mark-up of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education FFY27 Bill, which includes the Older Americans Act. They recommended modest increases to the Title C1 and C2 nutrition programs and Title VI Native American programs. The bill also included funding for AmeriCorps programs and some block grant programs. The remainder of the OAA title programs were level-funded with FY2026 appropriations. This funding bill was later passed by the House Appropriations Committee.

The Senate is slowly beginning the process of developing its budget bills, but they have not started on the bill containing Older Americans Act programs. Now is the perfect time to reach out and demand increased funding for aging programs and services! These modest increases are nice but will not solve the needs in our communities to serve all those who seek our support.

Please use and customize (and share!) the action alert to send an email to your representatives this week: <http://bit.ly/4u2koCq>

Be sure you are reviewing the email text before sending as there are blanks to fill in and opportunities to share your story! As we get closer to the deadline to pass a FY2027 budget, it is increasingly important to remind your legislators how valuable funding for the Older Americans Act is to your community.