

Older Americans Act (OAA) funding for FY 2025

ADVOCACY ALERT

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July 2, 2024

House Labor-HHS Subcommittee Advances FY 2025 Appropriations Bill

Last week, the House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Subcommittee approved a FY 2025 appropriations bill. This bill proposes an 11% reduction in the total discretionary allocation. Included in the House bill is **\$2.5 billion for the Administration for Community Living (ACL), a decrease of \$21 million (less than one percent) below the FY 2024 level.** It is not clear, at this point, whether most programs within the ACL budget were level funded or if there are dramatic winners and losers. **No details are available yet regarding ACL's Older Americans Act (OAA) funding for FY 2025.** Although USAging, our national area agency on aging association, has learned the House Subcommittee proposes to zero out funding for the OAA Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

We expect to learn the full funding details for OAA programs by mid-July. However, even with modest funding cuts to ACL overall, **it is imperative the Aging Network continues to push Congress to fully protect and ideally increase all titles of the OAA.** The rising number of older adults, the increasing complexity of needs seen in communities nationwide, workforce shortages and rising costs all demand much-needed increases for OAA and other aging and caregiver federal programs. The Senate has not yet released its comparable appropriations bill, so advocates need to educate their federal Representative and Senators.

Take Action:

Contact your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson NOW to advocate for funding for OAA programs and services. Read USAging's [appropriations request letter](#). Give your Members of Congress a sense of how their communities would be affected with funding cuts—take the time to localize what this funding means for the older adults and caregivers in your community or tribe.

STEP 1: Put Your Requests in Writing! Send a letter requesting their support. Putting the letter on your agency's letterhead is ideal, but if that is not feasible, send it from your Advisory Board or even yourself as a private citizen. Or do all three! Use USAging's templates ([AAA/Title VI](#)) but customize to your agency/community.

Send the letter via email to their DC and district offices. Find contact information for your federal legislators here - [Wisconsin Members of the 118th Congress](#) - (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007697>) . If you are unsure who your U.S. Representative is go [here](https://www.house.gov/representatives) (<https://www.house.gov/representatives>) and enter your home address zip code in the box on the upper right-hand side of the page.

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STEP 2: Schedule Meetings and Visits with Your Lawmakers. Request virtual meetings with your Members of Congress—all you have to do is ask! (Tip: Put the request in writing. Call or email the DC office to ensure your request gets to the scheduler.)

STEP 3: Engage Your Provider Network. Urge your vendors/providers, advisory board members and other important stakeholders to send their own letters to Congress. **Please do all you can to amplify the message and engage others who understand the value of OAA in their community!** Forward this *Alert* to your networks or edit it to be best received by your agency's advocates.

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)