

## Call to Action



## Congress: Reauthorize the Older Americans Act in 2013!

The Older Americans Act (OAA) should be reauthorized this year and just in the nick of time: the U.S. is experiencing an unprecedented wave of growth in the population of citizens over the age of 60. The Older Americans Act was originally established in 1965 with the goal of providing health and human services for Americans, particularly as they grow older.

The reauthorization provides an opportunity for Congress to ensure the Aging Network in the U.S. can continue to support a valuable and ever-expanding population of older Americans and their caregivers.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) design, fund, and coordinate programs that enhance the community support system designed to maintain older adults in their homes, postponing the need for more medically intensive and costly health care services.

### 5 Reasons to Reauthorize the Older Americans Act Today!

1. **The Age Wave.** Every eight seconds in America someone turns 65. Reauthorizing the Older Americans Act will demonstrate a commitment to good planning for handling the growth of the older population. The 2010 U.S. Census reported a rise in 60-plus population in every New York State county but one.
2. **Reach older New Yorkers before they end up on Medicaid.** Area Agency on Aging programs are pre-Medicaid programs that help older New Yorkers avoid the spend-down to Medicaid. These services can be provided to older New Yorkers at one-tenth the cost of a nursing home.
3. **Access to community-based programs.** The national Aging Services Network, which is comprised of the Administration on Aging, State Office for Aging, Area Agencies on Aging, and community providers was established by the act to ensure Americans have access to community-based programs and a continuity of care so they may maintain their independence.
4. **More New Yorkers will be able to live independently, in the least restrictive setting, long into old age.** Agencies on Aging serve the needs – nutritious meals, caregiver support, transportation, in-home personal care services, health insurance counseling – of older New Yorkers who want to live independently in their homes and in their communities.
5. **Supports families and caregivers.** The value of the services that family caregivers provide to help older adults live independently is estimated at \$450 billion a year nationally, according to a 2011 Valuing the Invaluable report by AARP. The Older Americans Act provides assistance and services for caregivers.

**Reauthorize OAA!**

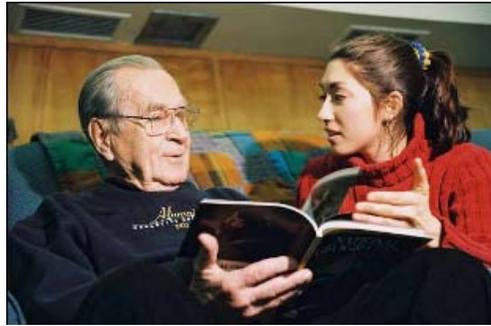
This is the year to reauthorize the Older Americans Act! The Older Americans Act (OAA) was established in 1965 with the goal of providing health and human services for Americans, particularly as they grow older and is overdue for reauthorization. And just in the nick of time: the U.S. is experiencing an unprecedented wave of growth in the 60-plus population.

**Community Services for Older Americans**

For more than 40 years, the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) has been the impetus for a system of cost-effective community services that meet the needs of our older citizens: health care information services, assistance with bathing and other personal care needs, home delivered meals and transportation, the kinds of services that allow older New Yorkers to remain independent in their homes.

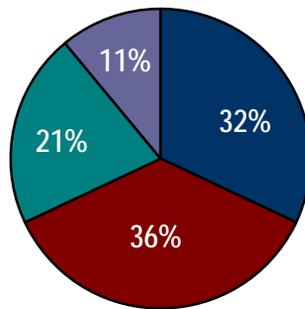
**Area Agencies on Aging**

Federal funds from the OAA are used by states and Area Agencies on Aging to develop and enhance comprehensive and coordinated community-based systems for older adults. They dovetail with state and local funds to make up a human services infrastructure. The original legislation established authority for grants to states for community planning and social services, research and development projects and



personnel training in the field of aging. The law also established the Administration on Aging (AoA) to administer programs and to serve as the Federal focal point on matters concerning older Americans. In 2012, the AoA was made part of the Administration on Community Living (ACL) a new agency dedicated to improving access to community supports and achieving full community participation for seniors and people with disabilities.

**NEW YORK: Funding to AAAs by Source for Fiscal Year 2011-12**



- Federal - 32% \$83,890,489
- State - 36% \$94,746,244
- Local Share - 21% \$55,100,675
- Participant - 11% \$27,959,684

OAA Allocation to NYS is higher than amount above, as a portion is retained by the NYS Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) for oversight.

**Preserve Services for Vulnerable Older Americans**

While a great number of older adults live independently, a growing number have chronic illnesses and disabilities, particularly as life expectancies increase. Many require supportive services to help them avoid or delay more costly levels of care such as nursing homes.

**The Caregiver Cliff**

Older individuals aren't the only ones impacted; their friends and families who support them in their homes also receive support through Older Americans Act funding. Nearly 80% of adults in need of long-term services depend on family and friends as their only source of help. The value of the services that family caregivers provide nationally is estimated at \$450 billion a year (AARP 2011 Valuing the Invaluable Report), almost twice as much as home care and nursing services combined.

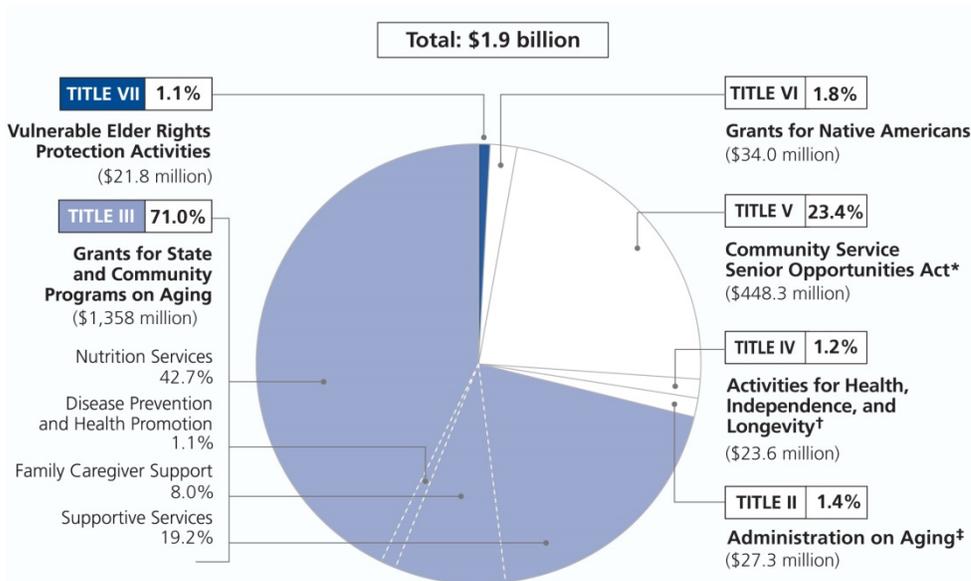


*"We are at a critical moment. We must give seniors the support they need to stay healthy in their homes and communities." -Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)*

## Older Americans Act – Funding, Titles and Unmet Need

### Older Americans Act

Federal Fiscal Year 2012  
Funds for all States



Source: Prepared by the National Health Policy Forum, based on e-mail communications with AoA staff and phone conversations with DOL staff February 2012.

### *Unmet Need*

The Older Americans Act (OAA) was enacted to help older adults remain in their homes and communities, living independently. In fiscal year 2008, about 5 percent of the nation's adults 60 and over received key aging services through Title III of the OAA, including meals and home-based care. In 2010, states received \$1.4 billion to fund Title III programs. Studies project large increases in the number of adults who will be eligible for these in the future. More should be done to measure the extent of unmet need for services, according to the 2011 report: "More Should Be Done to Measure the Extent of Unmet Need for Services" GAO-11-237, the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

### *Funding*

All programs are administered at the federal level except for the Title V community service employment program, which is administered by the Department of Labor. Title III services are the greatest share of federal funding and are available to all people age 60 and over, but they are targeted to those with the greatest economic need.

### Older Americans Act Structure at a Glance

<b>Title I</b>	Declaration of Objectives. Sets out broad social policy objectives oriented toward improving the lives of all older people.
<b>Title II</b>	Administration on Aging (AoA). Establishes AoA within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the chief federal agency advocate for older persons and sets out the responsibilities of AoA and the Assistant Secretary for Aging. Establishes aging network support activities.
<b>Title III</b>	Grants for State and Community Programs on Aging. Authorizes activities of state and area agencies on aging and funds for supportive and nutrition services, family caregiver support, and disease prevention and health promotion activities.
<b>Title IV</b>	Activities for Health, Independence, and Longevity. Authorizes research, training, and demonstration projects in the field of aging.
<b>Title V</b>	Community Service Senior Opportunities Act. Authorizes grants to support part-time employment opportunities for unemployed low income people age 55 and older who have poor employment prospects.
<b>Title VI</b>	Grants for Native Americans. Authorizes grants for supportive and nutrition services to American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians.
<b>Title VII</b>	Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities. Authorizes grants for the long-term care ombudsman program and services to prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

## Older Americans Act -- Overview

### Title III: Grants for State and Community Programs on Aging

Title III formula grants support the activities of 56 state units on aging (SUAs) and 629 area agencies on aging (AAAs), which can be nonprofit or public agencies. AAAs act as advocates on behalf of, and coordinate social service programs for, older people. Title III authorizes funds for supportive and nutrition services, family caregiver support, and disease prevention and health promotion activities. State agencies are required to pass all Title III funds to area agencies to administer within their state-defined planning and service areas.

**Supportive services (Title III B).** Funds a wide range of social services to help older people remain independent in their own homes and communities, transportation and information and assistance, home care, and legal assistance.

**Nutrition services (Title III C).** Provides meals and socialization for older people in congregate settings (Title III C-1), such as senior centers, churches and delivers meals to frail older people in their own homes (III C-2).

**Disease prevention and health promotion (Title III D).** Seed money to promote proven prevention programs that prevent or delay chronic conditions.

**Family caregiver support (Title III E).** The National Family Caregiver Support Program provides grants to states to develop a variety of services to assist family caregivers, including information and assistance about available services, individual counseling, support groups and caregiver training, and respite services to provide families temporary relief from caregiving responsibilities.

**OAA serves an at-risk population.** OAA funding is vital to serving frail older adults who need services to remain in the community, avoiding the need for more costly care and preventing spend down to Medicaid. Those who are frail/disabled and living alone are at greater risk of institutional placement.

#### Title III B: Supportive Services

PROFILE	Living Alone Frail/Disabled	FUNDING for Top 4 Categories	
Services for 180,000+ people		Total Title III B FUNDING: \$33,794,853	
22% household income below poverty		\$ 7,722,127	Information & Assistance
11% minority (4% low income minority)		\$ 4,517,021	Transportation
68% age 75 or older		\$ 3,800,710	Other
32% age 85 or older	<u>Title III B</u>	\$ 2,880,523	Legal Services
	58% lived alone		
	55% frail/disabled		

#### Title III C-1 and C-2: Nutrition Services

PROFILE	Living Alone Frail/Disabled	FUNDING for Top 4 Categories C-1	
Services for 130,000+ people		Total C-1 funding \$35,589,284	
18% household income below poverty		\$ 30,575,645	Congregate Meals
11% minority (4% low income minority)		\$ 1,254,230	Nutrition Education
58% age 75 or older		\$ 1,151,254	Senior Centers
22% age 85 or older	<u>Title C-1</u>	\$ 827,705	Information & Assistance
	46% lived alone		
	25% frail/disabled		
PROFILE	Living Alone Frail/Disabled	FUNDING for Top 4 Categories C-2	
Services for 55,000+ people		Total C-2 funding \$31,566,539	
23% household income below poverty		\$ 29,150,524	Home Delivered Meals
10% minority (3% low income minority)		\$ 919,708	Information Assistance
74% age 75 or older		\$ 471,474	Nutrition Counseling
40% age 85 or older	<u>Title C-2</u>	\$ 476,761	Nutrition Education
	60% lived alone		
	71% frail/disabled		

#### Title III D: Health Promotion & Disease Prevention

PROFILE	Living Alone Frail/Disabled	FUNDING for Top 4 Categories	
Services for 15,000+ people		Total III D funding: \$1,778,586	
13% household income below poverty		\$ 1,019,613	Health Promotion
7% minority (1% low income minority)		\$ 282,065	Nutrition Education
64% age 75 or older		\$ 213,320	Information & Assistance
26% age 85 or older	<u>Title III D</u>	\$ 215,400	Senior Centers
	44% lived alone		
	34% frail/disabled		

#### Title III E: Family & Caregiver Support

PROFILE	Living Alone Frail/Disabled	FUNDING for Top 4 Categories	
Services for 23,000+ people		Total III E funding: \$12,194,866	
21% minority (21% low income minority)		\$ 2,263,392	Personal Care
61% age 75 or older		\$ 2,056,497	Information & Assistance
30% age 85 or older	<u>Title III E</u>	\$ 1,991,936	Personal Emergency
	52% lived alone	\$ 1,547,497	Adult Day Services
	79% frail/disabled		

Data Source for Profiles: NYS Office for Aging Client Data (October 2011 submitted data)

Data Source for funding: CAARS 32A, run on 8/7/2012

Totals for each title include federal OAA allocation, local share, program income and NSIP (for III C-1, III C-2, III E).