ADVOCACY ALERT!

The current administration's proposed budget will tear Older Americans Act (OAA) programs apart and send them to two different agencies – the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the newly created Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The budget also calls for zeroing out several key aging programs.

It's important to remember: the president's budget is a proposal only. Congress must agree to implement the president's budget through their appropriations process, which is just getting started.

Now is the time to contact your members of Congress and call for:

- OAA programs to remain together at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and
- For critical aging programs to be saved from elimination!

Advocacy Toolkit!
CLICK HERE!





ADVOCACY ALERTI

Contact your Representatives and Senators NOW!

Advocate for keeping Older Americans Act programs together at the Administration for Children and Families and preventing the elimination of critical aging programs. Give our members of Congress a sense of how our communities will be affected by localizing what tearing OAA programs apart and the elimination of key aging programs would mean for the older adults and caregivers in our community.

<u>Click here</u> to use our grassroots email template below to customize your message to reflect your agency, program and personal experience. If applicable, weave in data and stories about those you serve.

Send your email to D.C. and district offices. A contact list of our federal elected officials is provided below, but you can also go directly to our Members' websites: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.





Congressman David Taylor
Clermont County
United States House of Representatives
Contact Congressman Taylor
Visit Congressman Taylor's Website
Call: (202) 225-3164



Congressman Warren Davidson
Butler and Hamilton counties
United States House of Representatives
Contact Congressman Davidson
Visit Congressman Davidson's Website
Call: (202) 225-6205



Congressman Greg Landsman
Hamilton and Warren counties
United States House of Representatives
Contact Congressman Landsman
Visit Congressman Landsman's Website
Call: (202) 225-2216



United States Senator Bernie Moreno
United States Senate
Contact Senator Moreno
Visit Senator Moreno's Website
Call: (202) 224-2315



United States Senator Jon Husted
United States Senate
Contact Senator Husted
Visit Senator Husted's Website
Call: (202) 224-3353

Questions? Contact Council on Aging Government Relations Director, Nan Cahall: ncahall@help4seniors.org.



Budget Proposal Impact on Funding and Programs for Older Adults

- The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** is slated for elimination in the budget, with the Trump Administration claiming it is rife with fraud and abuse.
- The **Community Services Block Grant** (CSBG) has also been slated for elimination, with the claim that "these grants [to Community Action Agencies] are laden with equity-building and green energy initiatives."
- The **Community Development Block Gran**t (CDBG) is also proposed for elimination, asserting that "CDBG is poorly targeted, and the program has been used for a variety of projects that the Federal Government should not be funding."
- **Title IIID of the Older Americans Act** which promotes health and well-being of older adults through evidence-based health and wellness programs, like Chronic Disease Self-Management and peer-based/led activity and exercise programs, is slated for elimination.
- Section 202 Housing for the Elderly has been merged into a block grant with other targeted housing programs. The budget states: "The Budget empowers States by transforming the current Federal dysfunctional rental assistance programs into a State-based formula grant which would allow States to design their own rental assistance programs based on their unique needs and preferences. The Budget would also newly institute a two-year cap on rental assistance for able bodied adults, and would ensure a majority of rental assistance funding through States would go to the elderly and disabled."
- The Corporation for National and Community Service, which operates the Americorps Seniors programs, is slated for elimination in the President's budget.
- OAA Title V Senior Community Services Employment Program is slated for elimination, with the Administration claiming, "seniors would be better served by programs operated by State and local governments, with proven track records of increasing wages."
- Proposed changes to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): "To further improve the health of seniors consistent with the President's MAHA [Make America Healthy Again] initiative, the Budget ends CSFP (which has been misused for DEI and logrolling) and replaces it with MAHA food boxes. The MAHA food boxes remove administrative middlemen to provide higher-quality food directly to seniors. Unlike the current approach using food banks, which provide those in need with shelf-stable foods that are high in sodium and other harmful ingredients, MAHA boxes would be filled with commodities sourced from domestic farmers and given directly to American households. This approach of boxing commodities was highly successful at the end of the first Trump administration as a COVID pandemic response."

Questions? Contact Council on Aging Government Relations Director, Nan Cahall: ncahall@help4seniors.org.

Copy and paste the text below into an email message. Be sure to add a personal story or anecdote about how the budget would impact you or your business.

Dear [Representative or Senator NAME]:

On behalf of [your organization name], I am writing to you to share grave concerns regarding President Trump's draft FY 2026 HHS budget because it includes a major threat to the ability of older adults to age well at home and in the community. The budget will dismantle and destroy the integration of the cost-effective aging programs and services under the Older Americans Act (OAA).

[PUT IN YOUR PERSONAL/ORGANIZATION EXAMPLE. For example: In 2024, Council on Aging (COA) supported close to 30,000 individuals helping them to remain independent in their homes. This could not have been achieved without 1.8 million hours of in-home care, 1.9 million meals served, or 202,867 trips to medical and senior center activities. We are a lifeline for your constituents.]

The President's draft budget proposes to split OAA programs into two different HHS agencies: the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The budget draft also outlined plans to zero out many critical aging programs that support older adults in southwest Ohio, such as OAA's evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention programs (Title III D) and elder rights advocacy, including efforts to prevent elder abuse and neglect (Title VII), among others.

The OAA turns 60 this year and has had a tremendous impact on millions of older adults and their caregivers through the provision of services that promote healthy, independent aging, including inhome supports, transportation, meals and nutrition services, case management, social engagement, caregiver support and many others.

Splitting OAA programs across two different federal agencies undermines the fact that these programs – even though they are allocated to different titles and subtitles – are all part of ONE delivery system, established by Congress in the Older Americans Act. The Aging Network that oversees this delivery system includes leadership at the federal, state and local levels and works so well because of a cohesive approach that allows AAAs to provide a wide range of personcentered services to meet the needs of older adults and caregivers as efficiently as possible.

If the proposed breakup of the programs and the elimination of major initiatives in the OAA goes forward, it will severely impact the ability of older adults and caregivers in southwest Ohio to get the services and supports they need to remain independent at home vs. living in a more costly institutional setting. It would also create cost inefficiencies through unnecessary and wasteful administrative burden on federal, state and local aging agencies.

Please do all you possibly can to ensure that federal administration of OAA programs follows the law, and the OAA programs that were formerly at the Administration for Community Living are moved intact to ACF. I also ask for your support to prevent the elimination of critical services to older adults in southwest Ohio in the FY 2026 appropriations bills.

I look forward to your reply and your assistance in this matter. I am happy to discuss these concerns with you or your staff at any time and will be following up.
Sincerely,
[Your Name and Contact Information]