



Older Americans Act (OAA) Funding Alert

July 12, 2022

Hello WACCRA members!

As you know, WACCRA not only advocates for CCRC residents, but for all seniors in the state of Washington and beyond. That is why we are forwarding to you a call to action from [USAgging](#) and the [WA Association of Area Agencies on Aging \(w4a\)](#) regarding federal funding for the Older Americans Act. You can go to their websites (click on the name above) for more information about these two organizations.

The 1965 Older Americans Act has been described as the "cornerstone of the nation's non-Medicaid home and community-based services."

Please take some time to read these posts, and follow the Action Steps to contact our senators with your comments/support.

From USAgging RE: Older Americans Act (OAA) funding July 7, 2022 Advocacy Alert

Contact Your Senators TODAY for Tomorrow's FY 2023 Funding! It's Time for the Senate to Champion OAA Increases.

With just a few weeks left to influence Senate spending recommendations, we must use this narrow window to safeguard the strongest possible levels for OAA funding in FY 2023. As we highlighted in our most recent Legislative Update, House Democrats unveiled their initial proposal of \$2.9 billion for the Administration for Community Living (ACL) last week. All eyes now turn to Senate appropriators as they draft their spending bills, expected to be released

by month's end.

In order to finalize all FY 2023 discretionary funding bills, including those for OAA and other critical aging programs, Senate Democrats and Republicans will need to agree on funding levels for thousands of individual programs. We know that bipartisan, bicameral negotiations will be challenging, and we expect to see initial numbers significantly reduced in order to secure Republican support for a final bill. However, because most proposed OAA funding only saw increases of 12 to 20 percent in the House bill, we cannot afford to lose ground during this initial Senate appropriations process. It's imperative we push the Senate to champion US Aging's FY 2023 funding requests or, at minimum, support the House-passed levels.

We must ensure that FY 2023 appropriations figures reflect the ongoing and growing need to sustain and expand the life-saving programs and services you deliver. Senate appropriators must understand the incredible work you have done, why it matters to the health and independence of their constituents—and that this work needs to be sufficiently funded.

We are calling on all AAAs, Title VI Native American Aging Programs and all your local allies to raise your voices in support of Older Americans Act funding today! We need you to reach out to your Senators and have them commit to supporting the highest possible spending levels—the House-passed levels or higher—to support older adults and caregivers in their communities!

From the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (w4a)

RE: Action Steps

Action Steps

STEP 1: Call Senator Maria Cantwell (202.224.3441) and Senator Patty Murray (202.224.2621) now in their DC offices. If you have problems reaching them directly, call the Capitol Switchboard at 202.224.2621.

STEP 2: Thank both Senators for being long-standing champions of Older Americans Act services!

STEP 3: Ask both Senators to urge their colleagues to support the House-passed 2023 appropriations that reflect the ongoing and growing need to sustain and expand life-saving OAA programs and services.

We must ensure that all Members of Congress know how important increased, stable, federal funding for the OAA is to promote the health, well-being and independence of their older constituents and those who support them.

We at WACCRA hope your summer is going well!

As always, thank you for your continued support of WACCRA and your support of Seniors in Washington.

Monica Clement
WACCRA Communications Chair

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