



2023 ADVOCACY AGENDA

Meals on Wheels provides nutritious meals and human connection to millions of older adults across the country, serving as a vital solution to the growing issues of senior hunger, isolation and malnutrition. Meals on Wheels America advocates for federal funding and policies that support and strengthen the nationwide network of community-based senior nutrition programs and the diverse older adult population it serves.

This year, we are calling on Congress and the Administration to:

1. Increase funding and support for senior nutrition programs.

- Provide adequate funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) in FY 2024, including a minimum of \$1,284,385,000 for Title III-C to address increasing demand for nutrition services and higher operating costs. Funding for home-delivered and congregate meals and the Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) is essential for Meals on Wheels programs, especially with an estimated 86% of low-income, food insecure older adults not receiving the meals for which they may be eligible.
- Protect other federal funding sources supporting local Meals on Wheels programs in FY 2024, including Social Services, Community Services and Community Development Block Grants, and Medicare and Medicaid home- and community-based services (HCBS).
- Enhance the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).
- Improve charitable giving and volunteer tax incentives to generate more resources and expand program capacity.

2. Strengthen and secure nutrition access for older adults.

- Maintain 100% funding transfer authority between OAA Title III-C home-delivered and congregate nutrition services, as allowed during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- Modernize OAA regulations and guidance to support local senior nutrition programs, including those regarding meal delivery methods, such as grab-and-go, and other service innovations.
- Reauthorize the Farm Bill to address senior hunger and malnutrition, including protecting SNAP, improving benefits coordination, broadening access for homebound individuals and enhancing interagency collaboration.

3. Advance food as medicine interventions.

- Establish home-delivered meals as a fully reimbursable benefit through fee-for-service Medicare, Medicare Advantage and Medicaid.
- Implement medically tailored meal pilots and initiatives that utilize community-based senior nutrition programs.