



2024 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 escalating issues of senior hunger and isolation. To that end, Meals on Wheels America advocates for increased federal funding and policies that strengthen and support the nationwide network of community-based senior nutrition programs and the diverse, growing population of older adults it serves.

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

1. Reauthorize and strengthen the Older Americans Act (OAA).

- Protect the OAA's core purposes of reducing hunger, social isolation and loneliness, and improving older adult health and well-being.
- Increase authorized funding levels for all OAA programs and establish incentives and funding for enhanced nutrition services (e.g., medically tailored or culturally appropriate meals).
- Unify Title III-C to improve efficiency and enable local providers to more easily tailor services to seniors' needs.
- Prioritize community-based organizations for nutrition services contracts and improve the reimbursement and payment processes.
- Modernize the OAA to incorporate innovations, flexibility and successful practices leveraged during the pandemic.

2. Increase funding and support for senior nutrition programs.

- Provide \$1.842 billion for OAA nutrition programs in FY 2025 to address increased demand for meals and rising operational costs.
- Protect other federal funding sources supporting local Meals on Wheels programs, 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), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).
- Improve charitable giving and volunteer tax incentives to generate more resources and expand capacity for nonprofits, including passing the *Charitable Act (H.R. 3435, S. 566)* and *Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act (H.R. 3032, S. 3020)*.

3. Expand nutrition access and social connection for older adults.

- Reauthorize and protect the nutrition programs in the Farm Bill, as well as improve access and support for older adults by including the *Senior Hunger Prevention Act (H.R. 3474, S. 1036)*.
- Advance Food as Medicine interventions such as establishing home-delivered meals provided by community-based providers as a fully reimbursable benefit through fee-for-service Medicare, Medicare Advantage and Medicaid and passing the *Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meals Demonstration Act (H.R. 6780, S. 2133)*.
- Address the epidemic of social isolation and loneliness declared by the U.S. Surgeon General through nationally coordinated awareness, initiatives and research, as proposed in the *National Strategy for Social Connection Act (S. 2350)* and *Improving Measurements for Loneliness and Isolation Act (H.R. 6284, S. 3260)*.