



## WASHINGTON UPDATE: MARCH 22, 2018

### APPROPRIATIONS BILL MOVES TO THE SENATE FOR A VOTE *CALLS FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR OAA NUTRITION PROGRAMS*

With the March 23 deadline looming, the U.S. House of Representatives introduced the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 last evening. This bill would provide \$1.3 trillion for federal programs and include significant funding increases for senior nutrition programs for the remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 ending September 30. After weeks of negotiations and a few hours of debate today, the House passed this bipartisan spending package by a vote of 256-167. The bill will now move to the Senate for speedy consideration and final passage before the current stopgap spending bill keeping the government open expires at midnight tomorrow.

#### WHAT'S IN THE LEGISLATION

We're currently analyzing the 2,232-page bill; however, at first review, we see significant increases and level funding for federal programs supporting your operations and the seniors you serve. **These new funding levels demonstrate that our voices are being heard on Capitol Hill and represent important wins for the aging network!**

Here's a look at some highlights from this bill and how they compare to our key advocacy asks for a final FY 2018 funding agreement:

**IN THE BILL:** Increase of \$59 million for Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Programs over FY 2017 enacted levels, for a total of \$896.75 million.

**OUR ASK:** Increase federal funding for OAA Nutrition Programs by \$150 million over FY 2017 enacted levels, for a total of \$987.7 million.

- Following the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 last month, we increased our ask from \$22 million higher over FY 2017 enacted levels to \$150 million, so movement in this direction is a positive sign!

**IN THE BILL:** Good news for previously threatened block grants:

- ***Social Services Block Grant (SSBG):*** Level funded at \$1.7 billion
- ***Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):*** Increase of \$300 million, for a total of \$3.3 billion, a similar funding level to previous years
- ***Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):*** Level funded at \$715 million

**OUR ASK:** Maintain existing funding levels, at a minimum, for the Social Services, Community Development and Community Services Block Grants.

- Remember, all of these block grants were proposed for elimination under the President's FY 2018 and 2019 Budgets, and some faced cuts during the appropriations process last summer.

**IN THE BILL:**

- ***OAA Title III B Home and Community-Based Supportive Services:*** Increase of nearly \$35 million, for a total of \$385 million
- ***OAA Title III E Family Caregiver Support:*** Increase of \$30 million, for a total for \$180 million
- ***OAA Elder Justice Initiatives:*** Increase of \$2 million, for a total of \$15.8 million
- ***OAA Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP):*** Level funded at \$400 million
- ***Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP):*** Increase of \$2 million, for a total of \$238 million
- ***Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):*** Decrease of \$4.4 billion, for a total of \$74 billion. This reduction is due to declining enrollment.
- ***Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program:*** Level funded at \$18.5 million
- ***The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP):*** Level funded at \$64.4 million

**OUR ASK:** Protect and increase funding for all OAA programs and other federal nutrition programs that benefit seniors, such as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Our network has advocated for many of these provisions over the past year, through #SaveLunch and its paper plate campaign, sign-on letters, hundreds of meal deliveries, outreach to the press, thousands of emails, social media posts and more. Congress' inclusion of these items in this legislation is a true testament to all of your hard work and persistence. We thank you for your dedicated advocacy, and we'll continue to work together to keep this momentum going strong!