



Lightening Learning Session: Older Americans Act Reauthorization

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Session Objectives

1. Overview of the Older Americans Act (OAA):
 - Title III Nutrition Programs
 - Reauthorization and Funding Process
2. Timeline and Key Players
3. Priorities and Opportunities

What is the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program?

The OAA Nutrition Services Program includes:

- Congregate Nutrition Services
- Home-Delivered Nutrition Services
- Nutrition Services Incentives Program (NSIP)

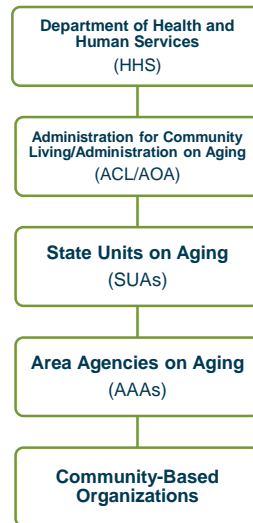
Program purpose:

1. Reduce hunger and food insecurity
2. Promote socialization
3. Promote health and wellbeing by improving access to nutrition and other services to delay onset of conditions related to poor nutrition

What is the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program?

Program authority & administration:

- Authorized under Title III of the OAA
- Grants are administered to states - amounts are based on the state's older adult (60+) population
- State agencies distribute funds to local agencies which use them to support the delivery of nutrition services in their jurisdiction



Understanding Policy Terms

Authorization & Appropriation – A 2-step funding process

1. Authorization (or Reauthorization)

- Spells out provisions by which a program will function and obligates its funding
- OAA is currently authorized for a 3-year period
- Current authorization ends September 30, 2019

2. Appropriations

- Provides the funds for an authorized program
- Occurs annually, before the start of a new fiscal year
- OAA appropriations come through one of 12 annual spending bills – Labor-HHS-Education

Understanding Policy Terms

Committees and Subcommittees

Key Older American's Act Committees

	Senate	House of Representatives
Authorizing	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Health & Retirement Security Subcommittee 	Education and the Workforce Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Education & Workforce Development Subcommittee
Appropriating	Appropriations Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee 	Appropriations Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee

Tentative Timeline for Reauthorization

CONGRESS

- **January:** 116th Congress convenes
- Reauthorization discussions begins in relevant Committees

- Committees seek stakeholder input, holds hearings, etc.
- Begin to draft bills and perhaps introduce them to Committees for consideration

- Committees process and approve bills
- Introduce bills to full chambers for a vote
- Reconcile differences (if any) between passed bills

- **September:** Current authorization expires on September 30th, the end of FY19
- Reauthorization legislation should be enacted

Winter

Dec. – Feb.

Spring

March – May

Summer

June – Aug.

Fall

Sept. – Nov.

OAA NETWORK

- **Pre-2019:** Identify and prepare priorities; coordinate with coalition partners
- Prepare to share and communicate priorities with Congress

- Communicate priorities to Congress and urge a timely reauthorization via testimonies, letters to Committees, and/or lobbying meetings
- Engage advocates and supporters in various grassroots activities such as digital campaigns and outreach emails
- Provide educational opportunities for Members of Congress through meal deliveries and briefings

We want to hear from you!

Older Americans Act Reauthorization Discussion

- Please take a few moments to brainstorm:
 - What is working well?
 - What would you like to see improved?
 - What would you like us to focus on most?

Additional Resources

Stay up-to-date on OAA Reauthorization with these additional Meals on Wheels America resources:

- Advocacy Center
 - www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/advocacycenter
- Member Central
 - www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/member-central
- @NoSeniorHungry on Twitter
 - www.twitter.com/NoSeniorHungry
- Washington Updates

Keep in touch!

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Appendix: Additional Policy Terms

Discretionary vs. Mandatory spending

- Discretionary spending must be done through annual appropriations bills, unlike mandatory programs
- OAA nutrition programs are discretionary spending

Continuing Resolutions (CR)

- Legislation allowing authorized programs to continue operating once a new fiscal year has begun and an appropriations agreement has not been passed