



## FACT SHEETS SOURCES & METHODS 2020: HOW MEALS ON WHEELS IS FUNDED

**FUNDING SOURCES FOR LOCAL MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAMS VARY BASED ON THE NEEDS AND RESOURCES OF THE COMMUNITY, AND ARE MADE UP OF FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND PRIVATE DOLLARS**

- A. **“Older Americans Act Funding/Expenditures”** chart data come from the 2018 Administration for Community Living (ACL) State Program Reports (SPR). US dollars (US\$) and [%] figures calculated by Meals on Wheels America and are for nutrition programs receiving some amount of federal funding through Title III of the Older Americans Act (OAA) in the United States, including territories, and excludes data from programs that only receive funding through private and/or other non-OAA funding sources alone. Data available in the ACL AGing, Independence, and Disability Program Data Portal (AGID) Custom Tables: <https://agid.acl.gov/CustomTables/SPR/Year/> (see below for Custom Tables filters and data elements).
- “Total expenditures”** figure reflects outlays/payments made using Older Americans Act Title III federal funds plus other program income spent to provide allowable nutrition services. US\$ calculated by combining expenditures for “Congregate Meals” and “Home-Delivered Meals.” Custom tables filters – Year: 2018; Elements: Expenditures > Total Expenditures > Congregate Meals + Home-Delivered Meals; Stratifiers: All Age Groups → Geography: All U.S. Totals > 50 States + DC & Territories
  - “OAA Nutrition Program funding”** figures reflect outlays/payments made using OAA Title III federal funds to provide allowable nutrition services. US\$ calculated by combining expenditures for “Congregate Meals” and “Home-Delivered Meals.” [%] represents the percentage “OAA Nutrition Program (Title III)” expenditures that make up of “Total Expenditures” {Note A.i.} and is calculated by dividing “OAA Nutrition Program Funding” by “Total Expenditures” and multiplying by 100%. AGID Custom Tables filters – Year: 2018; Elements: Expenditures > Title III Expenditures > Congregate Meals + Home-Delivered Meals; Stratifiers: All Age Groups; Geography: All U.S. Totals > 50 States + DC & Territories
  - “Other sources”** figures reflect program income other than OAA Title III funds, such as state, local and private dollars, spent by programs receiving OAA Title III funding to provide allowable nutrition services and includes the combined expenditures for “Congregate Meals” plus “Home-Delivered Meals.” US\$ calculated by subtracting the “OAA Nutrition Program funding” figure {Note A, ii} from the “Total Expenditures” figure {Note A, i}. [%] represents the percentage of expenditures from “Other sources” that make up of “Total expenditures” and is calculated by subtracting the “OAA Nutrition Program Funding” [%] from 100%.
- B. **“Nationally, the OAA funds [%] of total cost to provide nutritious meals, safety checks and friendly visits...”** comes from the 2018 Administration for Community Living (ACL) State Program Reports (SPR). {Note A, ii}
- C. **“...to [#] million seniors served”** comes from the 2018 Administration for Community Living (ACL) State Program Reports (SPR). Figure calculated by Meals on Wheels America by combining total counts for “Congregate Meals” plus “Home-Delivered Meals” clients living in the United States, including territories. Data available in the AGID Custom Tables: <https://agid.acl.gov/CustomTables/SPR/Year/> (Table filters – Year: 2018; Elements: Clients > Persons Served, by Service > Congregate Meals + Home-Delivered Meals; Stratifiers: All Age Groups; Geography: All U.S. Totals > 50 States + DC & Territories)

**THIS HYBRID FUNDING MODEL MAKES MEALS ON WHEELS A SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT NEEDS TO BE BOLSTERED TO KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND, ESPECIALLY AS WE CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

“Meals on Wheels is serving a smaller portion of the total senior population” graph by Meals on Wheels America and is for the senior population ages 60 and older living in United States, excluding territories. Data is for 2006-2018 and comes from U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey analyzed by Feeding America, the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) State Program Reports.

- i. **“Seniors threatened by food insecurity”** comes from special request from Feeding America and *The State of Senior Hunger in America in 2018*, a report prepared for Feeding America by J. Ziliak and C. Gunderson (May 2020). Estimates are for the population ages 60 and older who are “marginally food insecure” (including seniors who are “food insecure” and “very low food secure”). Full report available at: <https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/senior-hunger-research/senior>
  - ii. **“Seniors living in poverty”** comes from the Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) Demographic Data. Estimates are for the Total Non-Institutionalized population ages 60 and older living at or below 100% of the U.S. Census Bureau’s official poverty threshold. Data available in the Administration for Community Living (ACL) AGID Custom Tables: <https://agid.acl.gov/CustomTables/ACS/Year/> (Table filters – Year: 2006-2018; Elements: Poverty Status > Total Counts > Below poverty level; Stratifiers: Age 60 and Above → Total Non-Institutionalized Population; Geography: All U.S. Totals > 50 States + DC)
  - iii. **“Seniors receiving OAA meals”** comes from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) State Program Reports (SPR) {Note C} excluding territories. Data available in the AGID Custom Tables: <https://agid.acl.gov/CustomTables/SPR/Year/> (Table filters – Year: 2006-2018; Elements: Clients > Persons Served, by Service > Congregate Meals + Home-Delivered Meals; Stratifiers: All Age Groups; Geography: All U.S. Totals > 50 States + DC)
- D. **Aging issues are often forgotten, with less than [%]...** comes from a special data request from Candid (formerly Foundation Center and Guide Star, 2020). Percentage reflects percentage of dollars made to benefit the Aging/Senior population group in the United States in 2017 (0.8 percent of grant dollar amount), based on grants of over \$10,000 awarded by the 1,000 largest private and community foundations. Data also cited in a 2019 Forbes article available at: [www.forbes.com/sites/nextavenue/2019/09/11/why-its-time-for-more-big-foundations-to-fund-aging/#4db8645c2a36](http://www.forbes.com/sites/nextavenue/2019/09/11/why-its-time-for-more-big-foundations-to-fund-aging/#4db8645c2a36)
- E. **“Meals on Wheels is now serving [#]M fewer meals than in 2005”** comes from the 2005-2018 Administration for Community Living (ACL) State Program Reports (SPR). Figure calculated by Meals on Wheels America by combining unit counts for “Congregate Meals” plus “Home-Delivered Meals” in the United States in 2005 and 2018, including territories, then subtracting for the difference between the two years. Data available in the AGID Custom Tables: <https://agid.acl.gov/CustomTables/SPR/Year/> (Table filters – Year: 2005 + 2018; Elements: Units > Counts > Congregate Meals + Home-Delivered Meals; Stratifiers: All Age Groups; Geography: All U.S. Totals > 50 States + DC & Territories)
- F. **“[#] of [#] low income, food insecure seniors are not receiving the home-delivered or congregat meals they need”** comes from *Older Americans Act: Updated Information on Unmet Need for Services*, a U.S. Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) report (June 2015). Data are based on GAO’s analysis of 2013 Current Population Survey data. Meals are Congregate and/or Home-delivered meals funded through the Older Americans Act. Full GAO report available at: [www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-601R](http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-601R)