



FACT SHEET SOURCES & METHODS

MEALS ON WHEELS FUNDING EXPLAINED

A FOUNDATION OF FEDERAL FUNDING

- A. “9 out of 10 local Meals on Wheels programs receive federal funding, and for more than 60% of providers, federal funding represents half or more of their total budget” are from the Meals on Wheels America 2023 Member Pulse Survey, conducted by Meals on Wheels America.
- B. “The primary source of federal funding for the Meals on Wheels network is the Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program, which covers 37% of the costs to serve over 2 million seniors annually”
- “37% of the costs” is from Meals on Wheels America analysis of data from Administration for Community Living (ACL) data tables. Figures are from the 2021 Administration for Community Living (ACL) State Program Reports (SPR). Data available in the ACL AGing, Independence, and Disability Program Data Portal (AGID) (“Table 6b. Total Services Expenditures for Specific Clusters 1-3 Services” and “Table 6a. Title III Services Expenditures for Specific Clusters 1-3 Services”). Data tables available on the AGing, Independence, and Disability (AGID) Program Portal at <https://agid.acl.gov/>
 - “Serve over 2 million seniors annually” is from Administration for Community Living (ACL) data tables. Meals data are from "Table 4a. Service Units Provided Under OAA Title III by Clusters 1 and 2 Services" and seniors data are from "Table 1. Persons Served Under OAA Title III - Estimated Unduplicated Count (Clusters 1-3)". Data include home-delivered meals and congregate meals served by programs that receive funding from Title III of the Older Americans Act. Data are for federal fiscal year 2021. Release date 6/6/2023. Data tables available on the AGing, Independence, and Disability (AGID) Program Portal at <https://agid.acl.gov/>
- C. “Meals on Wheels America is the leadership organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based organizations across the country...” is from the Administration on Community Living (ACL), "Nutrition Services." Last modified on 02/02/2024. Figure includes programs that provide home-delivered meals and/or congregate meals and receive Older Americans Act funding. <https://acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/nutrition-services>

BUT IT ISN'T ENOUGH, AND SENIORS ARE WAITING.

- D. “Nearly 13 million seniors are threatened by or experience hunger” is from Meals on Wheels America analysis of data from the December 2023 Current Population

Survey Food Security Supplement. Data include adults age 60 and older who were categorized as having experienced “marginal food security,” “Low food security” and/or “Very low food security.” Custom data table available at: [https://data.census.gov/app/mdat/CPSFOODSECURITY202312/table?v=PRTAGE\(0:60:90\)&cv=HRFS12MD&wt=PWSUPWGT](https://data.census.gov/app/mdat/CPSFOODSECURITY202312/table?v=PRTAGE(0:60:90)&cv=HRFS12MD&wt=PWSUPWGT)

- E. **“56% of seniors feel lonely”** is from Meals on Wheels America analysis of data from the 2022 Health and Retirement Study (HRS), weighted data. Based on UCLA 3 items: (How often do you feel that you lack companionship / left out / isolated from others?). Includes persons age 60 or older who reported “some of the time” or “often” to any of the three questions.
- F. **“Gas prices increased 53% from 2015 to 2025”** is from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics time series data. Series Title: Gasoline, unleaded regular, per gallon/3.785 liters in U.S. city average, average price, not seasonally adjusted, U.S. city average. Calculations from March 2015 to March 2025. Available at: <https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/APU000074714>
- G. **“Grocery prices increased 30% from 2014 to 2024”** is from Sweitzer, M., U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Food-away-from-home price growth outpaced food at home and overall inflation over past decade. Available at: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/charts-of-note/chart-detail?chartId=109406>
- H. **“Only 1% of philanthropy goes to aging issues”** is from Candid’s US Social Sector site. Data are based on total grants awarded by U.S. private and community foundations in 2022 and captured in Candid’s databases. 1% of total grant dollars awarded by U.S. private and community foundations in 2022 went specifically to serving the aging/seniors population. <https://candid.org/explore-issues/us-social-sector/money>
- I. **“1 in 3 local providers has a waitlist with seniors waiting on average 4 months for vital meals”** data points are from the Meals on Wheels America 2025 Member Benchmarking Survey, conducted by Meals on Wheels America.

HELP US END THE WAIT. FUND AND SUPORT MEALS ON WHEELS.