



2025 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. We advocate for the prioritization of seniors, 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.

We urge Congress and the administration to:

1. Increase funding and support for senior nutrition programs.

- Provide \$1.605 billion for the Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program in FY 26 to address increased demand for meals and rising costs for food, fuel and program operations (\$775 million for the Home-Delivered Meal Program, \$670 million for the Congregate Meal Program and \$160 million for the Nutrition Services Incentive Program).
- Protect other federal funding sources supporting local Meals on Wheels programs and older adults, including Social Services Block Grants, Community Development Block Grants, Medicare and Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Improve charitable giving and volunteer tax incentives to generate more resources and expand capacity for nonprofits by passing the *Charitable Act* and *Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act*.

2. Protect and strengthen Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, including swift passage of the bipartisan OAA reauthorization bill agreed to at the end of 2024.

- Protect the OAA's core purposes of reducing hunger, social isolation and loneliness and improving older adult health and well-being by keeping the administration of OAA programs together with sufficient funding and staff to ensure continuity and effective coordination to support seniors living independently at home.
- Increase authorized funding levels for OAA programs and establish incentives and funding for enhanced nutrition services (e.g., medically tailored or culturally appropriate meals).
- Unify the Title III-C Nutrition Program (Home-delivered, Congregate and NSIP) to 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.

3. Advance Food Is Medicine interventions and expand nutrition access and social connection for older adults.

- Advance Food Is Medicine interventions by 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*.
- 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*.
- Address social isolation and loneliness through nationally coordinated awareness, initiatives and research, as proposed in the *National Strategy for Social Connection Act*, *Improving Measurements for Loneliness and Isolation Act* and the *Social Engagement and Network Initiatives for Older Relief (SENIOR) Act*.