

USAging

Amy Gotwals

04A Advocacy Conference

March 22, 2023

Policy Opportunities for 2023

- Elevation of older adults as key constituency
- Value of HCBS heightened
- Aging Network visibility higher than ever
- Increased service levels can be used in advocacy to fight for new baseline in funding
- National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers
- **Our priorities naturally align in many places with the Administration's goals**—*but their work will be mostly through regulation, RFIs, guidance, etc. this year*

Policy Challenges for 2023

- Expiration of the Public Health Emergency on flexibility
- Continued health and safety concerns for older adults given COVID-19's remaining presence and cumulative effects of social isolation
- Workforce shortages (AAA and direct care workers)
- Spending down of COVID-19 federal funding and impact on Aging Network budgets
- Congressional discussions on discretionary funding cuts and caps and impact on safety net programs
- Divided Congress will make it difficult to legislate

Coming the last week in April!

Policy Priorities 2023

Promote the Health, Security and
Well-Being of Older Adults

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Leaders in Aging Well at Home

Invest

Support Aging Well at Home by Investing in Older Americans Act Programs and Services

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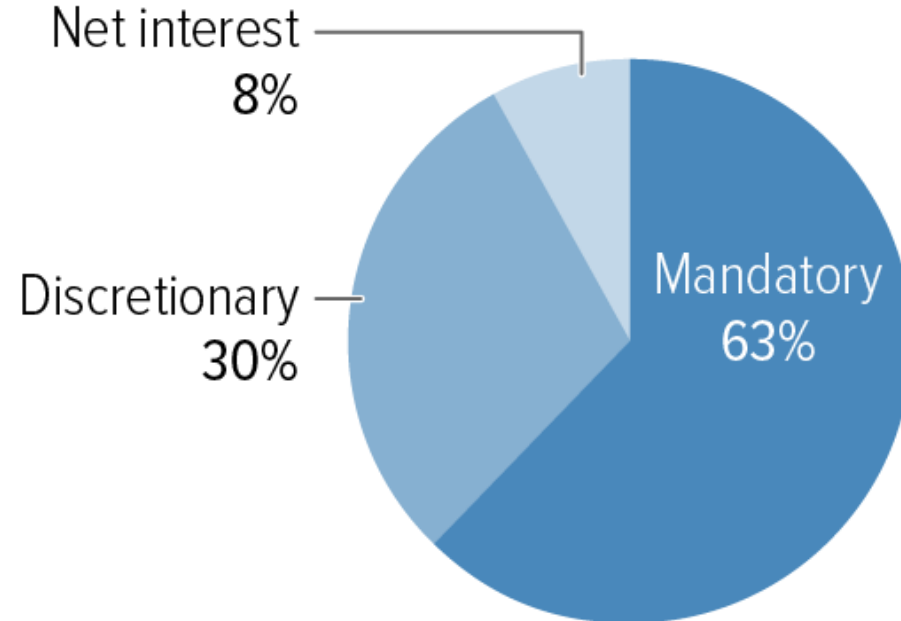


Mandatory vs. Discretionary Programs

- **Mandatory:** *spending is automatic, infrequently amended*
 - Social Security
 - Medicare
 - Medicaid (federal-state)
 - SNAP
- **Discretionary programs:** *spending is allocated annually by appropriators; authority is updated every few years through separate authorization committees if required*
 - Older Americans Act
 - Low-income housing (Sec. 202)
 - Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs)

Most of the Federal Budget = Social Security and Major Health Programs (Mandatory Spending)

Types of Federal Spending, Fiscal Year 2023



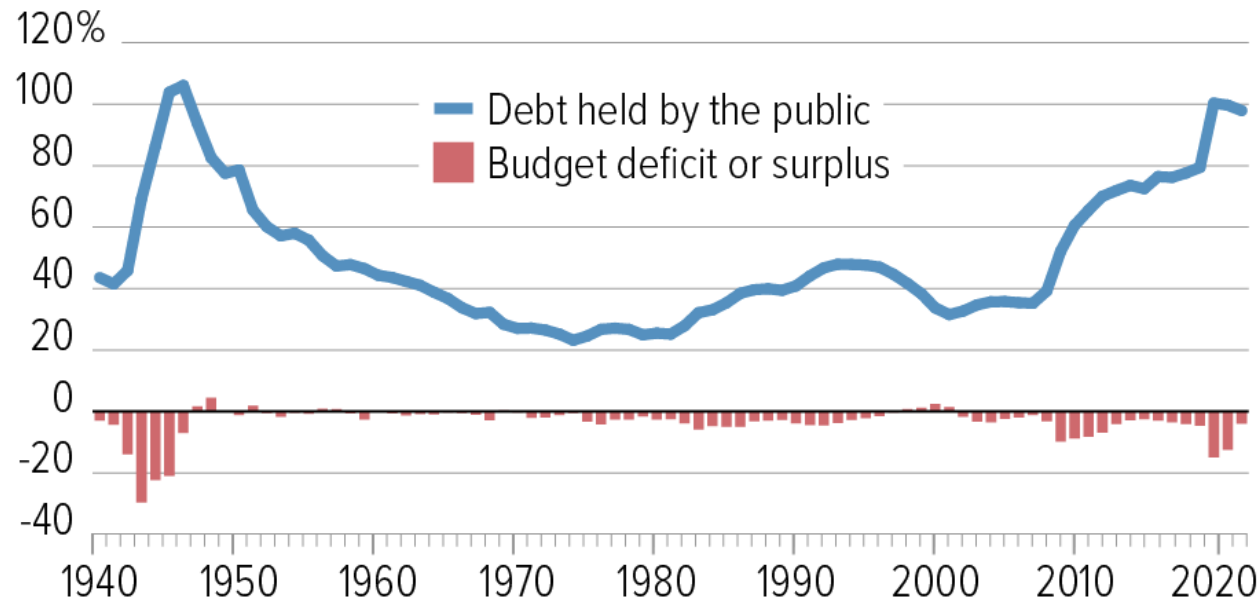
Note: Does not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Congressional Budget Office

Annual Deficits Lead to Long-Term Debt

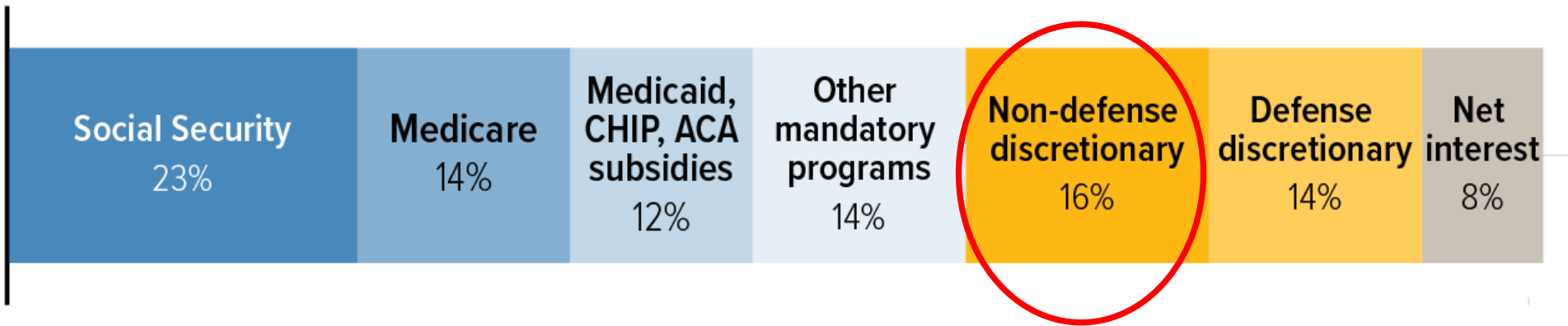
Budget Deficits and Debt Held by the Public

Percent of GDP

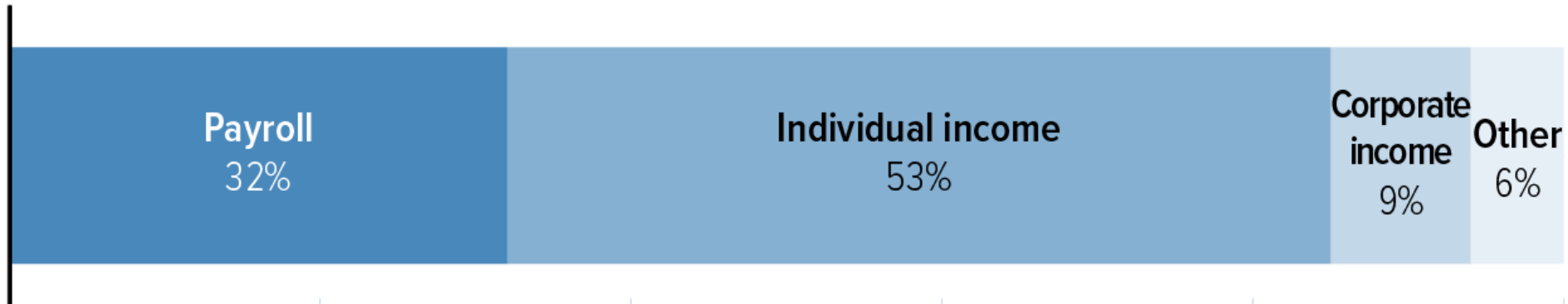


Source: 1940 to 2021 figures from the Office of Management and Budget; 2022 figures from the Congressional Budget Office

Components of Federal Spending



Components of Federal Tax Revenue



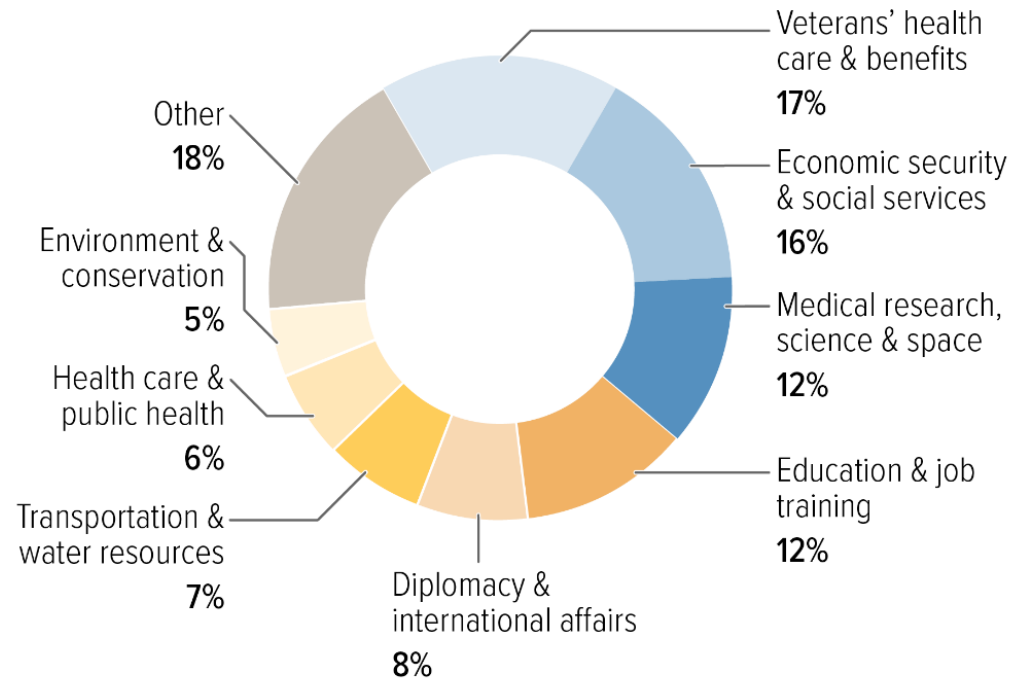
Note: "CHIP" = Children's Health Insurance Plan. "ACA" = Affordable Care Act. "Other" includes excise, customs duties, and more. Data are for fiscal year 2023 and do not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Congressional Budget Office

What is NDD Exactly?

Non-Defense Appropriations Support Wide Range of Critical Activities

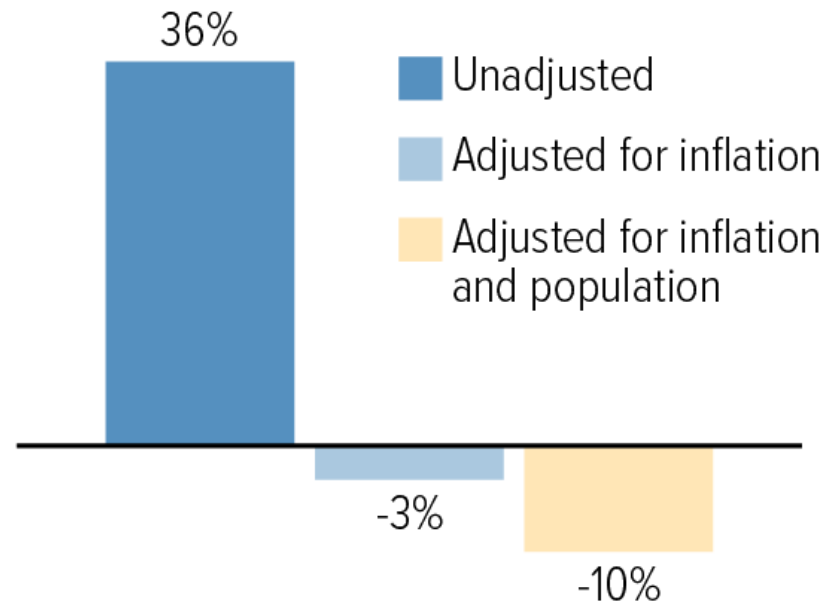
Fiscal year 2023



Note: Does not add to 100% due to rounding. See appendix for further information. "Other" includes: law enforcement and judicial activities; agriculture, energy, and commerce; and general government operations.

Source: CBPP calculations based on Congressional Budget Office data

Change in Non-Defense Discretionary Funding Outside Veterans' Health from 2010 to 2023



Note: Amounts include the following categories not counted against the BCA caps or budget resolution allocations: overseas contingency operations, program integrity, wildfire suppression, Cures Act, and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. They exclude veterans' medical care, the Census Bureau, and offsets from changes to mandatory programs ("CHIMPs") and mortgage insurance receipts.

Source: CBPP analysis of data from the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office

Non-Defense Discretionary Funding Down for Most Categories Between 2010 and 2023

Percent change in NDD funding relative to 2010 level, adjusted for inflation & population growth



Note: Amounts include the following categories not counted against the BCA caps or budget resolution allocations: overseas contingency operations, program integrity, wildfire suppression, Cures Act, and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. They exclude the Census Bureau and offsets from changes to mandatory programs (“CHIMPs”) and mortgage insurance receipts.

Source: CBPP analysis of data from Congressional Budget Office and Office of Management and Budget

USAgging Older Americans Act Top Funding Priorities

- Title III B Supportive Services
- Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Title VI Native American Aging Programs

➡ Calling for a doubling of these essential programs that have been long underfunded.

➡ Also support increasing funding for *all* titles!

President's FY 2024 Budget

- **Title III B** Supportive Services: 22 percent increase (\$90 million) to \$500 million
- **Title III E** National Family Caregiver Support Program: 20 percent increase (\$45 mil) to \$250 million
- **Title VI** Native American Aging Programs: nearly doubling of Part A, 32 percent increase (\$3.8 mil) in Part C

President's FY 2024 Budget

- **Title III C Nutrition** (overall ~20 percent)
- C 1 congregate: 41 percent increase (\$222 million) to \$762 million
- C 2 home-delivered: 12 percent increase (\$44 mil) to \$410 million
- Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP): cut by 30 percent (\$48 million) to \$112 million
- **Title III D Evidence-Based Health and Wellness Programs:** 0.2 percent increase (60k) to \$26.4 million

Next Steps on FY 2024

- Dear Colleague Letters (Bonamici-Stefanik on OAA, others on SHIP, fall prevention, etc.)
- **YOUR letters!** (USAging Approps Campaign launching later this month, stay tuned)
- What will the House Republicans do?
- NDD at high risk—advocates will need to reach out often this year to lawmakers!
- One thing to count on: we will need a Continuing Resolution come October 1



Other OAA Advocacy Opportunities

2023 Opportunity: OAA Regulations

- Title III and VI updated in 1988
- Title VII Ombudsman updated this decade
- ACL Request for Information (June 6); USAging responded
- Next Steps: ACL drafts a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; likely 60 days for stakeholders to respond
- Proposed Rules likely released in summer/fall 2023

2024 Opportunity: OAA Reauthorization

- Expires at the end of FY 2024, which is September 30, 2024.
- USAging process will start by summer 2023, gather member input
- Hill will get engaged in early to late 2024, depending on motivations of Members/staff
- New leadership: Sen. Bernie Sanders & Repub. Ranking Member Sen. Bill Cassidy, LA (Senate HELP), Sen. Mike Braun, IN (Senate Aging RMM), new Chair Rep. Virginia Foxx, VA (House Education and Workforce)

Recognize

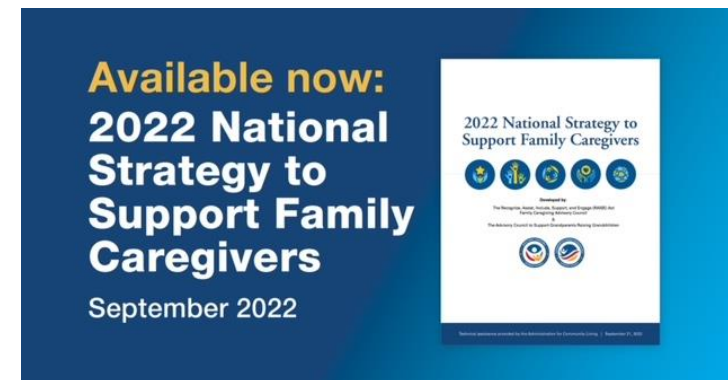
and Support Caregivers





Family Caregivers in Crisis

RAISE Caregivers

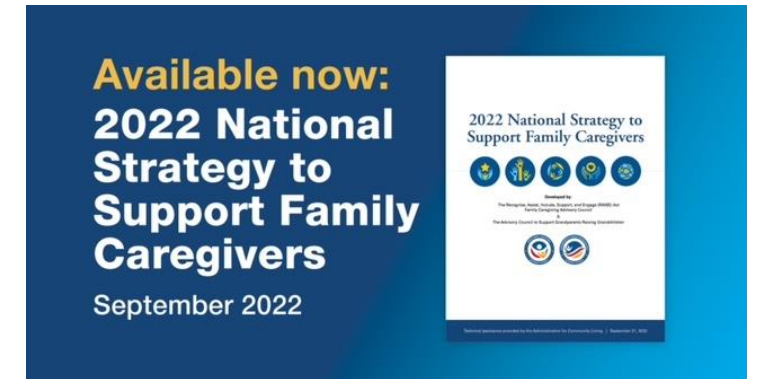


- National Strategy released Sept. 2022
- A whole-of-society roadmap: 300+ actions that 15 agencies may take and includes corresponding actions for states, employers and CBOs
- The strategy is meant to be flexible and will be revised on a biennial basis
- The entire strategy prioritizes and spreads person and family-centered care principles
- 60-day comment period ran 10/1-11/30

RAISE Caregivers

Actions Include:

- Access to respite
- Professional support with day-to-day responsibilities and complex medical tasks (incl support, training, compensation for direct care workers)
- Inclusion of caregivers as part of the care team
- Financial education on costs of caregiving
- Better identification of family caregivers
- Research on the needs of family caregivers



Our Policy Recommendations

- Build on existing programs (III E, Respite, Care Corps)
- Expand access to HCBS options
- Elevate the grave issue of direct care workforce shortages
- Any recommendations made to expand/ require evidence-based caregiver assessments must take into consideration the roles of AAA care professionals
- Increase research on the ROI of caregiver support for unpaid, family caregivers



A Stronger Workforce Is Needed to Support An Aging Nation

CAREGIVER NEEDED:

How the Nation's Workforce Shortages Make it Harder to Age Well at Home



**Impact Data from
Area Agencies on Aging**

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Leaders in Aging Well at Home

Poll administered by USAging to all Area Agencies on Aging in March 2022

29% response rate

Results are reliable to within +/- 6 percent

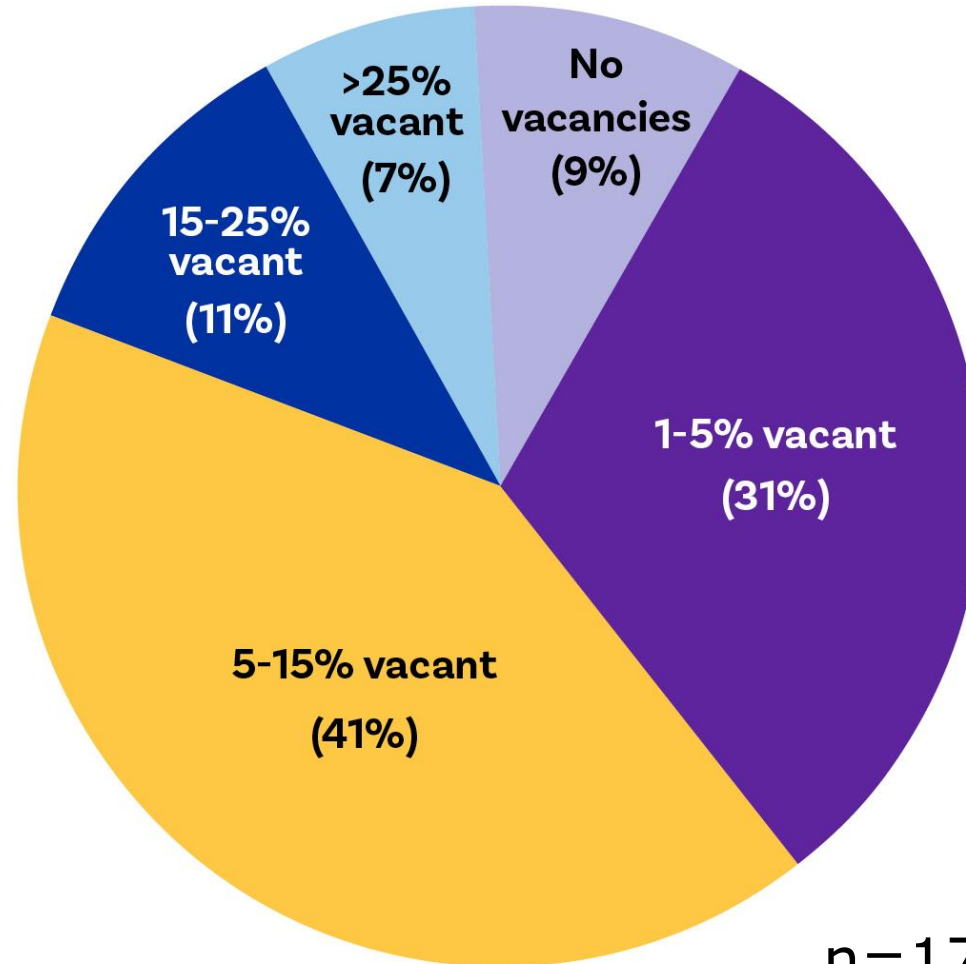
Report, webinars, slides available:

www.usaging.org/research

Acknowledgement

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Staff Positions Vacant at AAAs



n=176

Top Workforce Challenges

AAA Workforce Challenges	
Challenge	Percent (n=178)
Staff feeling overwhelmed or burnt out due to workload	79%
Having strong applicant pools	78%
Offering or maintaining competitive wages	75%
Staffing shortages	74%
Recruiting staff with aging and/or disability expertise	74%
Maintaining appropriate staff workloads/caseloads	67%
Coverage issues due to staff illness or quarantine	53%

Contracted Provider Workforce Challenges	
Challenge	Percent (n=178)
Staffing shortages	91%
Offering or maintaining competitive wages	81%
High staff turnover/low retention	80%
Staff feeling overwhelmed or burnt out due to workload	71%
Having strong applicant pools	67%
Providing competitive benefits	61%
Coverage issues due to staff illness or quarantine	60%

How Do Workforce Challenges Affect AAAs?

Impact of Workforce Challenges on AAAs	
Impact	Percent (n=176)
Larger caseloads per staff member	69%
Looked for new solutions to address workforce/staffing issues	67%
Delayed service start for new service recipients	64%
Unspent funds or underutilized units	61%
Started waitlists or have longer waitlists	60%
Delayed resumption of in-person services that were paused due to COVID-19	53%

Impact of Workforce Challenges on AAA Services

Type of Service	Of AAAs who offer this service:	
	% at Least Some Impact on Service	% Major Impact on Service
Personal assistance/personal care	98%	69%
Respite care	97%	59%
Home health	96%	57%
Homemaker	93%	58%
Senior center programming and operations	92%	48%
Adult day service	90%	34%
Transportation	90%	44%
Chore services	89%	41%
Caregiver services	87%	34%
Case management	86%	23%
Congregate meals	83%	47%
Evidence-based programs	82%	36%
Home-delivered meals	75%	23%

Direct Care Worker Shortage Impacts on Older Adults and Caregivers

Impact	% of AAAs Reporting At Least Somewhat of a Problem (n=176)
Older adults experiencing social isolation or loneliness	99%
Older adults not receiving the frequency of services needed (e.g., receiving one home care visit per week when three are needed)	94%
Family and other caregivers unable to get the supports they need	94%
Older adults not receiving needed service(s) at all	92%
Older adults unnecessarily experiencing decline in health status	79%
Older adults missing scheduled medical appointments	76%
Older adults who would be able to remain living at home with supports are entering nursing homes	73%
Older adults experiencing increased hospitalizations	69%

Agency Strategies to Address Challenges

Top strategies

- Remote work policy (71%)
- Increased virtual services (69%)
- Flexible work hours policy (61%)
- Increasing direct service wages (53%)
- Paying family members for direct care services (38%)

Emerging strategies

- Dividing job tasks (25%)
- Outsourcing with new provider types (24%)
- Targeted recruiting of non-traditional workers (23%)
- Bringing direct care workers on board as agency staff members (7%)
- Sharing staff across agencies/network (7%)

Our Policy Recommendations

- Expand investment in OAA, Medicaid HCBS
- National caregiving workforce taskforce
- Elevate the profession of direct care work (ladders, advanced training, scope of practice)
- Increase the appeal of a direct care career path (wages but also benefits, even for part-timers)
- Encourage policies that address the daily barriers workers face

Our Policy Recommendations

- Expand training, vocational opportunities, build pipeline
- Comprehensive immigration policies
- Encourage and support pilots that promote innovation and entrepreneurial opportunities
- Provide incentives to employers to hire or otherwise support non-traditional or under-tapped workers (such as older workers, the family members of care recipients, the underemployed or those interested in being self-employed)

Senate HELP Committee RFI

- Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Ranking Member Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA) asked for input from the public on the health care workforce shortages and what is driving it through a Request for Proposal (RFI)
- USAging responded 3/20, urging the Committee to include the aging services and direct care workforce in their definition of health care workforce! (Read our response: www.usaging.org/advocacy)

Prioritize

**Medicaid Home and
Community-Based
Services Options to
Reduce Unnecessary
Institutionalization**

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Leaders in Aging Well at Home



Workforce Bills

- **Better Care Better Jobs Act** (Senator Casey, D-PA, S. 100); \$300 billion investment in expanding access to HCBS through strengthening the direct care workforce; works as an enhanced FMAP with directives around workforce investment by states; *USAging has endorsed*
- Senator Casey's **HCBS Access Act** compliments BCBJ but makes HCBS equal with nursing home access for all states, and makes spousal impoverishment protections and Money Follows the Person permanent; *USAging has endorsed*

Workforce Bills

- HCBS bills have equivalent House measures (Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-MI) but not bipartisan support yet
- Ranking Republican on the Senate HELP Committee Bill Cassidy, R-LA, is working on a bill to address the health care workforce shortages
 - USAging will press for his effort to include other care jobs, like direct care, aging services
- Advocacy needed: raise awareness of workforce issues with policymakers, recruit House Republicans as champions—only bipartisan bills stand a chance in this Congress

Connect

**Health Care and Aging
Sectors to Improve Care**

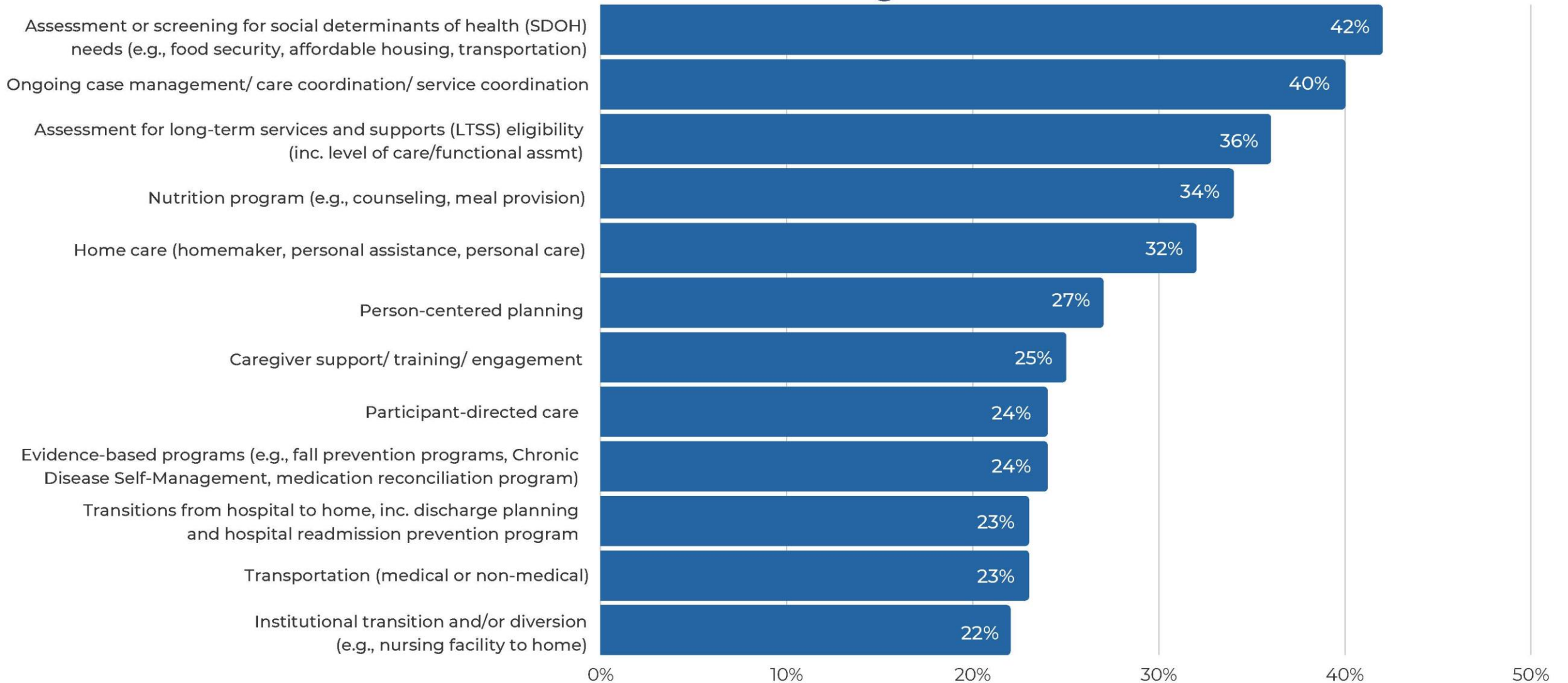
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AAAs Are Contracting With Health Care

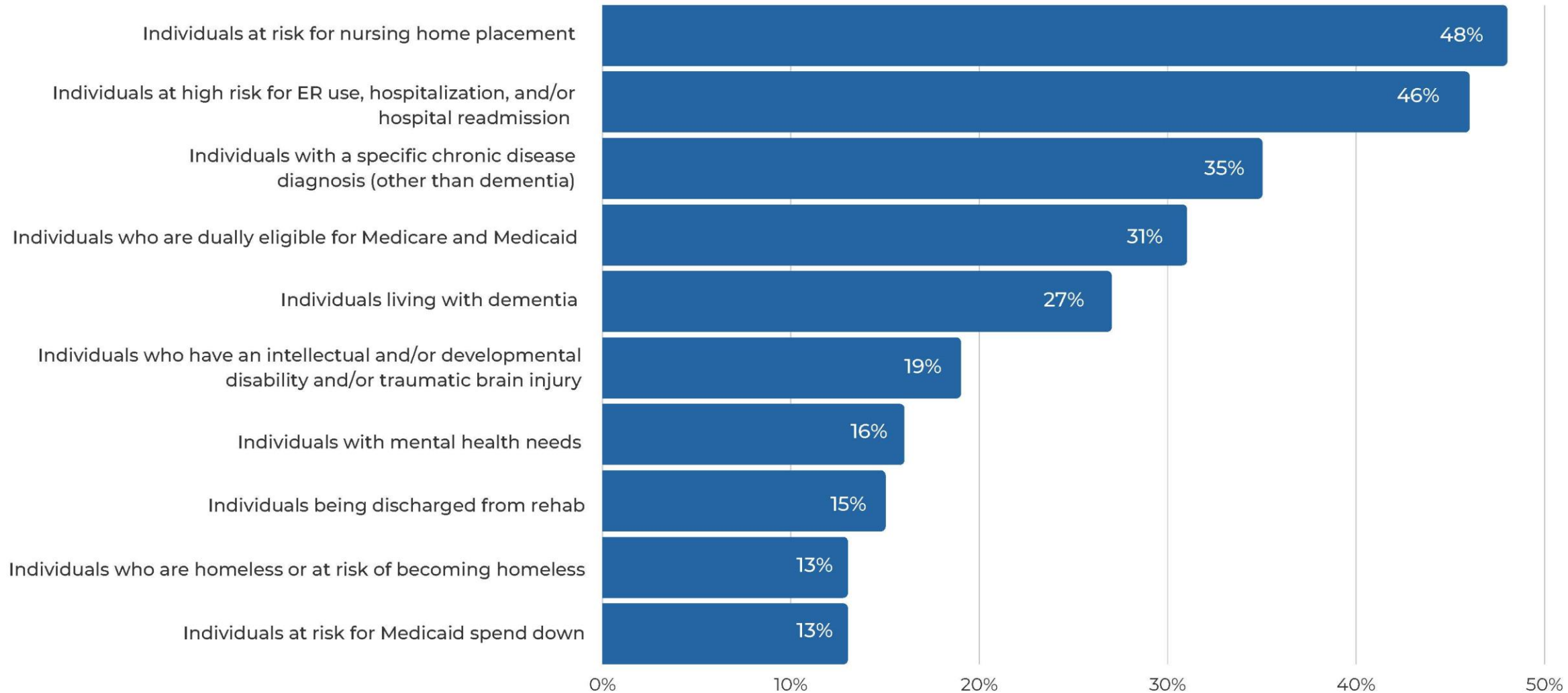
- 47 percent of AAAs reported health care contracts in Aging and Disability Business Institute's 2021 RFI
- Since 2017, the proportion of AAAs that report contracting as part of a network of community-based organizations has doubled.
 - 2017: 22%
 - 2021: 44%

Most Common Services Provided Through Contracts



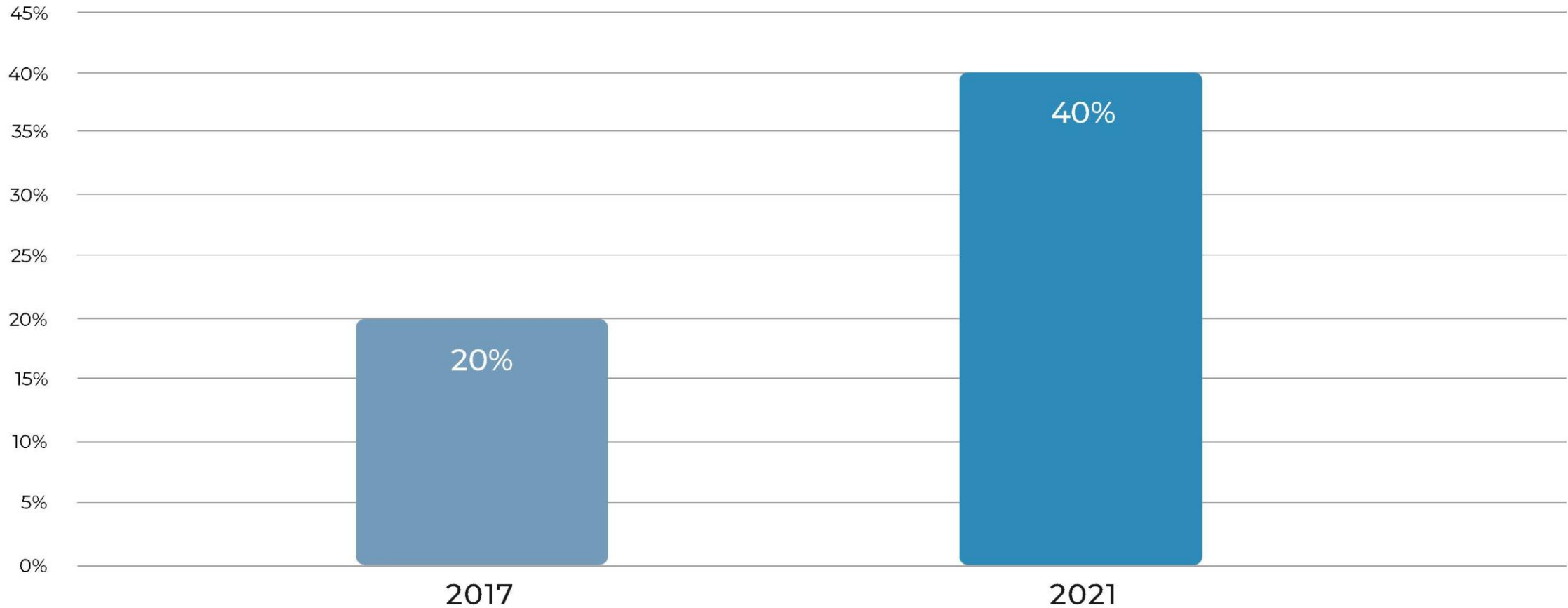
The data used in this graph was collected through a survey conducted by Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University on behalf of the Aging and Disability Business Institute, led by USAging. For more information, visit <http://ow.ly/842K50lsrYA>

High-Risk, High-Need Groups Targeted in Contracts



The data used in this graph was collected through a survey conducted by Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University on behalf of the Aging and Disability Business Institute, led by USAging. For more information, visit <http://ow.ly/842K50IsrYA>

CBOs Contracting Through Networks by Year



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Connect to Health Care

- **New models must build not, not supplant or exploit, existing experts and systems in Aging Network**
 - Managed LTSS
 - Social health referral platforms (SHARPs) (see our Aging and Disability Business Institute decisions point checklist for working with SHARPs)
 - Coding standards (Gravity Project)

Our Policy Recommendations

- Maintain and strengthen person-centered consumer access to services—and assistance with planning and decision-making—with long-standing and trusted **Ageing Network Information and Referral/Assistance (I&R/A)** platforms and services, which operate at the federal, state and local levels.
- Ensure that **new social care models or coding standards or systems** take into consideration the extensive work already invested in by federal, state and local governments, such as the data collection under the Older Americans Act, Medicaid and other robust systems.

Connect to Health Care

- Duals Demos ending: risks for some AAAs and consumers?
- Continued spread of MLTSS
- Medicare FFS and Medicaid opportunities for addressing SDOH: what's coming next?

Advocates Prep List, 2023-2024

- Get re/connected to your elected officials now!
- Get your data and stories ready
- Seize all opportunities to create a champion
- Tap your new allies to echo your messages
- Stay tuned to USAging *Advocacy Alerts* and keep us tuned in to what you are doing (and want us to do)!
- Buckle your seatbelts....

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**Aging Policy Briefing
& Capitol Hill Day**

SAVE THE DATE!

April 25–26, 2023

www.usaging.org/apb



USAging

Leaders in Aging Well at Home

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