



Ohio Association of
Area Agencies on Aging

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Honorable Senator Jon Husted
U.S. Senate
SR-304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Husted:

On behalf of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a), I write to urge your support to protect and strengthen FY 2027 funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs administered through the Administration for Community Living (ACL) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ohio's 12 Area Agencies on Aging, part of a network of 613 Area Agencies on Aging nationwide, deliver essential services like access to meals, transportation, in-home supports and caregiver assistance, that help older adults and caregivers remain healthy, independent, and safe at home. In 2024, Ohio's aging network served more than 549,000 individuals through OAA-funded services.

The House Appropriations Committee approved its Labor/HHS funding bill earlier this month with modest funding increases for several OAA programs. While our association supports increases to all titles of the OAA to meet the current and future needs of older adults, we specifically urge the Senate to increase funding for the following OAA services in any FY 2027 appropriations bill:

- Title III-B: Home and Community-Based Supportive Services
- Title III-E: National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Title VI: Native American Aging Programs, Part A (nutrition and supportive services) and Part C (family caregiver support)

While the House bill provides a modest increase in Title VI programs, it only provides level funding for Title III B Supportive Services and Title III E caregiver supports. Level funding for these critical programs amounts to a cut as costs rise and more older adults seek services. We urge you to increase appropriations for OAA Titles III B and III E so the Aging Network can continue to support older adults and their caregivers. We also urge you to preserve funding for the OAA Title V Senior Community Services Employment Program, which is slated for elimination in the House bill.

We further support House-proposed increases for the programs below, and urge you to work with congressional leadership to match or provide greater investments in:

- Title III C-1 Congregate Meals
- Title III C-2 Home-Delivered Meals
- Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)
- Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Ohio is home to approximately 2.8 million residents age 60 and older — a number that continues to grow. Without adequate federal investment, communities and families will struggle to meet the increasing need. OAA funding flows from the federal government to states and is delivered locally through Area Agencies on Aging and community providers—ensuring efficient, community-based support where it’s needed most.

Sustained and increased investment in OAA programs is essential to helping older adults age with dignity and independence while supporting the caregivers who make that possible. I hope you will support, and urge your colleagues to support, an FY 2027 funding bill that protects and increases funding for critical OAA programs.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how OAA programs are serving older adults and caregivers across Ohio. Thank you for your continued commitment to older Ohioans.

Sincerely,



Beth Kowalczyk

CEO, o4a