



Ohio Association of
Area Agencies on Aging

250 East Broad Street, Suite 220
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 481-3511
www.ohioaging.org

Kelsey Bergfeld, Chief Policy Officer
bergfeld@ohioaging.org

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Honorable Senator Moreno
U.S. Senate
SR-284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Moreno:

On behalf of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging, I am writing regarding FY 2026 federal funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) within the Administration on Aging (AoA) at the Administration for Community Living at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ohio supports 12 of the 613 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in the country designated by the OAA to support older adults and caregivers at the local level.

Funding for OAA programs and services is essential to the health and independence of millions of older adults and caregivers, including the 2.8 million older adults in Ohio. These OAA programs and services are funded through AoA; then through our State Unit on Aging; and then developed, coordinated and delivered locally by our agencies in partnership with our network of community providers. In Ohio and across the country, the aging population we serve is growing rapidly. To help ensure older adults age well in their homes and communities and the necessary level of support for caregivers exists, Congress must fund the services we provide that help older adults meet their needs.

The OAA creates community resources for older adults to access a wide array of programs and services, including information and referral to find help for their challenges with aging; congregate and home-delivered meals to address hunger, malnutrition and social isolation; health and wellness programs; in-home care support; transportation; elder abuse prevention; adult day care and other needed options. Family caregivers, who contribute more long-term care than any formal government program, can also access OAA-funded respite, training, support and help navigating their caregiving roles.

With the shutdown over and the continuing resolution (CR) expiring on January 30, **I write today to urge you to support the highest possible funding levels for OAA and other Labor, Health and Human Services (Labor/HHS) line items that help older adults age well at home and support their caregivers.**

Our agencies support increases to all titles of the OAA to meet the current and future needs of older adults and we urge you to ensure that the recommended increases in your respective bills are secured in the final bill; a list of those higher-level recommendations follows.

- We are grateful for the House’s modest increases for **Title III B Supportive Services and Senior Centers** and **Title VI Native American Aging Programs** (nutrition, caregiver support). Those levels should be the final recommendations.
- The Senate’s measure protects **Title V of the OAA**, the **Senior Community Service Employment Program**, a special program for low-income older workers who need to work to stay financially independent. We urge full funding for this program, which, unlike the rest of the OAA, is administered by the Department of Labor.
- **We urge Congress to adopt the higher recommendations for the following programs, as well.**
 - OAA Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program (Senate level)
 - Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Senate level)
 - Community Services Block Grant (House level)
 - Americorps Seniors (Senate level)

Furthermore, the November 12 CR provided temporary funding for the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) until January 30. This mandatory program allows AAAs and other state and local entities to administer outreach initiatives, which help low-income beneficiaries enroll in Medicare cost-reduction programs. We urge you to provide at least full-year authorization for MIPPA in any final spending bill, although past Congresses have authorized the program for two years, which we hope will be considered.

We urge Congress to protect these vital services to older adults and caregivers by ensuring the highest possible funding levels for all OAA programs, as well as the other above programs in any final FY 2026 spending bill.

For more details on these critical federal programs, please see our national association [USAgings’ FY 2026 appropriations request](#). Please feel free to reach out any time to me on these or any aging issues of importance to you and your constituents.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Bergfeld
Chief Policy Officer