



WASHINGTON UPDATE

JULY 2018

FY 2019 Funding for Aging Programs

The full House Appropriations Committee has released its proposed FY2019 funding levels for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs and other Labor and Health and Human Services (HHS) programs. The House committee also has passed its funding levels for Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs, among others. The full Senate Appropriations Committee has passed its FY2019 funding levels for OAA programs and other Labor, HHS, Agriculture and HUD programs.

Unfortunately, neither proposal would add to the generous increases for almost all OAA programs from the FY2018 final bill. Virtually all Older Americans Act programs are flat-funded at current levels.

Some proposals for flat-funding exceptions in aging-related programs include:

- The House would increase funding for OAA Title VI nutrition programs by \$2 million.
- The Senate would increase funding for the Family Caregiver Support program by \$300,000, with the stated purpose of using this funding to begin the Advisory Council from the newly passed RAISE Family Caregivers Act.
- The House would increase the Community Services Block Grant by \$35 million; the Senate proposal would increase it by \$10 million.
- The Senate would increase funding for LIHEAP (the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) by \$50 million.
- The House would cut Section 202 Housing funding by \$46 million.
- The House would cut the Commodity Supplemental Food Program by over \$15 million.

The Administration for Community Living had proposed a new transfer authority in its FY2019 budget proposal, which would have allowed for unlimited transfers between all OAA Title III programs, including supplemental services, nutrition, caregiving and preventive health. However, neither the House nor Senate decided to include this new transfer authority in their bills. In fact, the House added a provision in the report language for the bill which states, "Section 512 prohibits any transfer of funds made available in this Act except by the authority provided in this Act or another appropriation Act."

The next steps for the funding of these programs could be under several different scenarios:

1. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees meet in a conference to resolve their differences before October 1, allowing Congress to pass separate bills for the first time in decades.
2. The current fiscal year ends on September 30, 2018 without this conference. A Continuing Resolution would likely go into effect to keep the government from shutting down, which would maintain levels at current (FY 2018) funding. Work on separate bills would continue.
3. All bills could end up as part of an "omnibus" funding bill, as was the case this year, and the final numbers could end up being different than FY 2018.

A chart with the new funding proposals is on the following page:

Program	FY18 Final	FY19 Trump	FY19 House	FY19 Senate
OAA Title IIIB HCBS	\$385 million	\$350 million	\$385 million	\$385 million
OAA Congregate	\$490 million	\$450 million	\$490 million	\$490 million
OAA Home-Delivered	\$246 million	\$227 million	\$246 million	\$246 million
NSIP	\$160 million	\$160 million	\$160 million	\$160 million
OAA Nutrition Total	\$896.7 million	\$837.7 million	\$896.7 million	\$896.7 million
OAA Title V SCSEP	\$400 million	0	\$400 million	\$400 million
OAA VI Native Americans Nutrition	\$33.2 million	\$31.2 million	\$35.2 million	\$31.2 million
Family Caregiver Support	\$180 million	\$151 million	\$180 million	\$180.3 million
Comm. Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$715 million	0	\$750 million	\$725 million
Comm. Develop. Block Grant (CDBG)	\$3.3 billion	0	\$3.3 billion	\$3.3 billion
Social Services Block Grant	\$1.7 billion	0	\$1.7 billion	\$1.7 billion
LIHEAP (Home Energy Assistance)	\$3.64 billion	0	\$3.64 billion	\$3.69 billion
Elder Justice Initiative	\$12 million	\$8 million	\$12 million	\$12 million
SHIP (Medicare Assisters)	\$49.1 million	0	\$49.1 million	\$49.1 million
Senior Corps	\$202.1 million	0	\$202.1 million	\$202.1 million
Section 202 Housing	\$678 million	\$563 million	\$632 million	\$678 million
Commodity Suppl. Food Prog (CSFP)	\$238 million	0	\$222.8 million	\$238 million
Sr. Farmers Market Nutrition	\$21 million	\$21 million	\$21 million	\$21 million
SNAP	\$74 billion	\$73.2 billion	\$73.2 billion	\$73.2 billion