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washington UPDATE

Federal FY 2020 Funding Update

May 2019

The House Appropriations Committee passed a bill in May which significantly increases funding for certain Older Americans Act programs and other programs impacting older adults for federal FY 2020.

Increased amounts include:

- \$37 million for OAA Title IIIB supportive services programs, totaling \$422 million in funding;
- \$93 million for OAA Title IIIC nutrition programs, totaling \$1 billion in funding;
- \$19 million for OAA Title IIIE Family Caregiver Support Program, totaling \$200 million in funding;
- \$63.8 million for OAA Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), totaling \$463.8 million in funding;
- \$3 million for OAA Title VI Native American Nutrition and Supportive Services programs, totaling \$37.2 million in funding;
- \$5 million for the Elder Justice Initiative, totaling \$17 million in funding;
- \$19 million for Senior Corps, totaling \$221.5 million in funding;
- \$35 million for the Community Services Block Grant, totaling \$760 million in funding;
- \$150 million for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, totaling \$3.84 billion in funding; and
- \$6 million for SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program, or Medicare counselors), totaling \$55 million in funding.

These levels must now pass the full House and be accepted by the Senate, which has not given any indication of its proposed funding levels yet.

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!
 Please share questions,
 suggestions or concerns.

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Older Americans Act Reauthorization Update

The 2019 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act is moving ahead. Hearings have now been held in both the House and the Senate to discuss the Act, and the Senate is likely to introduce a reauthorization bill in June.

The Administration has also released its three priorities for the reauthorization. They are:

- To remove the "right to first refusal" which provides that states must give a "unit of general purpose local government" the right of first refusal to become a new AAA for an area;
- To remove the 10 percent limit on funds to be spent on behalf of older relative caregivers ("grandfamilies" and others) under the National Family Caregiver Support Program; and
- To provide an increase in how much states can spend on administrative costs, which is currently capped at \$500,000.