



HEROES Act Passes House, But Senate Prospects are Uncertain

May 2020

On May 15, the House of Representatives passed the HEROES (Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions) Act ([text](#)), which would provide an additional \$3 trillion in supplemental funding to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unlike the three previous emergency funding bills, this measure features an uncertain future. The Senate is developing its own bill and the differences will have to be worked out. Final action on another supplemental bill is not expected until late June at the earliest.

The House bill provides \$85 million in additional funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, including:

- \$20 million for OAA Title III-B supportive services
- \$20 million for OAA nutrition programs (\$19 million for congregate and home-delivered Title III-C programs and \$1 million for Native American Title VI programs)
- \$20 million for OAA Title III-E caregiver services
- \$10 million for OAA Title III-D health promotion programs
- \$10 million for OAA Title VII long-term care ombudsmen and Adult Protective Services
- \$5 million for OAA-funded senior legal hotlines

This bill also provides additional funding for other programs impacting older adults, including:

- \$10 billion in additional SNAP funding and increases the minimum SNAP benefit to \$30/month
- \$150 million for food banks
- \$150 million for nursing home “strike teams”
- \$500 million for HUD Housing for the Elderly
- \$1.5 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Make a Gift

We need your help to protect and care for the most vulnerable people in our community - older adults, adults with disabilities and caregivers - during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please make your gift today at

www.benrose.org/donate.

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!

Please share questions, suggestions or concerns.

Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
11890 Fairhill Road,
Cleveland, OH 44120

216.791.8000 | info@benrose.org

Sign up for the email version
of this newsletter at
www.benrose.org/advocacy



ACL COVID-19 Resources

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) continues to release numerous fact sheets and lists of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to assist the network in its COVID-19 response on its [COVID-19 website](#). Some of the most recent and relevant include:

- Reopening guidelines for senior nutrition programs
- Groceries and OAA programs
- [Promising practices during the pandemic](#)
- [Survival Guide: Navigating COVID-19 Guidance for Those Administering Title III-C Programs](#) (also contains Titles III-B and III-E program suggestions)

The website also contains resources specifically for older adults and their families. The resources are available on a variety of topics and some are offered in Spanish and in YouTube videos conducted in ASL.

Racial Disparities and Aging

As a social service provider in a large urban area, Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging sees the impact of racial disparities on a daily basis, and understands the frustrations and anger that have led to the protests and unrest of the past couple weeks. [Read our statement to the community.](#)

We are exploring ways to encourage meaningful dialogue on racial disparities and aging. Look for more information soon.