



# washington UPDATE



July 2020

## COVID-19 Legislative Update

As the August recess approaches, the Senate is still negotiating its fourth large emergency supplemental funding bill for COVID-19 relief.

Senate Republicans have released a proposed \$1-trillion legislative package, the HEALS Act, that does not include many key provisions requested by aging advocates. For example, the package only contains \$58 million for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs: \$35 million for Title III-B supplemental services, \$20 million for the Title III-E family caregiver program, and \$3 million for a direct-care worker demonstration project. No funding was included for OAA nutrition programs such as Meals on Wheels. Earlier this month, four major national aging organizations had sent a letter to Capitol Hill to advocate for \$1.1 billion in additional supplemental funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs in this fourth package.

The package also lacks many nursing home reforms supported by advocates. It does not include any increases of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or increases of the Medicaid FMAP (the matching funding percentage the federal government gives states to fund Medicaid programs), and it also allows the national eviction/foreclosure moratorium to expire.

**Older Americans have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact your Senators today and urge them to include provisions that support older adults.**

Find your Senators at [www.senate.gov/senators/contact](http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact).

## Racial Disparities and Aging

Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging and our partners at the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) are developing a virtual town hall on racial and ethnic disparities and delivery of Older Americans Act (OAA) programs and services.

**We need your help!** Please participate in an open-ended survey at the link below to share your insights into the problems and challenges of delivering OAA programs and services to diverse populations. The results of this survey will shape a town hall meeting later in 2020 and further actions to be determined.

**[TAKE THE SURVEY!](#)**

## 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](mailto:info@benrose.org)

Sign up for the email version  
of this newsletter at  
[www.benrose.org/advocacy](http://www.benrose.org/advocacy)



## Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Update

The House Appropriations Committee has passed its federal fiscal year 2021 funding bills. This set of bills will fund the entire federal government starting in October.

The Committee supports these funding levels for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs:

- Title III B supportive services programs receive a \$10-million increase, bringing their funding to \$400 million;
- Title III C nutrition programs receive a \$20-million increase, to \$957 million;
- Title III D health promotion programs remain the same funding at \$24.8 million;
- Title III E family caregiver programs receive an \$8-million increase, to \$193.9 million;
- Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) receives a \$5-million increase, to \$410 million;
- Title VI Native American nutrition and supportive services programs receive a \$2.5-million increase, to \$37.2 million;
- Title VI Native American caregiver programs receive a \$2-million increase, to \$12.3 million;
- Title VII ombudsman programs receive a \$2-million increase, to \$24.6 million.

Other aging-related programs receiving increases include the Senior Corps program, which would see an increase of \$18 million (bringing it to \$239 million), and the HUD Section 202 Housing for the Elderly Program, which would be increased by \$100 million (to \$893 million).

The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet released spending proposals or a schedule for markup. The full House and Senate must agree on funding levels before September 30, 2020 for FY21.

## 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](http://www.benrose.org/donate).