



washington UPDATE



October 2020

COVID-19 Legislative Update

As the November election approaches, the Senate, House and White House are still negotiating a fourth large emergency supplemental funding bill for COVID-19 relief.

The House passed an updated version of its HEROES Act on October 1. This bill includes \$2.2 trillion in relief funding, including \$1.175 billion for the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) programs, including:

- \$500 million for Older Americans Act (OAA) nutrition (III-C and VI) programs
- \$200 million for OAA supportive services
- \$150 million for OAA caregiver support program
- \$44 million for OAA preventive health programs
- \$25 million for the OAA Title VII long-term care ombudsman program

The funding for ACL also includes a one-year reauthorization of, and \$175 million in funding for, the Elder Justice Act, which expired in 2014 and is only receiving a small fraction of its original authorized funding amount right now.

Despite its passage in the House, this updated HEROES Act is not slated for a vote in the Senate right now; Senate Republicans have said that the funding levels in the bill are too high.

Older Americans have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. **Contact your Senators today and urge them to act** to protect the health and well-being of older adults and family caregivers as well as to assist millions of younger Americans in need due to the pandemic.

Find your Senators at www.senate.gov/senators/contact.

Vote!

Every election is important, and the 2020 contests will impact decisions that affect older adults and their caregivers. Your voice should be heard. Make a point of reading what the candidates say about their positions. Read the party platforms. Find out how your elected representatives voted (or didn't vote) on issues that matter to you. Ask questions and expect answers. And vote. Read more at benrose.org.

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!

Please share questions, suggestions or concerns.

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Racial Equity: Perspectives on Delivery of OAA Programs

If you missed the program on Racial Equity: Perspectives on Delivery of OAA Programs in September, the recording is now available as a playlist on the Benjamin Rose YouTube channel.

The program was cosponsored by Benjamin Rose and the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP).

Thank you to our speakers and panelists for joining us in this important discussion: **Edwin Walker**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aging of the Administration on Aging within the Administration for Community Living; **Gary A. Office**, President and CEO, Center for Workforce Inclusion; **Larry Curley**, Executive Director, National Indian Council on Aging; **Melinda Forstey**, Chief Operating Office, Serving Seniors; and **Lynda Christison**, Director, Council on Aging for Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission.

[Watch the program.](#)

14th Annual Katz Policy Lecture

Join us for the 14th Annual Katz Policy Lecture on Thursday, October 29, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. via GoToWebinar. Our keynote speakers, **Bill Armbuster**, Senior Advisor of AARP Livable Communities, and **Mary McNamara**, Director of the Cleveland Department of Aging, will discuss age-friendly communities, including work developing nationally and in the Cleveland-area. The webinar will introduce the Age-Friendly Network, outline the importance of age-friendly communities to support individuals aging in place, and discuss the connection between age-friendly and dementia-friendly communities. Local panelists will discuss ongoing work and future directions to make Northeast Ohio age-friendly. Register at benrose.org.