



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils



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OLDER AMERICANS ACT



The Older Americans Act (OAA) supports a wide range of home and community-based services primarily designed to help older Americans remain independent and living at home and remaining in their community.

The OAA Authorizes:

- Supportive services such as case management, senior center services, in-home services, transportation, and information and referral;
- Nutrition programs, such as meals-on-wheels and senior center group meals;
- Family caregiver support;
- Health promotion and disease prevention services; and
- Training, research, programs, and demonstration projects to ensure the rights of older adults to live and work are protected.

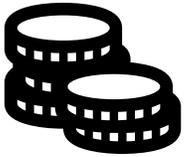


More than 500 Area Agencies on Aging (AoA) – many of which are housed in regional councils and councils of governments – receive OAA funding that is targeted towards low-income or minority persons, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and seniors residing in rural areas.



FUND AND IMPROVE THE OAA.

Unfortunately, the OAA's resources are very modest and have not kept up with the rapidly increasing older population or inflation. This means that many seniors do not have access to the services offered under the legislation because annual OAA discretionary funding has declined from fiscal year 2009 to fiscal year 2018 and has remained below fiscal year 2010 levels (\$2.328 billion).



Fully fund the OAA so it can meet the needs of all eligible older Americans.



Improve the care programs of the Older Americans Act – including congregate and home-delivered meals, assistance for family caregivers, transportation, and senior services to ensure economic security and the ability of seniors to receive the supports and services they need.



Increase protections against elder abuse and strengthen long-term care ombudsman services.



Promote healthy living through programs that target senior-specific issues such as fall prevention and chronic disease self-management, helping improve quality of life and preventing unnecessary medical costs.

For additional information please contact Neil Bomberg, NARC's senior policy advisor at neil@narc.org.