

## Federal Funding Update

On March 1, President Biden signed a continuing resolution (CR) that delays a partial government shutdown. This moves the deadlines to March 8 for six funding bills including the Department of Agriculture and March 22 for Labor, Health and Human Services which covers the Older Americans Act. On Sunday March 3, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees [unveiled bill text for six FY24 funding measures](#) that is expected to go to the House floor this week, with the Department of Agriculture receiving \$26.3 billion, roughly the same amount compared to current funding levels.

## New Legislation Introduced

On February 28, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA), chair of the Senate Committee on Aging, introduced the [Strategic Plan for Aging Act \(S.3827\)](#). This legislation would establish a nationwide grant program to support states that are developing, implementing, or initiating a Master Plan for Aging or Multisector Plan for Aging. Rep. [The Credit for Caring Act of 2024 \(H.R. 7165, S.3702\)](#) was reintroduced on January 31 by Mike Carey (R-OH) and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO). This would provide a tax credit for working family caregivers.

## Healthcare Updates

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated their [recommendations for respiratory viruses, including COVID-19](#). They recommend adults ages 65 and older should receive a second dose of the most recent COVID-19 vaccine. An updated vaccine is likely to be released this fall.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released draft [guidance](#) for the new Medicare Prescription Payment Plan, which will start in 2025. The payment plan allows Medicare patients to spread out-of-pocket costs over the year for prescriptions, also known as smoothing.

## Recent Action on the Older Americans Act

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) released the [final regulations for the Older Americans Act](#). These final regulations are rules to guide following of the OAA law and are the first update since 1988. Updates include establishing expectations for legal service providers and activities to help in elder abuse prevention and clarifying that the aging network has a role to defend against the imposition of guardianship and in promoting alternatives.

On March 7, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee will [host a hearing](#) on the Older Americans Act (OAA). This committee will oversee the 2024 reauthorization of the OAA, which affects the nutrition program, senior centers, elder justice services, and related programs for the next five years.

## Ohio Updates

In addition to the Credit for Caring Act sponsored by Rep. Mike Carey (R-OH), Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH) held a [press conference](#) on February 26 to discuss their efforts in restoring pension payments for over 20,000 Delphi salaried retirees that should have been received when General Motors filed for bankruptcy during the Great Recession. More than 5,000 Delphi retirees in Ohio have experienced significant losses to their benefits.

## Upcoming Events

March is the [anniversary of the Senior Nutrition Program](#). Celebrate with ACL using their theme is Connection in Every Bite to highlight the relationship between social connection and meal sites. March is also [National Nutrition Month](#), hosted by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to promote healthy eating habits, making informed food choices, and physical activity.

During the National Consumer Protection week (March 3-9) the Social Security Office (SSA) will hold their fifth annual [National Slam the Scam Day on March 7](#) to raise awareness of government imposter scam