

Federal Budget Update

Congress came to a final agreement on the FY24 budget, with the president signing the final package of six appropriations bills on March 23. These appropriations bills covered funding for the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Labor, which includes key aging programs. Two important programs which had been zeroed out for funding by the House were retained at current funding levels, the Senior Community Service Employment Program and Adult Protective Services. OAA Title III-C nutrition programs suffered a \$48 million cut to the Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) with a small boost to the congregate (\$25 million increase) and home delivered meal programs (\$15 million).

Program	FY23 Final	FY24 Biden	FY24	FY25 Biden
Older Americans Act Programs				
Title III-B Home and Community-Based Services	\$410 million	\$500 million	\$410 million	\$410 million
Title III-C Nutrition Total	\$1.066 billion	\$1.284 billion	\$1.058 billion	\$1.149 billion
<i>III-C-1 Congregate Meals</i>	\$540 million	\$762 million	\$565 million	\$621.7 million
<i>III-C-2 Home-Delivered Meals</i>	\$366 million	\$410 million	\$381 million	\$447.7 million
<i>III-C Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)</i>	\$160 million	\$112 million	\$112 million	\$80 million
Title III-D Preventive Health	\$26.3 million	\$26.3 million	\$26.3 million	\$26.3 million
Title III-E Family Caregiver Support Program	\$205 million	\$249.9 million	\$207 million	\$205 million
Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP/CSEOA-DOL)	\$405 million	\$405 million	\$405 million	\$405 million
Title VI Native Americans Nutrition/Supportive Services	\$38.2 million	\$70.2 million	\$38.2 million	\$38.2 million
Title VI Native Americans Caregiver Program	\$12 million	\$15.8 million	\$12 million	\$12 million
Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman	\$21.8 million	\$27 million	\$21.8 million	\$22 million
Title VII Elder Rights Support Activities Total	\$33.9 million	\$77 million	\$33.9 million	\$34 million
<i>Elder Justice-Opioids</i>	n/a	\$3 million		\$2 million
<i>Elder Justice-Guardianship</i>	n/a	\$2 million		\$2 million
<i>Elder Justice-Infrastructure</i>	n/a	\$10 million		\$11 million
<i>Elder Justice-State APS Grants/APS Funding</i>	\$15 million	\$58 million	\$15 million	\$30 million

The focus has now shifted to the FY25 budget, as President Biden released his FY 25 budget on March 11 following his State of the Union address.

Federal Legislative Update

The Older Americans Act (OAA) is due for reauthorization this year, which covers an array of aging programs and services. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee is leading the reauthorization process. It [held its first OAA hearing](#) on March 7 and gathered feedback from aging organizations through a Request for Information (RFI) on what flexibilities and updates are needed in the OAA for the next five years. Senate HELP Committee staffers held a series of informal, bipartisan listening sessions on the OAA, and invited representatives from aging organizations to provide a statement and participate in discussions. The Elder Justice Coalition and four elder justice groups spoke at the listening session on March 19.

On March 12, The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban affairs [held a hearing](#) on Senator Bob Casey's (D-PA), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Aging, [Grandfamilies Act \(S.3501\)](#). This bill expands access for benefits and financial resources for grandfamilies and establishes a grant program for states to develop plans on how to provide support and services for grandfamilies.

Senator Casey (D-PA), Chair of the Senate Committee on Aging, introduced a resolution ([S.Res.571](#)) to celebrate the retirement and leadership of Edwin Walker, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aging for the Administration for Community Living. Edwin retired March 22 and supported the aging network for over 30 years.

The bipartisan Kidney PATIENT Act ([H.R.5074](#)) passed the House Ways and Means Committee on March 20. This legislation provides patients with access to oral-only kidney disease therapies through Medicare Part D until 2027.

April has been designated as National Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Month. Read the president's [press statement here](#).

Opportunities to Comment

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) issued an RFI for recommendations for the [Elder Justice Coordinating Council](#), to make the greatest impact for victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Responses must be submitted electronically by April 24, 2024.

Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging at ASA Conference

President and CEO Orion Bell and EJC National Coordinator Bob Blancato participated in the 2024 Panel of Pundits at the recently completed On Aging conference of the American Society on Aging. Moderator Bob Blancato led the bipartisan pundits in spirited conversation about: How will a return to divided government affect policy actions? What progress can we expect on equity issues? How does the upcoming election look? And what will be the impact on older adults? Other panelists included Ramsey Alwin (National Council on Aging), Richard Browdie (Browdie Consulting), Jason Resendez (National Alliance for Caregiving), and Joel White (Horizon Government Affairs).