US Aging | Aging Policy Briefing & Capitol Hill Day

WASHINGTON, DC
March 29–30, 2022

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Our Advocacy Charge:
US Aging’s 2022 Policy Agenda

Amy Gotwals, Chief, Public Policy and External Affairs
Monica Billger, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy

March 29, 2022
Policy Priorities
Policy Priorities 2022

Promote the Health, Security and Well-Being of Older Adults
Invest in Cost-Effective Home and Community-Based Services

US Aging
Leaders in Aging Well at Home
Invest in HCBS

- Older Americans Act HCBS
  - Double Title III B, Double Title VI doubling
- Medicaid HCBS
  - Workforce investment to expand care:
    - Biden Administration $400 billion
    - Better Care Better Jobs Act $150 billion
  - Remove the institutional basis
  - Money Follows the Person
- Veteran-Directed Care Program
  - Improve consistency
Promote Successful, Healthy Aging in Community
Promote Healthy Aging

• Caregivers:
  • Double OAA Title III E NFCSP
  • Community Care Corps
• Social Isolation and Loneliness
• Transportation
  • NADTC, volunteer drivers
• Evidence-Based Prevention and Wellness
  • Double OAA Title III D
• Elder Justice Act
Connect
Health Care and Aging Sectors to Improve Care and Reduce Costs

US Aging
Leaders in Aging Well at Home
Connect to Health Care

- New models must build not, not supplant or exploit, existing experts and systems in Aging Network
  - Social health referral platforms (SHARPs)
  - Coding standards
- Medicare
  - Fee for Service care options
  - SHIPs, increase in funding
- Telehealth
  - Broad definition of telehealth to reflect Aging Network’s use of technology; must still be person-focused
Strengthen Systems to Support an Aging America
Strengthen Systems

• Workforce Crisis
  • National effort for short and long term
  • Expand OAA and Medicaid HCBS programs
  • Elevate the direct care profession, create career pathways
  • Expand training....and more

• Access to Technology
  • For consumers (realities, digital divide, training)
  • For AAAs, Title VI, providers (huge potential, complements hands-on services, investment in health care IT)

• Disaster/Emergency Planning and Response
Legislative Update
FY 2022 Appropriations

• FY 2022 post-mortem
  • Final numbers surprisingly modest, didn’t reflect recommendations or need
    • OAA III B 1.5%
    • OAA III C1 flat
    • OAA III C2 5.4%
    • OAA III D flat
    • OAA III E 2.6%
    • OAA Title VI 3.4%
    • SHIPs 2%
  • Everything was on our side, what went wrong?
FY 2023 Appropriations

• Campaign to launch soon
• Reflects Policy Priorities identified by the Policy Committee
• Reflects ongoing elevated need
• A strong President’s budget will help, but as FY 2022 showed us, it’s not enough
• Will need stronger Republican support
• Challenge: Election year, so brace for Continuing Resolutions
President’s Budget

• Older Americans Act
  • Significant increases, incl. ~25% for III B, 48% for III C 1, 41% for III C 2, 29% for III E, 89% for Title VI programs combined, 50% for Ombudsman, but cut to NSIP

• SHIPs: 4% increase

• Medicaid HCBS
  • President’s budget notes priorities, but not specific funding levels, so as not to scare off Sen. Manchin and the negotiators
Other Areas of Engagement

• Eventual ending of the Public Health Emergency
  • HHS to give 60-day notice
  • Biden administration to allow a slow-roll de-escalation off Medicaid, but some Republican governors or legislatures have required tight turn-arounds

• Policy engagement on SHARPs, coding and other SDOH arenas
  • RFI from White House Office of Science and Technology

• Older Americans Act Regulations
  • Titles III, VI, Ombudsman
  • RFI → NPRM → Final Rules
  • USAging will develop a process to gather member input
Advocacy Needed!

• Appropriations: we have to make the case, educate about the coming cliff!
• Medicaid HCBS: advocacy will need to be loud to keep this in reconciliation
• Keep up your relationships with Members of Congress, even in an election year!
• OAA regulations: be ready to engage with us, provide feedback
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Budget Overview & Outlook

Ellen Nissenbaum
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
www.cbpp.org
March, 2022
Agenda

• Basic budget “101”
• Update on current budget process (FY 22)
• Biden’s Budget (FY 23 process)
Basic Budget Terms: Federal Spending Categories

• Discretionary Programs (Appropriations)
  – Defense
  – Non-Defense
• Mandatory Programs (Entitlements)
• Interest on the debt
Federal Spending, FY 2019

- Mandatory: 61%
- Discretionary: 30%
- Interest: 9%
Federal Spending by Program, FY 2019

- Net interest: 9%
- Defense discretionary: 15%
- Non-Defense discretionary: 15%
- Social Security: 24%
- Medicare: 14%
- Medicaid, CHIP, ACA subsidies: 12%
- Other mandatory programs: 12%
NDD Spending, FY 2019

- Diplomacy and international affairs: 8%
- Science, environment, and energy: 11%
- Law enforcement and governance: 12%
- Economic Security: 13%
- Health care and health research: 23%
- Transportation and economic development: 19%
- Education and training: 14%
Basic Budget Terms - Budget Reconciliation

• Mechanism created in 1974, first used in 1980

• Filibuster workaround
The Budget Process
(or how it is supposed to work)
Annual Federal Budget Process

- **Early February**: President’s Budget
- **Mid-April**: Congressional Budget Resolution
- **Summer/Fall**: Appropriations
- **October 1**: Beginning of new fiscal year
• 10-year plan (usually)
• Top-line figures
• May include Reconciliation Instructions
• Not law
• Optional budget procedure to change mandatory spending and revenue
• Special floor procedures create filibuster workaround
• Follows unique rules - difficult to amend & limited debate
• Has and is being used for major legislation
What Reconciliation Can’t Do

- Make changes to Social Security
- Change the basic rules that govern discretionary programs
- Make changes that don’t increase or decrease entitlement spending or revenues
- Increase deficits in the long term
- Annual process when Congress passes funding bills for discretionary programs
- 12 bills – individual or packaged
- October 1st deadline
  – failure: shut down or continuing resolution
FY22 Budget: finished/to do

• Appropriations:
  – Omnibus appropriations enacted
    • NDD increase about 7%; way below Biden/Approps
    • LHHS: +7.4% vs. 25-28% Approps’ increases
    • Underscores importance of “size of the pie”
  – COVID supplemental

• “Build Back Better” (rename) reconciliation
Aging Programs Approps

• Reduction in LHHS funding = overall increase of 7% but cut relative to Biden/House Senate... meant less $$
  – Biden/House increase: wasn’t going to survive but...

• Relative to other programs, OAA took a disproportionate hit (HCBS, Nutrition)
  – (WHY? Interaction w/ ARPA $. Lessons??)

• Biden: + 40%; House +44%; Senate +28%
  – Final omnibus: +2%!
Biden FY23 Budget Proposal

- Focused on helping lower costs; reducing the deficit; expanding the productive capacity of the economy
- NDD increase: 11% over FY22 ($78b)
- New mandatory/entitlement proposals
- Revenue raisers
- Fund for high priority investments (FY 22 reconciliation, aka old “BBB”)
Inflation and Build Back Better

Rising inflation has often been cited as a reason to forgo or scale back investments in the House-passed Build Back Better (BBB) legislation. However, this argument is misguided.

- BBB would reduce deficits in the long term and is not designed as economic stimulus.

- Any increase in inflationary pressures from BBB would be offset by the end of fiscal stimulus from 2021.

- Most of the inflationary pressure comes from unique characteristics of the pandemic economy, such as supply chain issues, and less from an over stimulated economy.

- Meeting investment needs and addressing inflation are two separate tasks.
What’s Happening Next

• Finishing Budget reconciliation:
  – Process and timing
  – This is NOT BBB!
  – Sen. Manchin’s proposals/limitations
  – FOCUS ON WHAT’S POSSIBLE!

• Appropriations for FY 23

• Budget Res for FY 23?
Questions?

Thank you and feel free to reach out: nissenbaum@cbpp.org
Policy Solutions for Strengthening the Direct Care Workforce

Robert Espinoza, Vice President of Policy, PHI
4.6 million direct care workers in the U.S.

Source: PHI, 2021.
7.4 million

job openings in direct care between 2019 and 2029.

Source: PHI, 2021.
Reform Long-Term Care Financing
Increase Compensation for Direct Care Workers
Strengthen Training Standards and Delivery Systems for Direct Care Workers
Fund, Implement, and Evaluate Direct Care Workforce Interventions
State Approaches: MercyCare’s Innovation Fund in Arizona (Workforce Interventions)

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State Approaches: Minnesota’s Direct Support Connect® Registry (Workforce Interventions)
Improve Direct Care Workforce Data Collection and Monitoring
Rectify Structural Gender, Racial, and Other Inequities for Direct Care Workers
Center Direct Care Workers in Leadership Roles and Public Policy
Shift the Public Narrative on Direct Care Workers
State Approaches: Wisconsin’s WisCaregivers Career Program (Public Education)

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PHI works to transform eldercare and disability services. We foster dignity, respect, and independence for all who receive care, and all who provide it. As the nation’s leading authority on the direct care workforce, PHI promotes quality direct care jobs as the foundation for quality care.
Meeting With Lawmakers Live & on Zoom: What Every Advocate Needs to Know Now

Amy Gotwals, Chief, Public Policy and External Affairs
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Advocacy Tips
In-Person &/Or Virtual Visits

- Check out USAging’s Hill & Virtual Visit Tips!
- Research your elected official.
- If you want to set up a Senate meeting, coordinate with the other AAAs to visit together!
- Invite critical stakeholders and community partners when applicable.
- Be prepared to translate—how do your local organization and local issues connect to federal priorities?
Successful Meetings 101

Stay Flexible
- Be on time but prepared to wait.
- Have a plan and your elevator speech.
- Respect the staff.
- It’s an art, not a science, so go with the flow!
- Be ready for questions...or silence.
- Always circle back to your main asks at the end.
Connect-the-Dots

- Data storytelling: People hear statistics, but they feel stories

- Collect/update data about your agency, services, funding & needs

- Weave personal stories and data: information on how the agency has helped the community and a person who has benefitted from services
Don’t Leave the Meeting Until…

• They know who you are and what your agency does (and for whom).

• They know what you are asking of them today.

• They know you will be following up for future engagement (e.g., site visit).
Relationship Advice
YOU KNOW WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT A LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP?

NOTHING
Learn About Your Legislators

- MoC websites
  - Contact information
  - Bio information
  - District information
  - Legislative background

- House and Senate Member Contact Sites:
  House: http://www.house.gov/representatives/
  http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

- Other helpful sites with MOC record/legislative info:
  www.congress.gov
  www.govtrack.us
Top 10 Tips for Nurturing Relationships

1. STAFF matter just as much as the elected official.
2. Relationships are a two-way street. Provide data and information in a timely manner as requested from your elected official and their staff.
3. When they have been supportive, thank them quickly and publicly.
4. Follow up with your elected officials/staff. Update them on the results of their support and news about aging adults in their community.
5. Invite your elected officials and their staff to visit your agency or to a special event. (Remember: show them the lesser-known but equally vital services!)
Top 10 Tips for Nurturing Relationships

6. Provide regular communication via email and phone calls as a concrete reminder of your interest, your agency and your issues.

7. Share your annual report, news about new board members, and invite them to special events.

8. Go to a town hall or schedule a visit during congressional recesses.

9. If you don’t know, say so and get back to them later with the correct info!

10. USAging’s got your back. If you need support or have a question, let us help!
What’s Next?
IF YOU THINK YOU ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TRY SLEEPING WITH A MOSQUITO.

-DALAI LAMA
• FY 2023 Appropriations Campaign
• Medicaid HCBS
• OAA regulations
• Relationship building
• USAging’s grassroots tools!
Your Policy Team is Here to Help!

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