August 19 Advocacy Alert

Your Advocacy for OAA & HCBS Workforce Funding is Needed!

August 19, 2020

Next week the House will reconvene to pass a $3.5 trillion budget resolution that mirrors the Senate’s bill in an effort to push the Biden administration’s massive care infrastructure package through reconciliation. Meanwhile, the annual appropriations process, also driven by the budget resolution, is in full swing as discussed in n4a’s recent Legislative Update. If the House passes the budget resolution next week then both the House and Senate will need to create legislation within the spending limits set in the budget resolutions with House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees to determine exact funding for FY 2022. The subcommittees must submit their bills by Sept. 15 so we don’t have any time to spare to ensure OAA, HCBS and other essential aging programs receive the funding they need.

Advocates must reach out NOW to push for a full-year FY 2022 funding bill that includes the House-approved increases for OAA and other aging programs. With many priorities competing for attention and dollars, it’s imperative that we don’t lose ground. We must engage every aging advocate to champion the essential services and programs your AAA and Title VI programs provide. Without your advocacy, the growing cacophony of special interests can impact the success we have had in establishing bold funding proposals as the new baseline for essential programs that allow individuals to age with independence and dignity in their homes. n4a’s recent Advocacy Alerts provide additional information that support this critical call to action!

- July 19 Senate Appropriations Advocacy Alert
- July 20 $400 Billion HCBS Advocacy Alert

TAKE ACTION

Members of Congress need to hear directly from their constituents. This means we need all AAAs, Title VI Native American Aging Programs and all
your local allies to advocate for Older Americans Act funding and other critical aging programs.

Specifically, n4a prioritized four subtitles of the Act for major increases, including doubling Titles III B (Supportive Services), Title VI (Native American aging programs) and III D (evidence-based health and wellness), and increasing III E (National Family Caregiver Support Program) by 50 percent. These critical investments, recognized within the President’s budget and House appropriations bill, continue to need your advocacy voice as the budget process moves forward.

**STEP 1:** Visit [n4a’s FY 2022 OAA Appropriations Advocacy Toolkit](#) to assist your efforts. Our resources include everything you need to take action:

- Grassroots template letters (AAA and VI versions);
- Current appropriations chart;
- n4a appropriations request letter to Congress; and
- FY 2021 Policy Priorities.

It is important that you take the time to localize what this funding means for the older adults and caregivers in your community, Tribe or state.

**STEP 2:** Call your lawmakers.

Even if you have already connected with your Members of Congress and asked your grassroots networks to engage as well, it’s time to do so again! Ask your members of Congress for their support and be sure to share a local story about the importance of funding for OAA in your community! The Capitol Switchboard (202-224-3121) can connect you to your lawmakers’ DC offices.

**STEP 3:** Put your agency on record. Send an updated letter **via email** to your Senators and Representatives this week. Use our templates ([AAA](#)/[Title VI](#)) but customize to reflect your agency/community. Find contact information on your Senators’ and Representatives’ websites: [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).

**STEP 4:** Make Your Support for OAA Funding Public. Attend any events/town halls (virtual or in-person) your Senators and Representatives are hosting during the summer recess and raise OAA funding during the Q&A! You can also enlist fellow advocates! Find out whether any of your agency’s supporters know the Members of Congress serving your community or if they will be seeing them at any virtual events. If so, ask that they put in a good word for OAA funding and its impact in your community.

**STEP 5:** Initiate a Virtual Visit. Members of Congress will be back in their states and districts in August and early September, so get on their local calendars NOW—there’s still time! Individual site visits, even if virtual, are also a great opportunity to educate your elected officials about the critical services you provide to their constituents. All you have to do is ask! (Tip: Put the request in writing. Call or email the DC office to ensure your request gets to the scheduler.)

**STEP 6:** Engage Your Provider Network. Urge your vendors/providers,
advisory board members and other important stakeholders to send their own letters to Congress. Please do all you can to amplify the message and engage others who understand the value of OAA in their community! You’re welcome to forward this Alert to your networks or edit it to be best received by your advocates.

Stay tuned for more updates from n4a and, as always, we thank you for your advocacy!

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If you have questions or concerns about this Advocacy Alert or n4a’s policy positions, please contact Monica Billger at mbillger@n4a.org and Amy Gotwals at agotwals@n4a.org.