

# Older Americans Act



advocacy | action | answers on aging

## GET THE FACTS

**For more than 50 years**, the Older Americans Act (OAA) has connected older adults and their caregivers to services that help older adults age with health, dignity and independence in their homes and communities—where they want to be! **In 2019, Congress must again reauthorize this vital federal program that serves every community in the country.** With the rapid growth of America’s aging population, it’s essential that Congress make wise investments in critical OAA programs and services!

## Why Is the OAA Important? The OAA...

### Enables aging at home and in the community where people want to be.

The OAA provides the person-centered services and supports that can help older adults be better able to age where they want—in their homes and communities—thus avoiding more expensive medical or institutional care. Examples include meals, in-home help, transportation, home modification, legal services and many other supportive services that keep older adults healthy and independent.

### Supports caregivers.

Family caregivers are the backbone of the nation’s long-term services and supports system. The OAA provides vital supports to caregivers to bolster their ability to continue caring for their loved ones.

### Strengthens communities.

OAA services are delivered through a nationwide network of community-based agencies and service providers that know and can best meet the needs of older adults in their communities.

### Protects vulnerable older adults.

Through programs like the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, the OAA helps to identify and prevent the abuse and neglect of older Americans.

### Prepares us for the future.

The country is aging at an historic rate. Every day 10,000 people turn 65, and the vast majority of people want to age in place. If society is going to be prepared for an aging nation, we need to invest in the cost-effective programs, such as those provided by the OAA, that allow people to stay healthy and independent while living in the community!



**Visit [n4a.org/OAA](https://n4a.org/OAA) to learn more about the Older Americans Act**

# What is Available Through OAA?

The OAA funds a wide range of aging services across five core areas, with local flexibility built into the Act to reflect the needs of that area's older adults and caregivers.



## What Can Congress Do? Reauthorize the OAA to...



### Make Bold Investments in Aging Services!

Funding isn't keeping up with the needs of older adults. To keep up with the population growth of older Americans and caregivers and inflation over the next five years, **Congress should double the funding for the Act.**



### Protect Consumer Focus!

Thanks to the Act's flexibility, OAA programs and services are person and family-centered. Congress should reject any proposal that changes the local focus of the OAA.



### Foster Innovation!

Congress must invest in research, innovation and best practices to ensure that these supports can efficiently serve a growing population for years to come.



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