



Leaders in Aging Well at Home

Federal Policy Update

*for Atlanta Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging
Advisory Committee on Aging*

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Policy Priorities 2023

Promote the Health, Security and Well-Being of Older Adults

USAging

Leaders in Aging Well at Home



Support

**Aging Well at Home
by Investing in Older
Americans Act Programs
and Services**

USAging
Leaders in Aging Well at Home

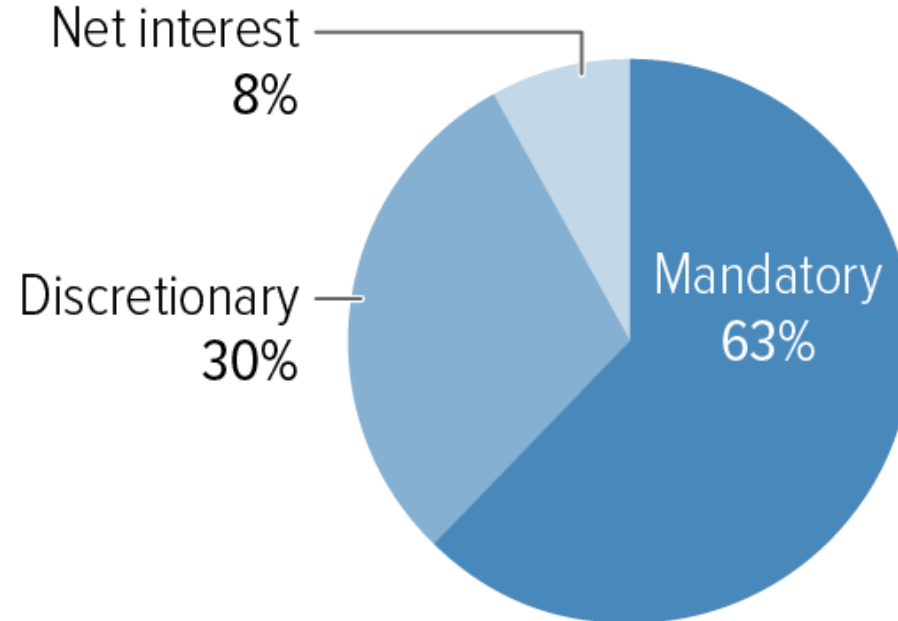


Mandatory vs. Discretionary Programs

- Mandatory: *spending is automatic for most programs, infrequently amended*
 - Social Security
 - Medicare
 - Medicaid (federal-state)
 - SNAP
- Discretionary programs: *spending is allocated annually by appropriators; authority is updated every few years through separate authorization committees if required*
 - Older Americans Act
 - Low-income housing (Sec. 202)
 - Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs)

Most of the Federal Budget = Social Security and Major Health Programs (Mandatory Spending)

Types of Federal Spending, Fiscal Year 2023



Note: Does not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Congressional Budget Office

USAgging Older Americans Act Top Funding Priorities

- Title III B Supportive Services
- Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Title VI Native American Aging Programs

➡ Calling for a doubling of these essential programs that have been long underfunded.

➡ Also support increasing funding for *all* titles!

President's FY 2024 Budget

- **Title III B** Supportive Services: 22% increase
- **Title III E** National Family Caregiver Support Program: 20% increase
- **Title VI** Native American Aging Programs: nearly doubling of Part A, 32% for Part C
- **Title III C** Nutrition: overall ~20 percent increase; but 41% C1 congregate, 12% increase C2 home-delivered, then NSIP cut 30%
- **Title III D** Evidence-Based Health and Wellness Programs: 0.2% increase

Next Steps on FY 2024

- Dear Colleague Letters: ~90 signers on House Bonamici-Stefanik on OAA, others on SHIP, fall prevention, etc.; Senator Sanders' letter drew 39 Democrats, 3 Independents
- Debt ceiling battle could affect FY 2024 non-defense discretionary (NDD) appropriations but also mandatory programs such as Medicaid HCBS
- **WE NEED YOUR letters!** Use our template letter: www.usaging.org/advocacyalerts

McCarthy Bill

- Passed House last month
- 10-year cap on discretionary appropriations (\$3.6 trillion in cuts)
- Expanded work requirements in Medicaid and SNAP
- SNAP and Medicaid cuts traded for killing the IRA's boost to the IRS for enforcement of tax rules
- GA would lose in FY 2024: \$899 million (or \$2.2 billion if veterans and defense excepted)
- Over 10 years, GA's loss is \$14.2 bil (or \$35.6 bil)

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, www.cbpp.org



Other Older Americans Act Advocacy Opportunities

2023 Opportunity: OAA Regulations

- Title III and VI updated in 1988; Title VII Ombudsman updated this decade
- ACL's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking coming any day now
- **Next steps:**
 - Once NPRM is out, we will have 60 days to respond
 - Look for: USAging *Advocacy Alert* and give feedback!

2024 Opportunity: OAA Reauthorization

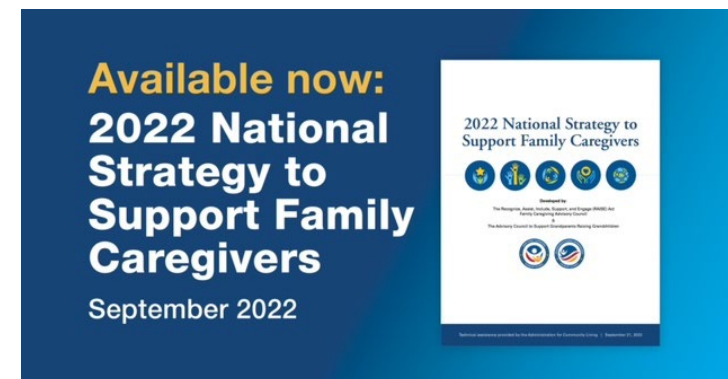
- Expires at the end of FY 2024, which is Sept. 30, 2024
- USAging process will start summer 2023 with a member survey
- Congress will get engaged in 2024, timing depending on motivations of Members/staff
- New leadership: Sen. Bernie Sanders & Repub. Ranking Member Sen. Bill Cassidy, LA (Senate HELP), Sen. Mike Braun, IN (Senate Aging RMM), new Chair Rep. Virginia Foxx, VA (House Education and Workforce)
- **Next Steps:** educate your Members about how OAA works

Recognize

and Support Caregivers



RAISE Caregivers



- National Strategy released Sept. 2022
- A whole-of-society roadmap: 300+ actions that 15 agencies may take and includes corresponding actions for states, employers and CBOs
- The strategy is meant to be flexible and will be revised on a biennial basis
- The entire strategy prioritizes and spreads person and family-centered care principles

Executive Order

- President Biden's Executive Order, April 18
- All ages: childcare, all settings of long-term services and supports
- Directs agencies to improve policies to support workers in direct care settings as well as family caregivers
- Encourages states to boost the HCBS workforce, for agencies to support better wages and benefits, to expand veterans HCBS care, improve access to HCBS, access to behavioral health for direct care workers, to consider caregiver supports in CMS demos...



Senate HELP Committee RFI

- In March, Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Ranking Member Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA) asked for input from the public through a Request for Information (RFI) on the health care workforce shortages and what are the driving forces behind this challenge
- USAging urged the Committee to **include the aging services and direct care workforce in their definition of health care workforce!**
- Read our letter: usaging.org/advocacy

Prioritize

**Medicaid Home and
Community-Based
Services Options to
Reduce Unnecessary
Institutionalization**



Workforce Bills

- **Better Care Better Jobs Act** (Senator Casey, D-PA, S. 100); \$300 billion investment in expanding access to HCBS through strengthening the direct care workforce; works as an enhanced FMAP with directives around workforce investment by states; *USAgings has endorsed*
- Senator Casey's **HCBS Access Act** compliments BCBJ but makes HCBS equal with nursing home access for all states, and makes spousal impoverishment protections and Money Follows the Person permanent; *USAgings has endorsed*

Connect

**Health Care and Aging
Sectors to Improve Care
and Reduce Costs**



Advocates Prep List, 2023-2024

- Get re/connected to your elected officials now!
- Get your data and stories ready
- Seize all opportunities to create a champion
- Tap your new allies to echo your messages
- Stay tuned to USAging *Advocacy Alerts* and keep us tuned in to what you are doing (and want us to do)!
- Buckle your seatbelts....

www.usaging.org/advocacy



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