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US Aging Annual Conference Answers on Aging

July 2024

Conference Overview

Over 100 Diverse Sessions Available on All Things Aging

Goals:

- **Gather Most Current Information on Trends in Aging, Disability & Caregiving**
- **Learn Cutting-Edge Practices**
- **Connect to Experts that Can Share New Directions in the Aging Network**

Conference Focus Areas

Enhanced
Independent
Living Through
Transportation
Innovations

Older American
Act
Reauthorization
& Program
Updates

Advancing
Advocacy

Workforce
Development

Supporting
Caregivers

Elder
Justice

Native
American
Aging
Programs

Building
Dementia
Friendly
Communities

Volunteerism

Meeting the Needs of Diverse Aging
Populations

Best
Practices
in Healthy
Aging

Housing and
Homelessness

Addressing
Social
Isolation

Older Americans Act Reauthorization

The Older Americans Act (1965) authorization will expire at the end of FY 2024 (September 30th).

Current efforts are ongoing at this time to work with policymakers and stakeholders to update this vital Act, which supports millions of older adults and caregivers annually, and is the foundation of the Aging Network's ability to create a wide range of programs and services to support older adults' health, well-being and ability to age well at home and in the community.

Currently, it is anticipated that a continuing resolution will be utilized and reauthorization will not occur until sometime in 2025.

Older Americans Act Reauthorization

Recommendations:

GOAL 1 To Serve More Older Adults Who Need Help to Age Well at Home:

1.1: Significantly increase authorized funding levels to meet the real and urgent needs of a rapidly growing older population and the rising costs of service delivery.

1.2: Ensure that AAAs and other Aging Network community-based organizations are able to further meet their missions by securing health care or other private funding to serve more older adults.

1.3: Allow Title III D health and wellness programs to be evidence-informed— not just evidence-based—to expand the Aging Network’s ability to reach older adults with emerging interventions and to extend the reach especially in rural areas and other areas which have limited funding for this important work.

1.4: Expand Title VI, Grants for Native American Aging Programs, to include a dedicated Supportive Services funding stream and boost the capacity of grantees through more robust training and technical assistance.

Older Americans Act Reauthorization

Recommendations:

GOAL 2 To Meet the Needs of Today's and Tomorrow's Older Adults:

2.1: Unify and modernize the Title III C nutrition funding streams and programs to reflect recent innovations, the changing needs of consumers and the goal of local decision-making inherent in the Act.

2.2: Reduce social isolation and loneliness among older adults by authorizing a national resource center dedicated to providing training and technical assistance for Aging Network professionals on innovative strategies to build and expand social engagement programs and activities.

Older Americans Act Reauthorization

Recommendations:

GOAL 3 To Maintain Efficient Oversight and Management of Local Service Delivery to Ensure Quality:

3.1: Increase the administrative funding ceiling by two percentage points to ensure appropriate program development, oversight and network management amid rising costs and eroding federal OAA funding.

***** Older Americans Act regulations have been updated by Administration of Community Living (ACL) and must be fully implemented by October 2025. Last substantial update was completed in 1988**

Additional News

***** Older Americans Act regulations have been updated by Administration of Community Living (ACL) and must be fully implemented by October 2025. Last substantial update was completed in 1988.**

Administration for Community Living, released “Aging in the United States: A Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging.” The report lays the groundwork for a coordinated effort - across the private and public sectors and in partnership with older adults, family caregivers, the aging services network, and other stakeholders - to create a national set of recommendations for advancing healthy aging and age-friendly communities that value and truly include older adults.

Historically, Based on Previous Decades We are Due for a White House Conference on Aging in 2025. Watch for Updates as The Older Americans Act progresses through Congress for Reauthorization.

A Sample of Conference Topics

Building a Longevity Mindset

Family Caregiving as a Social Driver of Health

Equity and the ACL Innovation Lab: A New Approach to Falls Prevention

Shaping the National Plan on Aging

Clear Paths Forward to Emergency Preparedness

Everything Everywhere All at Once - Advocacy for the New Normal

Healthy Aging & the Brain-Body Connection

Reframing Aging for Age-Inclusive Infrastructure

Building Momentum to Address Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementia

Policy Advancements in Aging & Community Living: A Federal Perspective

How Can We Make Transportation Accessible for All

Housing Decisions & Older Adults' Financial Security, Health & Independence

Final Thoughts...

Wellbeing is strongly linked to happiness and life satisfaction and is influenced by physical, mental, social, emotional, spiritual and environmental factors. When we are experiencing wellbeing, **we feel connected to purpose, people and community.** We are at peace, energized, confident and in control, resilient and safe. In short, we are flourishing.

We Each Have a Daily Choice to Make to Care for Ourselves so that We Will Continue to Be Able to Serve, Advocate and Care for Our Fellow Older Adult Community Members.

Let Us Choose Wellbeing...