

Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024

Division G of H.R.10445, Further Continuing Appropriations and Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025

Section 1. Short Title.

Establishes the short title as the "Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024".

Section 2. Table of Contents.

Includes a table of contents.

Section 3. References.

Makes clear changes being made to the *Older Americans Act of 1965*.

Section 4. Definitions.

Specifies that the in this division, the terms "area agency on aging," "Assistant Secretary," "older individual," and "Secretary" have same meaning as defined in the *Older Americans Act of 1965*.

Title. I. Strengthening the Aging Network to Meet the Needs of Older Individuals.

Sec. 101. Declaration of Objectives.

Revises objectives to include community-based organizations and families, improving health outcomes, and reducing health expenditures.

Sec. 102. Addressing Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders and Cognitive Impairments of Older Individuals.

Amends an existing position within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to include responsibilities on substance use disorders and cognitive impairments in addition to mental health and directs a report to be submitted to Congress within 2 years.

Sec. 103. List of National Resource Centers.

Directs the Assistant Secretary on Aging to annually publish online a list of national resource centers and demonstration projects authorized or funded under the *Older Americans Act (OAA)*, specifies what information should be included, and that the list be directly provided to State agencies, area aging agencies, and Congress.

Sec. 104. Awareness of Relevant Federal Programs.

Directs the Assistant Secretary to coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies to ensure that the aging network and individuals served under OAA are aware of, and when eligible have access to, Federal programs to meet housing, health care, and other supportive service needs to help such individuals age in place.

Sec. 105. Evaluation and Surveys.

Amends existing evaluation requirements to direct the Secretary to survey State agencies and area agencies on aging.

Sec. 106. Contracting.

Clarifies that, while area agencies on aging need to notify State agencies of all contracts and other agreements, State agencies do not review and approve area agency on aging contracts when using non-OAA dollars. State agencies may request additional information from recipients of OAA dollars regarding the use of non-OAA dollars in some cases. Makes changes to the monitoring and reporting requirement.

Sec. 107. Guidance on Reallocation of Funding Between Area Agencies on Aging.

Directs the Assistant Secretary on Aging to disseminate one-time guidance to States regarding reallocation of funds between area agencies on aging within a single state and during a single budget year.

Sec. 108. Right of First Refusal.

Establishes criteria that a local government entity must meet before having the right of first refusal to serve as an area agency on aging.

Sec. 109. Area Agency on Aging Capabilities.

Requires area agencies on aging to provide assurances to maintain the capabilities necessary to develop and carry out an area plan, and specifies allowable actions by the State agency if an area agency on aging fails in two successive years to comply with related requirements.

Sec. 110. Supporting Older Individuals with Disabilities Through Improved Coordination.

Directs the Administrator of ACL to identify opportunities to improve coordination between the aging and disability networks, and identify lessons learned from disability networks, including centers for independent living. Within two years, the Administrator shall issue guidance to State agencies and area agencies on aging on strategies to leverage disability networks to strengthen the provision of services under OAA. Updates the definition of disability and severe disability to conform with the definition of disability as defined under the *Americans with Disabilities Act*.

Sec. 111. Business Acumen, Fiscal Training, and Technical Assistance.

Adds to the State plan that a State shall provide assurances that the State agency may provide technical assistance, as needed, for area agencies on aging related to the development of business acumen, sound fiscal practices, capacity building, organizational development, innovation, and other methods of growing and sustaining the capacity of the aging network.

Sec. 112. Enhancing Access to Assistive Technology.

Adds that State plans shall coordinate with State Assistive Technology Programs and area agencies on aging to assist eligible individuals in accessing and acquiring assistive technology.

Sec. 113. White House Conference on Aging.

Authorizes the 2025 White House Conference on Aging. This conference occurs every ten years, most recently in 2015 and 2005.

Sec. 114. Technical Amendments.

Clarifies Medicare program resources to be made available to beneficiaries. Clarifies existing language on relevant functions of the Assistant Secretary. Clarifies existing language on reports to Congress and other relevant matters.

Title II. Improving Health Outcomes and Encouraging Independence for Older Individuals.

Sec. 201. Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services.

Amends definitions regarding routine health screening to include heart rate and respiratory function and adds providing information concerning infectious diseases as an allowable disease prevention and health promotion service.

Sec. 202. Improving Health Outcomes.

Amends activities of the Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation Center for the Aging Network to include recommendations related to projects conducted under this section in annual reports. Expands an existing demonstration authority in OAA for falls prevention grants by adding the provision of training and technical assistance and the sharing of best practices among the aging network, including an addition of an assessment of relevant activities.

Sec. 203. Technical Assistance on Evidence-Based Programs.

Allows the Assistant Secretary to provide technical assistance to States and area agencies on aging at such entities' request. The Assistant Secretary may consider evidence-informed practices, based on the best available science, that may improve health outcomes.

Sec. 204. Enhancing Multipurpose Senior Centers.

Adds language to support the establishment and maintenance of senior centers and the provision of services at senior centers. It also adds that States shall make public their evaluation of the need for multipurpose senior centers and other services under OAA.

Sec. 205. Addressing Home Modifications.

Allows area agencies on aging to support home modification projects to weatherize the homes of older individuals, provided such projects do not duplicate other available federal assistance, and address air quality issues so older individuals can age in place.

Sec. 206. National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults.

Amends the existing authorization on addressing social isolation to specify providing training, resources, and best practices to the aging network.

Sec. 207. Multigenerational and Civic Engagement Activities.

Amends the authorization of multigenerational demonstration projects to include services and programming in senior centers, assisted living facilities, and other residential facilities for seniors, in addition to child care and youth-serving facilities.

Sec. 208. Report Relating to Health Outcomes for Older Individuals Living with or Near Family Members.

Requires the Secretary to provide a report to Congress assessing health outcomes for older adults living with or nearby family members compared to older adults who do not live near family and the degree to which programs under OAA promote living in these settings.

Sec. 209. Improving Broadband Coordination and Reducing Social Isolation.

Directs coordination with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to ensure awareness of and access to Federal programs related to digital literacy and broadband to support aging in place for older individuals.

Title III. Enhancing Innovation and Flexibility in Nutrition Services.

Sec. 301. Medically Tailored Meals.

Promotes the provision of innovative nutrition interventions and tailoring nutrition services to the needs of individuals, to the extent feasible.

Sec. 302. Grab-And-Go Meals.

Codifies an allowance for up to 25 percent of congregate nutrition program funding to be used for carry-out meals.

Sec. 303. GAO Study on Nutrition Services Incentive Program.

Requires a GAO study on how States and Tribes currently use Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) funding, any challenges, and recommendations to improve effectiveness, including with respect to the use of local and regional producers.

Sec. 304. Innovations in Nutrition Programs and Services.

Allows for nutrition innovation grants through a one percent set-aside for local and regional projects that improve the quality, effectiveness, efficiency, and outcomes of nutrition programs and services. Allows for a State agency or title VI grantee to use amounts received under NSIP above Fiscal Year 2024 levels to implement innovative approaches to reduce hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

Title IV. Supporting Family Caregivers.

Sec. 401. Improving the National Family Caregiver Support Program.

Allows grandparents and other older relative caregivers to receive support under OAA if they are the primary caregiver of a youth between 18 and 22 years of age if the youth is enrolled in school. Amends caregiver assessments to account for barriers in accessing information and available supports. Allows the Assistant Secretary of Aging to support projects to improve the quality and consistency of caregiver assessments and access to other information, supports, or services, and directs the Assistant Secretary to provide technical assistance for caregiver assessments used across States. Updates priority consideration of populations served to include older relative caregivers whose families are affected by substance use disorder, including opioid use, and takes into account the needs of older relative caregivers taking care of multiple children. Amends support services to include peer support.

Sec. 402. Emphasizing Respite Care.

Emphasizes respite care for family caregivers, particularly of individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

Sec. 403. Clarifying Supportive Services.

Clarifies existing language on supportive services to include older individuals with cognitive, physical, or mental impairments.

Sec. 404. Direct Care Workforce Resource Center.

Codifies a national resource center to support the growth and professionalization of the direct care workforce and to address training and other educational needs of family caregivers.

Sec. 405. *Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act.*

Reauthorizes this program through Fiscal Year 2029 and highlights older relative caregivers, considerations with regard to mental health needs, and challenges including those related to substance use disorder.

Sec. 406. *RAISE Family Caregivers Act.*

Reauthorizes the RAISE Family Caregivers Act through Fiscal Year 2029.

Title V. *Community Service Senior Opportunities Act.*

Sec. 501. Improving the Community Service Employment Program.

Amends Title V to add aging network services to the definition of community service. Adds a biennial report detailing the methodology used to determine expected levels of performance for grantees. Prevents grantees who have failed to meet expected levels of performance for 2 consecutive years from competing in the next years grant competition, but they may compete the following competition. Makes updates to the indicators of performance for grantees. Clarifies the priority eligibility for certain older individuals under SCSEP.

Sec. 502. GAO Report on Alignment within the Community Service Employment Program.

Directs GAO to evaluate and submit a report to Congress on differences and similarities between Title V of OAA and Title I of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA), including the efficacy and impact of the

performance measures used, recommendations for improvements to performance measures, and the overall efficacy of coordination of services between the two statutes.

Title VI. Improving Services for Native Elders.

Sec. 601. Older Americans Tribal Advisory Committee.

Directs the Assistant Secretary to establish an 11-member Older Americans Tribal Advisory Committee to provide advice and guidance to the Secretary.

Sec. 602. Supportive Services; Set Aside.

Amends an existing competitive demonstration program for Indian Tribes to increase supportive services and makes a technical amendment regarding the provision of in-home services. Requires the Assistant Secretary to provide to Congress a report on the use of funds under Part D of this section.

Sec. 603. GAO report on Tribal Services.

Directs GAO to evaluate and submit a report to Congress on barriers to Indian Tribes accessing OAA programs and coordination of programs funded under different titles.

Sec. 604. Technical Amendments.

Clarifies existing language on Tribal Organizations and related programs.

Title VII. Strengthening the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs and Elder Abuse Prevention.

Sec. 701. Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.

Clarifies that the existing national director for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program shall be a full-time position.

Sec. 702. Legal Assistance Training Resources Relating to Elder Abuse Prevention.

Expands an information clearinghouse to include training resources for paralegals or law students under the supervision of a licensed attorney relating to defense of guardianship, promotion of self-determination, and elder abuse prevention.

Sec. 703. Improving Training of Volunteers Under the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Requires the Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs to review and update standards regarding training needs of different types of representatives of the Office, including unpaid volunteers, to reduce unnecessary requirements.

Sec. 704. Reporting on State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.

Requires the Assistant Secretary to annually provide to Congress and make publicly available an aggregate report and summary of findings regarding State Offices of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Sec. 705. Study on State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.

Directs the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs including an assessment of the recommended staff-to-bed ratio for such programs.

Title VIII. Authorization of Appropriations.

Sec. 801. Administration on Aging.

Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 802. Grants for State and Community Programs on Aging.

Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 803. Activities for Health, Independence, and Longevity.

Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 804. *Community Service Senior Opportunities Act.*

Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 805. Grants for Native Americans.

Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 806. Allotments for Elder Rights Protection Activities.

Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029.