

Administration on Aging and Older Americans Act Fact Sheet

What is the Administration on Aging (AoA)?

The AoA is a unit of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It was established in 1965 when President Johnson signed the Older Americans Act (OAA) into law. The AoA provides home- and community-based services to seniors and households with seniors.

The AoA is managed by the Assistant Secretary on Aging. It oversees the fifty-six State Units on Aging (including the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories), which in turn oversee the 655 Area Agencies on Aging. Additionally, there are 233 Tribal and Native Organizations on Aging, and two organizations serving Native Hawaiians. These organizations on aging work with more than 29,000 local service providers (such as nutrition service providers, nursing homes, and non-profit organizations).

The AoA appropriation for FY 2003 is \$1.367 billion, up from \$1.349 billion in FY 2002. In his FY 2004 budget, President Bush has requested \$1.34 billion for the AoA.

What is the Older Americans Act (OAA)?

The OAA is a federal statute which authorizes and funds the Administration on Aging, as well as all of the AoA's programs and services. It has seven sections which each cover different services and programs. The OAA was last reauthorized in 2000. Its next reauthorization is due by September 30, 2005.

In the Senate, the committee with jurisdiction over the OAA is the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and its Subcommittee on Aging. The Senate subcommittee responsible for appropriating OAA funding is the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

In the House of Representatives, the committee with jurisdiction over the OAA is the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, and its Subcommittee on Select Education. The House subcommittee responsible for appropriating OAA funding is the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

The Senate Special Committee on Aging, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and the House Older Americans Caucus also focus on senior issues and the OAA.

What services does the AoA provide?

The AoA aims to provide seven services to seniors and households with seniors:

- Supportive services: rides to doctor appointments and grocery stores, handymen to assist with household chores, financial counseling, and support to adult day care in the community.
- Nutrition services: hot meals to seniors in both congregate and home-delivered settings; nutrition screening, education, and counseling.
- Preventive health services: education and support to seniors to promote healthy living, reduce chronic disease, and extend life.
- The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP, new since 2000): supportive services to family caregivers, such as counseling, training, assistance in obtaining services, and temporary respite from care.
- Senior rights protection services: designed to prevent elder abuse and consumer fraud by offering counseling to seniors on finances, retirement pensions, insurance, health care, and other issues.
- Services to Native Americans: nutrition and supportive services to senior Native Americans.
- Eldercare Locator: a national toll-free telephone service that helps callers find senior services in their community and throughout the country. The number is 1-800-677-1116.

Links and Resources:

The U.S. Administration on Aging: www.aoa.gov

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: www.hhs.gov

American Association of Retired People: www.aarp.org

Benefits CheckUp: <http://www.benefitscheckup.com/>

Food Research and Action Center: www.frac.org