

*American Association of Service Coordinators*

# SUMMER OF ADVOCACY

## Older Americans Act

### THE ISSUE

For more than 50 years, the Older Americans Act (OAA) has funded vital programs and resources for older adults. About 11 million Americans receive direct assistance from OAA programs, which provide meals, transportation, elder justice resources, caregivers and more to older adults who would like to continue living independently instead of in nursing homes.

The act expires this fall and congress is currently considering its reauthorization. The last time the OAA was up for reauthorization it took Congress years to come to an agreement. This time around, stakeholders like AASC are hopeful lawmakers will pass an act before authority runs out on Sept. 30. With any reauthorization, it's important Congress consider investments in the act, which is currently funded at 30% less than the level it was in 2010.

### THE IMPACT

As 10,000 Americans celebrate their 65th birthdays each day, it's necessary to prioritize programs for older adults. OAA programs are focused on providing supports that aim to keep individuals thriving and living independently in their communities. On average, OAA programs annually provide:

**24 Million**

Rides to places like doctors offices and the grocery store

**145 Million**

Meals delivered to homes through programs like Meals on Wheels

**40 Million**

Paid hours of personal care from aides

### THE ACTION

Contact your Members of Congress and explain the importance of modernizing and increasing funding for the Older Americans Act before Sept. 30. Tell them older adults and the programs that keep them living independently depend on their support!

Find phone numbers, addresses and email addresses for your Senators and Representative by visiting [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative). You can also call the United States Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to be connected to your Member of Congress.