What Happens in DC…Affects Aging Well in Ohio!

A FEDERAL POLICY CONVERSATION

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10.22.26

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Policy Priorities 2026

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





Support

Aging Well at Home Through Older Americans Act Programs and Services

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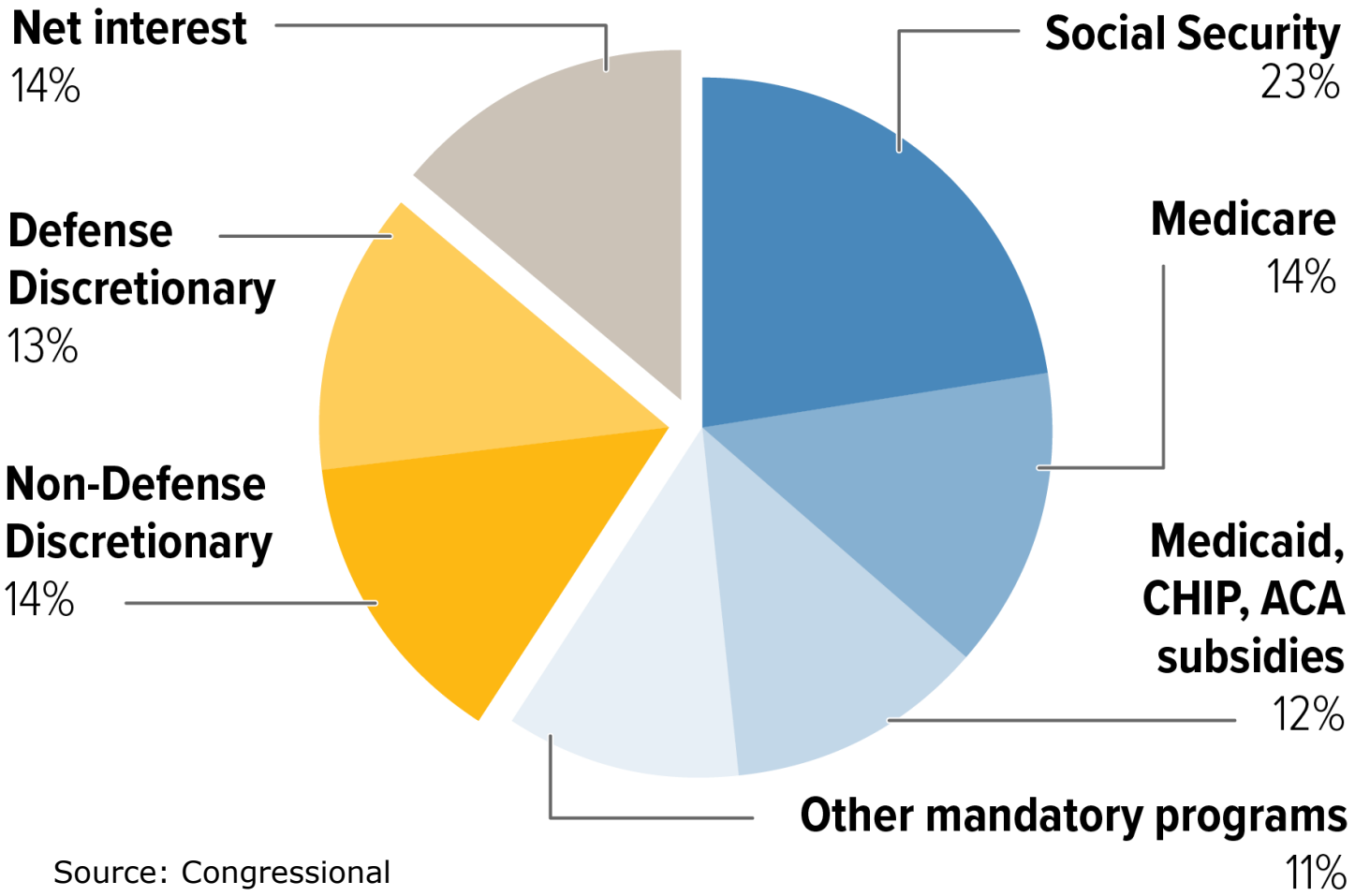
What's the Status of ACL Today?

- Five new program administrators at AoA! Regionally based except for 1 for single-PSA states: yours is Stephanie Cole!
- Other hirings continue including in policy and evaluation
- May end up being about half the number of staff who were fired/left
- Mary Lazare nominated for Assistant Secretary for Aging in early August, passed out of HELP Committee in September

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FY 2027 Discretionary Appropriations

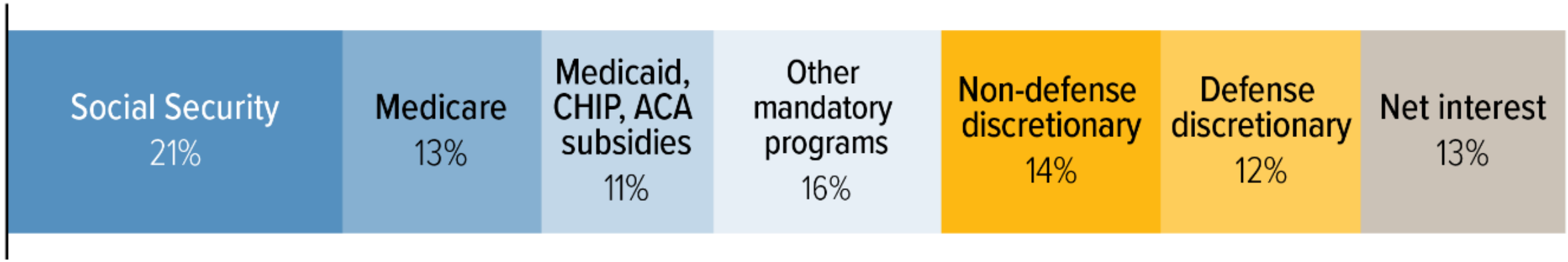
FY 2025 Federal Spending



Source: Congressional Budget Office; image provided by cbpp.org

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Components of Federal Spending



Components of Federal Tax Revenue



Note: "CHIP" = Children's Health Insurance Plan. "ACA" = Affordable Care Act. "Other" includes excise, customs, duties, and more. Data are for fiscal year 2024 and do not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Congressional Budget Office estimates with effect of certain timing anomalies removed, June 2024

USAging OAA Top Funding Priorities, FY 2027

- Title III B Supportive Services (+4 mil in FY 26)
- Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Title VI Native American Aging Programs (+$4 mil in FY 26)

→ Protect and increase funding!

→ Also support increasing funding for *all* titles!

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FY 2027: HOUSE Increases

- **OAA Title III C 1** Congregate Meals, *$1 million*
- **OAA Title III C 2** Home-Delivered Meals, *$1 million*
  OAA Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP), *$1 million*
- **OAA Title VI** Native American Aging Programs (a USAging priority)
  - Part A Grants to Indians, *$2 million;*
  - Part C Native American Caregivers, *$2 million*
- **OAA Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman** (LTCOP), *~$1.3 million*

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FY 2027: HOUSE Increases

- **AmeriCorps Seniors**, *$5 million*
- **Community Services Block Grant** (CSBG), *$3 million*
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program** (LIHEAP), *$10 million*

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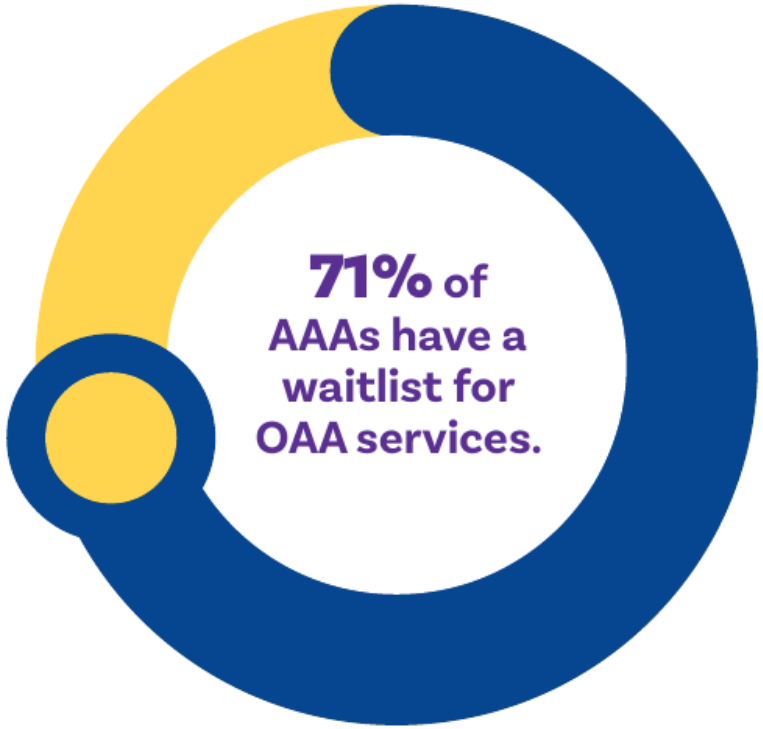
FY 2027: HOUSE Level Funding

- OAA Title **III B** Supportive Services and Senior Centers
- OAA Title **III D** Evidence-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- OAA Title **III E** National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)

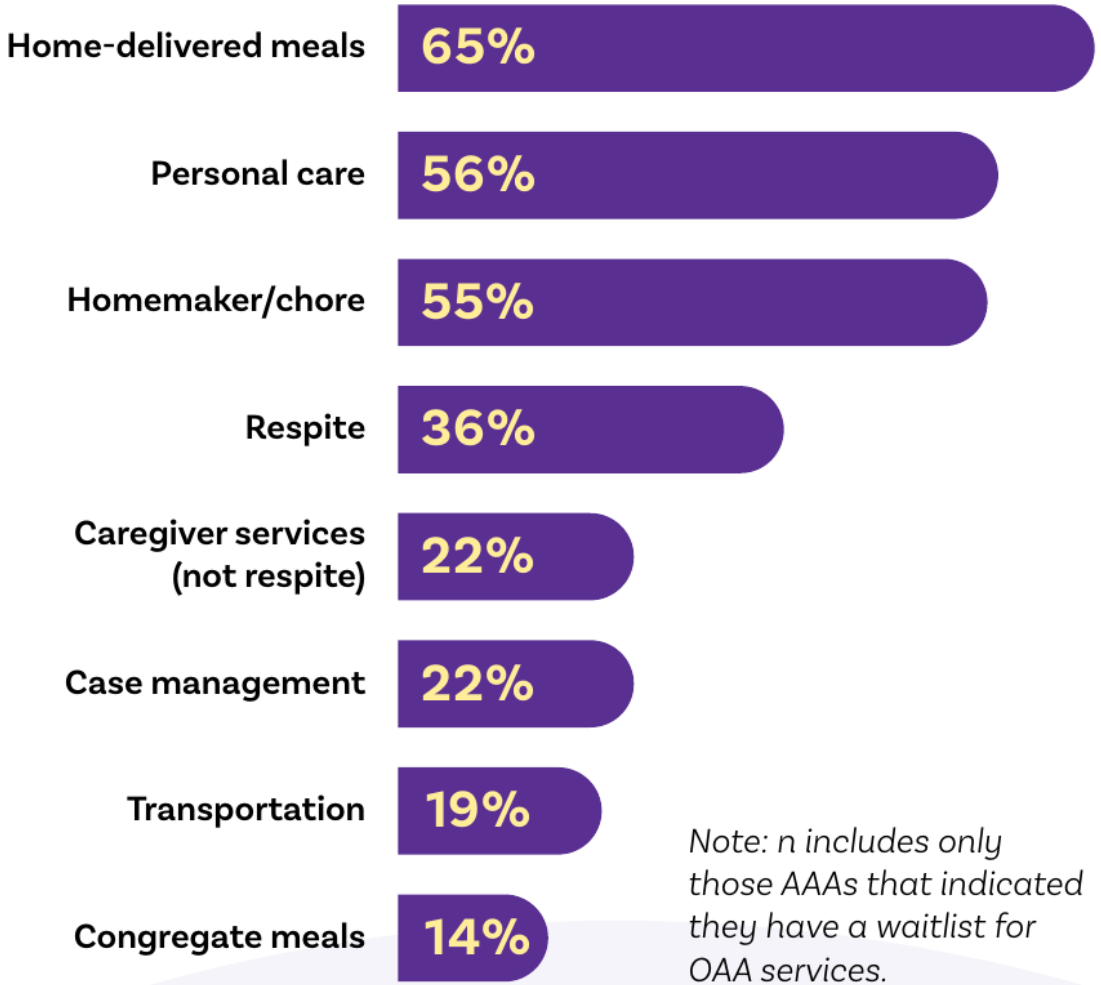
Expected but Bad News: House would *eliminate* OAA Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

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OAA Services With Waitlists



Q: For which OAA services do you currently have a waitlist? Select all that apply.



Note: n includes only those AAAs that indicated they have a waitlist for OAA services.

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FY 2027: Life of a Perpetual CR

- **House** passed a continuing resolution (CR) before they left for August break
- **Senate** never released its bills but instead passed different CR early in August
- **House** returned in Sept. and approved the Senate version with the prohibition on the OMB rule going into effect so that's a win! CR runs through December 11
- **Forecast**: safe bet is that there will be another CR in December, pushing final levels off to at least February

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Older Americans Act Reauthorization

OAA Reauthorization

- S. 2120 passed the Senate on July 14! (Same bill that passed in July 2024)
- Senator Paul (R-KY) released his hold and the measure went swiftly under Unanimous Consent (so no recorded votes).
- This is great momentum and long overdue but we still have to get a deal with the House…

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OAA Reauthorization

- Challenges in the House include:
  - How House Republicans treat authorization levels means "pay-fors" are needed
  - Short legislative calendar, fragile House majority for Speaker Johnson so not easy to pass even easy bills
- Pain point: OAA regulations a hinderance in AAAs health care contracting work.
- USAging has been educating committee members in preparation for year-end action but grassroots advocacy will be needed soon!

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Federal Grantmaking

OMB Issues Proposed Changes to Uniform Guidance

- On May 29, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a 400-page rewrite of federal grant requirements
- 45-day public comment period ended July 13
- 496,769 comments submitted
- Proposed to go into effect October 1 (but the current CR blocks this)

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What Does the Rule Do?

- Turns federal Uniform Guidance into actual regulation (UGR) (guidance is less strong than official regulations)
- Takes a “government wide” approach, reducing individual agencies’ ability to tailor rules to the grants or agreements they administer
- Demands greater oversight by the federal government and grantees
- Administration’s goals include greater transparency and accountability and…

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What Does the Rule Do?

- …expansion of Executive Branch and political appointees' authority and power (vs. Congress or civil servants or other experts such as those used to peer review grants)
- January 2025 memo on freezing all federal grants was a first step….lawsuits, advocacy have stopped a lot of those impoundments but…
- OMB Director Russ Vought is now creating new ways for the Trump Administration to….

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Gives More Power to Executive

- Codify some Executive Orders (which do not supercede law) into regulation to deepen the reach of these presidential priorities
- Enhance executive agency authority to tailor congressionally authorized and appropriated programs to presidential priorities
- Gives new power to pause or end some grants early if they don’t align with the presidential priorities

Creates More Work for You!

- Updates cost principles and other rules related to:
  - Memberships
  - Conferences
  - E-Verify and SAM numbers
  - Many others!
- Will affect your agency and those you grant federal funding TO (e.g., providers)
- USAging Members can review our June 30 webinar recording and slides for more info. policy@usaging.org

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What Happens Next?

- Legally, they must review all nearly 500k comments
- **CR pushes off any implementation until at least December 11**
- If Congress doesn’t continue to push this off, the rule is likely to be challenged in court, possibly before implementation

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Next Steps for AAAs

- Don’t panic but don’t ignore entirely
- Evaluate your risk: identify which of your agency’s federal funding streams are affected by which rules
- Work with fiscal, HR staff and your legal advisors to identify any potential compliance issues should some/all of the rule go into effect
- Share your concern with your Members of Congress!
- Watch this space for updates!

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Bolster

Family and Professional Caregivers to Meet Growing Demand

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USAging Members Testify Before the Senate Aging Committee

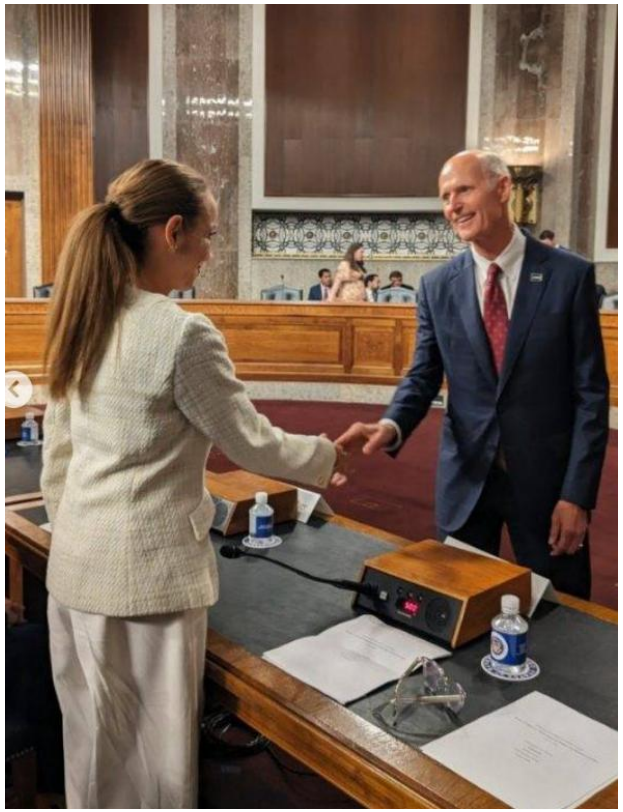
UNITED STATES SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

← BACK TO HEARINGS

FULL COMMITTEE HEARING

Caught in the Middle: Supporting Families in the Sandwich Generation

(From left to right) **Karla Radka**, President and CEO, Senior Resource Alliance with Chairman Rick Scott (R-FL) and **Becky Preve**, Executive Director, Association on Aging in New York, with Sandy Markwood





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Current Caregiving Legislation

- **Alleviating Barriers for Caregiving (ABC) Act**
  - Requires CMS, SSA and CHIP to review their eligibility, processes and communications to reduce the administrative burden on family caregivers
- **Credit for Caring Act**
  - Creates a new, non-refundable federal tax credit of up to $5,000 for eligible family caregivers.
- **Lowering Costs for Caregivers Act**
  - Allows individuals to use tax-free health savings accounts and flexible spending accounts on medical expenses for their parents and loved ones

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Protect

Cost-Effective Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services

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OBBBA Impacts

- **OBBBA (H.R. 1) cuts to Medicaid, SNAP hitting states hard**
- USAging calling on policymakers to **mitigate OBBBA Medicaid HCBS impacts**
  - Protect access to HCBS during eligibility redeterminations
  - Monitor and report HCBS access impacts by mandating transparent reporting
  - Prevent cost-shifting to families and other programs (e.g., OAA) by preserving Medicaid HCBS
- **State budget pressures** affect non-Medicaid funding
  - Will squeeze state coffers for OAA match, other caregiving, aging supports, housing, homelessness, transportation and other programs OAs need!

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NEW: OBBBA HCBS Impacts Tracker

Created by George Washington University, Human Services Research Institute, LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston, and ATI Advisory

- The HCBS Impact Tracker includes proposed and implemented changes by states to their HCBS programs as a result of reductions in federal Medicaid dollars (from OBBBA or other). It is a work in progress and in a pilot phase.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to share HCBS policy changes in their states to better inform this tracker.
- Link in the chat and here: Home and Community Based Services Impacts Tracker Project |

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Money Follows the Person

- PROBLEM: Money Follows the Person (MFP), a Medicaid HCBS program established in 2005 has dwindling funds in this last year of authorization, so CMS has told states to take off 15% off their highest spending of past two years for the coming award
- MFP needs to be reauthorized and funded (together, by the same committees, unlike OAA) every few years
- Current authorization expires September 30, 2027, so our advocacy timeline has been moved up!

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Connect

Health Care and Aging Sectors to Lower Costs and Improve Outcomes

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CMS CY2027 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule

- On July 14, CMS released the annual proposed rule that established policy changes and payment rates for Medicare; *Comments were due September 14*
- For the first time, CMS is proposing to establish a national rule to pay for health and well-being coaching under the Physician Fee Schedule
  - **And to explicitly recognize OAA evidence-based program training as a qualifying credential for the staff who deliver it**

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CMS CY2027 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule

- Opportunities for AAAs, Community Care Hubs and Community-Based Organizations
  - The health coaching proposal has the potential to significantly expand the opportunities for sustainable, scalable Part B service offerings
  - Proposed codes are under direct supervision, but CMS carves out that individuals employed by AAAs/CBOs may operate under **general supervision** of the billing practitioner
- **USAging's comments** can be found here: https://www.usaging.org/currentissuesandresources

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Our To-Do List

- Don’t let Congress go home for holidays until:
  - They protect or increase FY 2027 appropriations for critical aging, health programs
  - Finish the job on OAA Reauthorization (S.2120)
  - Extend the CR moratorium on the OMB rule in next CR

- Meanwhile, we start planning for the next Congress!
  - New Members to educate
  - New opportunities to seize to advance aging policy

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Advocacy Is at Our Core



And this is true…

- For USAging, as advocates for your agencies and those you serve
- For you, under the charge in the Older Americans Act
- Of the work you do, from systems change to individual case management—it's all advocacy!

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You've Got This!
#USAgingAdvocates



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Save the Date
March 15-16, 2027
USAging
Aging Policy Briefing
& Capitol Hill Day



Leaders in Aging Well at Home

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