

Older Americans Act Reauthorization Recommendations



The Challenge

Social isolation and loneliness contribute to poor health outcomes for older adults by increasing their risk of developing serious health conditions.

The increased risk:



Fostering social connection is critical to supporting older adults mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing.



Our Asks

Reauthorize the **Older Americans Act (OAA)** using bipartisan language from the 118th Congress.

Maintain FY25 OAA funding with adjustments for demand and inflation, and preserve core community-based programs.

Keep all programs under HHS and protect those at risk of elimination, including the **Ombudsman Program, Title V, and Evidence-Based Health Promotion.**



About Us

The Foundation for Social Connection Action Network, founded in 2018, advocates for policy change that combats the adverse effects of social isolation and loneliness. The Action Network represents some of the most influential consumer groups, patient advocates, health plans, community-based organizations, behavioral health groups, and private sector innovators in the United States. Visit our website at www.endsocialisolation.org



To continue building on the strengths of the OAA's role in addressing social isolation and loneliness and fostering social connection, we urge Congress to:



Safeguard the core mission of the OAA to maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults and their caregivers while modernizing the Aging Network's systems and programs to meet current and future needs.



Significantly increase the authorized funding levels for the following OAA programs to reduce social isolation and loneliness among older adults and caregivers:

- a. **Title III-B**, which funds supportive services such as transportation, legal services, and in-home care services.
 - coordination with Medicaid HCBS programs, partnerships with ride-share apps
- b. **Title III-C1 and C2**, which support nutrition services like congregate meals, home-delivered meals, and nutrition education.
- c. **Title III-D**, which prevents disease and promotes health through the use of evidence-based programs.
 - Opportunity to further reduce social isolation through partnerships with mental health organizations like SAMHSA.
- d. **Title VII**, which protects against elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation through the funding of Long-Term Ombudsman programs.
 - With the Administration for Community Living (ACL) dismantled, there is a need for enhanced OAA support to carry out these protections.



Codify directed funding to Aging Network organizations to provide resources to support training, technical assistance, and evaluations. These resources would proliferate innovative interventions, evaluated by scientific experts to address social isolation and loneliness and promote social connection, including the use of emerging technologies.