



OLHSA is a private, 501(c)3 non-profit Community Action Agency, founded in 1964. In those 47 years over 1 million services have been provided to struggling people in Oakland and Livingston Counties by utilizing federal, state, local, and private funds to provide knowledge, skills, and opportunities that lead to higher quality of life and economic security.

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### **Older Adult Services**

OLHSA, a Community Action Agency since 1964, has been serving the older adult community since its creation. The programs that are provided by the Older Americans Act (OAA) are vital to keeping older adults living in their housing of choice and out of more expensive nursing homes or hospitals.

OLHSA opposes the cuts from H.R. 1 the appropriations measure recently passed by the House of Representatives and soon to be considered by the Senate. H.R. 1 contains destructive cuts that would negatively affect the ability of Older Americans to remain healthy and independent in their homes. We are concerned about the \$65 million cut to the Administration on Aging's (AoA) budget, a cut of \$525 million to the Senior Community Service Employment program (SCSEP) under the Department of Labor, and the cutting of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by \$400 million.

Older Americans Act funding allows our agency to provide services to over 11,000 older adult clients each year and our region to provide services to over 425,000 older adults each year. The number of older adults needing the types of services provided by the Older Americans Act is increasing as the Baby Boomers age. More funding is needed for the Older Americans Act not less. This is funding well invested as the evidence based health promotion and disease prevention programs funded under the act can reduce health care costs for older people with chronic conditions, the biggest drivers of Medicare spending. Programs from the Act such as SCSEP enable older adults to keep working and keep more people paying into Social Security longer which helps to reduce pressure on the system.

OLHSA supports the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act with the following improvements. We support the use of flexible funding within the act to allow for the movement of funds between titles allowing the funding to go where it is most needed year by year. We support the addition of mandatory cost share for Older Americans Act programs based on client ability to pay. In today's economy we can no longer just have donation based programs.

OLHSA supports strengthening the act by establishing economic security as a goal of the aging service network nationwide with funding provided for economic casework including comprehensive assessments upon intake, including financial, legal, health, housing, employment and training, and benefits needs. This will make sure that seniors get connected to all of the support they need at once saving time and money.

We support the expansion of research and development as part of the Older Americans Act. We support the addition of a Chief Science Officer to the AoA with a budget for research and development to fund rigorous evaluation of demonstration programs and to compile and deploy the evidence base that already exists for many aging services. This will provide the evidence of the cost savings that Older Americans Act services provide.

#### **Recommendation:**

OLHSA recommends that your vote opposes the cuts detailed in H.R. 1 and that you support the above improvements for the Older Americans Act when reauthorization is on the table.

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#### **For More Information:**

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