

CCoA

California Commission on Aging

AGEWATCH

Federal Budget finalized for 2017: Most aging programs spared for now

Congress has approved a budget bill that funds the government for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Following repeated continuing resolutions, the final 2017 appropriations bill offers a mix of good and bad outcomes for programs serving older adults.

Most Older Americans Act and other aging programs were level-funded, including the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), and the Family Caregiver Support program. The bill omitted most of the Administration's proposed cuts to older adult programs, such as a proposal to eliminate the Senior Corps program, which includes RSVP, Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companions.

Among the small increases approved in the bill are an additional \$2 million for the Elder Justice Initiative, \$2.5 million for Title III Supportive Services, an additional \$1 million for Home Delivered Meals, \$2 million for congregate meals, and Title VI Native American nutrition and caregiver support programs were increased by \$50,000 and \$25,000 respectively.

Cuts were made, however, to the Senior Community Services Employment Program, which employs low-income older adults (\$34 million) and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (\$5 million), which funds the important Medicare advocacy work of California's HICAP counselors.

ADVOCATES URGE VIGILANCE AS LAWMAKERS TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO THE FY 2018 BUDGET

As Congress begins crafting a proposed budget for 2018, aging advocates urge service providers and older adults alike to continue their strong advocacy to protect the full range of federal programs that older adults rely upon, including:

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
- Community Development Block Grants (includes funds for Meals on Wheels).
- Community Services Block Grant (includes funds for Adult Protective Services).
- Senior Community Service Employment Program.
- Corporation for National and Community Service (provides funding for RSVP, Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs).
- Legal Services Corporation (provides legal assistance to low-income people including elders, for Social Security, SSI, Medicaid).

To learn more about the recent budget action, visit NCOA.org.

Information from *NCOA Blog Public Policy & Action* 5.1.2017 and N4A Legislative Update, *Congress Agrees to Final FY Funding*, May 1, 2017.

AGEWATCH is an occasional publication of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA) intended to inform, educate, and advocate. The CCoA is an independent state agency established in 1973 to serve as the principal state advocate on behalf of older Californians. The CCoA office is located at 1300 National Drive, Suite 173, Sacramento, CA 95834. (916) 419-7591

www.ccoa.ca.gov

Congress passes Affordable Care Act replacement legislation; AHCA faces challenges in the Senate

Despite the best efforts of a broad coalition of opponents, last week the House of Representatives passed legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). The American Health Care Act (AHCA) passed by a slim margin – 217 to 213– and with 20 Republican members voting “No” along with all House Democrats. The bill will face an even closer margin for approval in the Senate, with passage hinging on no more than two Republican members voting no.

The AHCA would end the Obamacare subsidies that make health insurance more affordable for lower-income individuals, end the Medicaid expansion, place a cap on Medicaid spending and eliminate the mandate that everyone have coverage. The proposed Medicaid changes are among the most severe, eliminating coverage for tens of thousands of low-income adults who were ensured under the Medicaid expansion, as well as proposing more than \$800 billion less for Medicaid over the next ten years and allocating Medicaid dollars under either a per-capita cap or a block-grant formula that would not increase. Under the new plan, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that as many as 24 million people will lose health insurance and premiums will increase for many.

As proposed by the AHCA, subsidies for private purchasers would be replaced by tax credits to offset the cost of buying insurance in the individual marketplace. The bill continues the requirement for insurers to guarantee coverage for pre-existing conditions, but would allow higher premiums to be charged for older and sicker consumers, as well as imposes penalties for consumers purchasing insurance following a break in coverage.

The bill now goes to the Senate where substantial changes are expected. More detailed information on the American Health Care Act is available from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#).

Information from the Kaiser Family Foundation and The New York Times, *What's in the AHCA: The Major Provisions of the Republican Health Bill*, May 4, 2017.

Male caregivers' unique needs are focus of new report from the AARP Public Policy Institute

A new report from the AARP Public Policy Institute, [Breaking Stereotypes: Spotlight on Male Family Caregivers](#), highlights the unique issues faced by male family caregivers,

As summarized by AARP, “(a)lthough the “typical” family caregiver is a 49-year-old woman who takes care of a relative, caregivers on the whole are becoming as diverse as the American population. Men, a group traditionally not recognized for performing caregiving tasks, are rising to the challenge. These husbands, brothers, sons, sons-in-law, partners, friends, and neighbors are joining, either by choice or necessity, the army of family caregivers providing care across the country.”

Breaking Stereotypes: Spotlight on Male Family Caregivers, uses data from the 2015 Caregiving in the U.S. study to identify the often-overlooked impacts of caregiving on male caregivers. The new report is available on AARP's [Public Policy Institute web-page](#). Information from AARP's Public Policy Long-Term Care Update, April 10, 2017.

“More than one-third (37 percent) of male family caregivers did not inform their employers about their caregiving responsibilities; the percentage of male family caregivers who did not inform their supervisors was even higher for millennials (45 percent).”

Please Join Us for:

Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month “Kick-Off” Partnering for Solutions

June 1, 2017 — 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Reception to Follow

**Secretary of State's Auditorium
1500 11TH St., Sacramento, CA 95814**

California advocates have practical, workable solutions and structures planned to address the issue of elder and dependent adult abuse, but we need a broad base of support to move them from blueprint to construction. When we build communities that work for the elderly and persons with disabilities, we build communities that work for everyone!

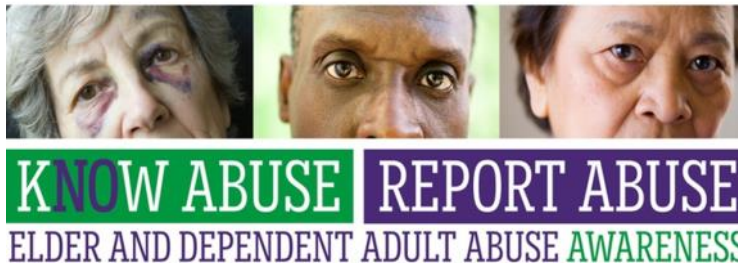
This Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month Kick-Off is an opportunity to hear how you can help champion these innovative solutions to make California a safe and just place for us all.

- Keynote speaker, **Bill Benson, National Policy Advisor to the National Adult Protective Services Association**, will provide an update on Elder Justice and the federal landscape.
- Experts from various agencies will present **fast-paced talks** about creative solutions to the most pressing problems in the field.

Please join us to BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION TO THIS IMPORTANT SOCIAL ISSUE.

Registration is free at: <https://www.weaad2017.eventbrite.com>

Co-sponsors: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES * CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON AGING * CALIFORNIA ELDER JUSTICE COALITION * CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of AREA AGENCIES ON AGING * STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN * COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA * CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS * CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION ON AGING * INSTITUTE ON AGING



ASA Offers Two Educational Opportunities

In a nod toward World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), the American Society on Aging (ASA) and the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology are launching a new 5-week online course on elder mistreatment prevention starting June 12. Students will earn a certificate of completion from USC and may receive CEUs from select accreditation providers. Non ASA members can receive a discount using code **USC7**. ASA will also host a webinar on *Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse in Later Life: What You Can Do to Support Older Victims* with Bonnie Brandl, Founder and Director of the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL) on June 13 from 10am-11am Pacific. Registration is free and includes complimentary CEUs. [Learn more and register today](#)



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JOIN US FOR SENIOR RALLY DAY



May 11, 2017 — 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol – South Side – N Street
Seniors Count! This Rally provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the many issues facing older Californians such as poverty, healthcare, family caregiving, transportation and housing.

No matter your age, come show your support for California's older adults!

[Click here to register!](#)



May is Older Americans Month

The Administration on Aging (AoA) has announced the theme for Older American's Month (OAM) 2017. The theme, *Age Out Loud*, is intended to give aging a new voice—one that reflects what today's older adults have to say about aging.

The 2017 theme gives advocates an opportunity to shine a light on many important issues and trends in the field of aging. More than ever before, older Americans are working longer, trying new things, and engaging in their communities. What it means to age has changed, and OAM 2017 is a perfect opportunity to recognize and celebrate what getting older looks like today.

In May, AoA and ACL will amplify the many voices of older Americans and raise awareness of vital aging issues across the country. Join us as we speak up and out loud for OAM! To start promoting online, use the official hashtags **#OAM17** and **#AgeOutLoud**. To learn more, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

May 10-11, Triple-A Council of California (TACC), Vagabond Inn, Sacramento. [Www.4TACC.org](http://www.4TACC.org) for agenda and information.

May 31-June 1, California Commission on Aging, Marriott Residence Inn, Sacramento. [Www.ccoa.ca.gov](http://www.ccoa.ca.gov) for information.

June 1, Elder Abuse Awareness Month Kick-Off Event. 1-3 p.m. Secretary of State's Auditorium, 1500 11th St., Sacramento. <https://www.weaad2017.eventbrite.com> to register

June 15, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day events throughout the state. Visit the [National Center on Elder Abuse](#) to learn more.

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