

White House Releases (FY) 2026 Budget Proposal Aging Funding Impacts Highlighted

Late on Friday, May 30, the White House released a more [detailed version](#) of its fiscal year (FY) 2026 budget, expanding on the earlier “[skinny budget](#)” that had been leaked earlier this spring. Overall, this budget is better news for advocates for aging programs than the earlier version. Although the budget proposal maintains the administration’s stated goal of significantly reducing funding for key domestic programs, including those that support housing, education, nutrition, and health, the final budget reverses several cuts that were proposed for programs targeted to older adults and person with disabilities due to pushback from key member of Congress and advocacy groups. Several programs that aging agencies have relied on for funding would receive flat funding which would shrink their “buying power” and there are key programs that are targeted for elimination.

The biggest immediate change, which the White House had announced earlier, would [abolish the Administration for Community Living](#), (ACL) which oversees those OAA programs as well as a federal initiative aimed at supporting family caregivers called the [RAISE Act](#). The Department of Health and Human Services initially announced it would divide ACL’s work among three other agencies within the department. The new budget proposal would shift all of ACL’s work to an office that had been known as the Administration for Children and Families. It will become the Administration for Children, Families, and Community. Housing all the programs previously administered by ACL in one agency will allow for continued collaboration between the aging and disability networks and coordination in the delivery of services to older adults and their caregivers. HHS leadership also announced earlier this year it would eliminate about 45 percent of all positions in ACL, which had about 200 staff at the beginning of 2025. It is not clear from the detailed budget how that number will change.

The release of the administration’s budget request is the start of the annual budget and appropriations process. The House and Senate have already convened hearings to learn more from the Administration, members of Congress, and various stakeholders. The House has [announced the schedule](#) for considering the 12 annual appropriations bills for FY26, with Committee action occurring as soon as June 5, and the final bill, the Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill scheduled for a Committee vote on July 24. The Senate also needs to produce its versions of the 12 bills, and the House and Senate proposals need to be reconciled and

passed to complete the FY26 process. It is anyone's guess as to whether the appropriations bill will be approved before the October 1 start of the new 2026 federal fiscal year. If not approved by then, a continuing resolution (CR) may be needed once again to keep the government open after September 30.

Many thanks to each of you who took steps to advocate on behalf of funding for aging programs and services these last few weeks. Your advocacy efforts were critical in having funding restored for some programs that were slated for elimination and in having anticipated cuts in several program reduced.

Below is the status of funding for aging related programs per the detailed version of the budget released on May 30:

- No cuts to Older American Act grants for State and Community Programs on Aging (supportive services, nutrition, evidence-based prevention and health promotion services, and family caregiver support).
- No cuts to State Health Assistance Program (SHIIP).
- No cuts to Aging and Disability Resource Centers.
- No cuts to Adult Protective Services.
- No cuts to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- Increases funding for VA medical care by \$3.3 billion.
- Cut funding for the National Institute on Aging from \$4.4 billion to \$2.8 billion.
- Cut federal rental assistance by almost \$27 billion. It would combine six different programs, including Section 202 Housing for the Elderly and Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities, into a single State Rental Assistance Block Grant at about \$32 billion.
- Eliminates the Prevention and Public Health Fund. That would cut all \$8 million from Chronic Disease Self-Management Education (CDSME), \$5 million of the \$7.5 million for Falls Prevention, and \$15.7 of the \$31.5 million for the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative currently administered by ACL.
- Eliminates the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) administered by the Department of Labor (program for low-income older adults). In place of SCSEP and other workforce programs, the administration is proposing a Make America Skilled Again block grant to states. Overall DOL funding would be cut by 65%.

- Eliminates all AmeriCorps programs including the AmeriCorps Seniors programs: the Foster Grandparent Program, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and the Senior Companion Program.
- Eliminates the Aging in Place Home Modification program.
- Eliminates the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
- Eliminates the White House Conference on Aging,
- Eliminated the Community Services Block Grant
- Eliminates the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and replacing it with the “Make America Healthy Again Food Boxes program.

Resources for Information on Budget Proposal:

[US Aging](#)

[National Council on Aging](#)

[Forbes](#)

[The National Consumer Voice](#)

[Food Research and Action Center](#)