

TEMPLATE LANGUAGE FOR HOUSE OUTREACH
RE: FY 2026 APPROPRIATIONS
AAA or General Advocate Version, August 2025

DATE

Honorable **REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME**
U.S. House of Representatives
[Office Address]
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative **[NAME]**:

On behalf of **[YOUR AGENCY NAME]** in **[AGENCY LOCATION/STATE]**, I am writing regarding FY 2026 federal funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) within the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the Department of Labor. We are one of the 614 Area Agencies on Aging in the country designated by the OAA to address the needs and concerns of all older adults at the local levels.

The Senate Appropriations Committee recently passed its Labor/HHS spending bill with level funding for most OAA programs. We appreciate the committee protecting OAA programs and funding programs such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). These programs are critical to the older adults we serve, and funding will assist in ensuring older adults continue to receive the support they need. **However, consistently level-funding these programs represents a cut when compared to the rapidly growing older adult population and increased cost of service provision, and we urge Congress to provide a meaningful increase to OAA funding in FY 2026.**

Funding for OAA programs and services is essential to the health and independence of millions of older adults and caregivers, including the **[ADD LOCAL NUMBER]** of the older adults and caregivers that **[YOUR AGENCY NAME]** serves in your district. These OAA programs and services are funded through ACL, then through our State Unit on Aging and then developed, coordinated and delivered locally by **[AGENCY NAME]** in partnership with our network of community providers. In **[YOUR COMMUNITY]** and across the country, the aging population we service is growing rapidly. **[INSERT ANY COMPELLING STATISTICS YOU HAVE ABOUT AGING TRENDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY].**

The OAA creates community resources for older adults to access a wide array of programs and services, including information and referral to find help for their challenges with aging; congregate and home-delivered meals to address hunger, malnutrition and social isolation; health and wellness programs; in-home care support; transportation; elder abuse prevention; adult day care and other needed options. Family caregivers, who contribute more long-term care than any formal government program, can also access OAA-funded respite, training, support and help navigating their caregiving roles.

While all OAA subtitles require increases to meet the current and future needs of older adults, **I urge Congress to particularly prioritize, protect and increase funding**

for the following OAA services:

- **Title III B Home and Community-Based Supportive Services**
- **Title VI Grants for Native American Aging Programs, Part A (nutrition and supportive services) and Part C (family caregiver support) and**
- **Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support Program.**

OAA Title III-B is our most flexible source of OAA funding and a backbone set of services. However, despite its critical role in the lives of older adults, Title III-B has been underfunded for years. [INSERT LOCAL EXAMPLES OF HOW TITLE III B SUPPORTS OLDER ADULTS—INCLUDE LOCAL DATA ABOUT THE VALUE OF III B SUPPORTS AND HOW FUNDING CUTS WOULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE OLDER ADULTS YOU SERVE. ALSO MENTION HOW THESE PROGRAMS CAN BE ECONOMIC DRIVERS IN TERMS OF WORKFORCE, PROVIDERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES IN YOUR COMMUNITY.]

Our agency also administers programs to support family caregivers under the **OAA's Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support Program, which is the only national program supporting the family caregivers of older adults—who provide the majority of long-term care in this country.** [INSERT LOCAL EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOU PROVIDE UNDER III E AND HOW FUNDING CUTS WOULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE OLDER ADULTS YOU SERVE.]

We thank the Senate Appropriations Committee for providing funding for programs set for elimination in the President's FY 2026 budget, and we urge the House to also provide full funding for the following programs:

- Prevention and Public Health Fund (funds falls prevention and chronic disease self-management efforts by the Aging Network through ACL)
- LIHEAP
- CSBG
- OAA Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

[INSERT ANY COMPELLING STATISTICS OR STORIES YOU HAVE ON ANY OF THE PROGRAMS MENTIONED ABOVE]

For more details on these critical federal programs, please see our national association [USAging's FY 2026 appropriations request](#). Please feel free to reach out anytime to [INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION] on these or any aging issues of importance to you and your constituents.

Sincerely,

[NAME, affiliation, address, etc.]