



Federal Updates: U.S. Administration for Community Living

2024 Forum on Rural Population Health & Health Equity

June 13, 2024

Louise Ryan, MPA Regional Administrator, ACL, Region 10



Overview: ACL Initiatives

- Intersection of Rural & Service Equity via:
 - Older Americans Act Regulation
 - Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age Friendly Communities



The Administration for Community Living (ACL)

- **Mission:** Maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people with disabilities, and their families and caregivers.
- **Vision:** All people, regardless of age and disability, live with dignity, make their own choices, and participate fully in society.



The Administration for Community Living, cont. 1

▪ **Leadership:**

- Serve as advisor to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, other HHS divisions and other agencies on aging and disability policy
- Administer funding and programs as authorized in statute, including the Older Americans Act (OAA)
- Establish national policies and priorities
- Provide program leadership, technical assistance, and disseminate and influence best practices
- Advocate for the people we serve and their needs



Older Americans Act (OAA) Overview

First passed in 1965 and last reauthorized on March 25, 2020, the OAA authorized a wide range of programs and services that help older adults age in place. These include:

- Home-delivered and congregate meals, support for family caregivers, preventive health services, personal and home care services, transportation, legal assistance, and more (Title III);
- Nutrition and supportive services for Native American elders and caregivers (Title VI);
- Ombudsman services for people who live in long-term care facilities, prevention of elder abuse, and elder rights promotion (Title VII).



OAA Mandate

- Provide services to older individuals with **greatest economic need** and **greatest social need**, including:
 - low-income minority older individuals,
 - older individuals with limited English proficiency, and
 - older individuals residing in rural areas.



OAA Program Regulations Background

The last substantial update to most OAA program regulations was in 1988. Since then:

- the population of older adults has nearly doubled,
- older adults are living longer than ever before, and
- expectations for aging have shifted

Then and now: Almost all older adults want to continue to live independently in the community, and nearly 95% do.



Purpose of the Final Rule

- Update regulations to align with the current statute
- Reflect the needs of today's older adults
- Promote appropriate stewardship of OAA resources
- Clarify programmatic requirements
- Support the national aging network that delivers OAA services
- Improve program implementation to better serve older adults and caregivers



Regulation Highlights

<https://acl.gov/OAARule>



Roles and Responsibilities of State Agencies and Area Agencies on Aging

- **Overview:** Title III of the OAA authorizes grants to state agencies which, in turn, provide funding to area agencies on aging (AAAs) to coordinate programs and advocate for older adults and family caregivers

- **Key provisions of the final rule include:**
 - Fiscal and service delivery requirements
 - Planning and service area (PSA) and AAA designation requirements
 - Responsibilities to avoid conflict of interest



Roles and Responsibilities of State Agencies and AAAs, cont. 1

For example, the final rule:

- Clarifies requirements for state and area plans on aging, such as making clear that plans must describe:
 - How state agencies and AAAs will use OAA funding, how “greatest economic need” and “greatest social need” are determined and addressed, and how requirements for public participation are met (§ 1321.27 and § 1321.65).
 - How state agencies and AAAs will ensure coordination between programs that serve all older adults and caregivers, including tribal elders and caregivers, (authorized under Title III) and those that specifically focus on tribal elders and caregivers (authorized under Title VI) (§ 1321.53, § 1321.69, and § 1321.95).



Roles and Responsibilities of State Agencies and AAAs, cont. 2:

- Clarifies the state agency's responsibility to establish and maintain policies and procedures:
 - to monitor the programmatic and fiscal performance of programs and activities carried out under Title III of the OAA and

- Clarifies policies and procedures that AAAs and service providers must follow, including
 - setting requirements for client eligibility, assessment, and person-centered planning (§ 1321.9(c)(1)).



Serving Older Adults, Tribal Elders, and Family Caregivers with the Greatest Economic and Greatest Social Need

- Serving people who have the greatest economic and greatest social needs is one of the basic tenets of the OAA.

- Key provisions of the final rule include:
 - Requirements for states' definitions of both needs
 - Requirements for serving those who meet the definitions
 - Expectations for ensuring the perspectives of older people with the greatest economic and social needs are incorporated into planning efforts



Serving Older Adults, Tribal Elders, and Family Caregivers with the Greatest Economic and Greatest Social Need, cont. 1

For example, the final rule:

- Requires state and area plans to include how they will reach populations they have defined as having the greatest economic and/or social need. (§ 1321.27, § 1321.29, § 1321.49, § 1321.51, and § 1321.65).
- Requires at least half of AAA advisory council members to be 60 years or older (§ 1321.63).
- Requires service providers to specify how they will satisfy the service needs of those identified as in the greatest economic need and greatest social need (§ 1321.79).



Nutrition Flexibilities and Modernization

- Congregate and home-delivered meals provided by the OAA Senior Nutrition Programs help older adults continue to live in the community. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted limitations in nutrition regulations as well as the evolving needs of both grantees and participants.
- Key provisions of the final rule include:
 - Updates of nutrition rules
 - Clarification of requirements for transfers of funds between programs
 - Allowance for a limited number of “carry-out” and similar meals to be provided through the congregate meals program, in some circumstances



Family Caregivers

- Family caregivers make it possible for millions of older adults to remain in their homes in the community. The provisions of the OAA that authorize ACL's primary caregivers support programs were authorized *after* the last substantial update to the OAA regulations.
- Key provisions of the final rule include:
 - Key definitions of “family caregivers” and “older adult relative”
 - Clarification on requirements for family caregiver support services, allowable use of funds, and the method of funds distribution

Services for Native Americans Elders and Caregivers

- Title VI of the OAA authorizes grants that provide nutrition and supportive services to American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian elders to help them live full lives in their communities, and grants to support caregivers.
- Key provisions of the final rule include:
 - Specification of program and fiscal requirements
 - Expectations for collaboration and coordination between programs for all older adults and caregivers and specifically those for Native American elders and caregivers

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Emergencies and disasters have distinct and disproportionate impacts on older adults and family caregivers and often create unique challenges for the aging services network. The prior OAA regulations included limited guidance addressing these situations.
- Key provisions of the final rule include:
 - New sections to support older adults and family caregivers, including those in tribal communities, during emergencies and disasters
 - Flexibilities for addressing emergency preparedness and response
 - Lessons learned from the pandemic



Elder Abuse Prevention, Legal Assistance, Guardianship, and Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs

- An estimated one in ten adults over the age of 60 has experienced some form of elder abuse, which may reduce their quality of life and limit their independence. Title VII of the OAA authorizes activities that uphold the rights of older adults and prevent, detect, and respond to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Key provisions of the final rule include:
 - The role of legal assistance providers as promoters of self-determination and person-directedness
 - Defining “defense of guardianship” as defending against guardianship and advocating for less restrictive alternatives
 - State agencies’ obligations with respect to elder abuse prevention and legal assistance development programs



Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities

Aging in the United States: A Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging

Overview: Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC) on Healthy Aging and Age Friendly Communities



Led by the Administration for Community Living, the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities was established under the Older Americans Act to foster coordination across the federal government and to develop a national set of recommendations on key aging issues.

As a part of the ICC, ACL convenes leaders and experts across 16 federal agencies and departments.

Overview: Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities



March 2020

Older American's Act
Reauthorization
Creates ICC



FY 2023

ICC Inaugural
Appropriation &
Launch of the
Committee



May 2024

Strategic Framework Release
& Listening Session



June 2024 +

National Plan on Aging
Development



TBD

Possible White House
Conference on Aging



REPORT

Aging in the United States: A Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging

Submitted 5/30/24



AGING IN THE UNITED STATES: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR A NATIONAL PLAN ON AGING

THE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON HEALTHY AGING
AND AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

CHAIRIED BY THE ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

REPORT TO CONGRESS

MAY 2024



Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging Introduction



More than 55 million people living in the United States **are 65 years old or older**. They represent over **16 percent** of our country's population, and their numbers will continue to grow over the next thirty years.¹

Purpose: Outlines the approach our nation will take to prepare for the future. It is the initial step in the development of a national plan on aging to improve the experience of aging in America.



Key Components: Vision, cross-cutting values, and four domains with goals and associated focus areas, appendix focused on falls-prevention.

1: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/05/2020-census-united-states-older-population-grew.html>



Building on Momentum

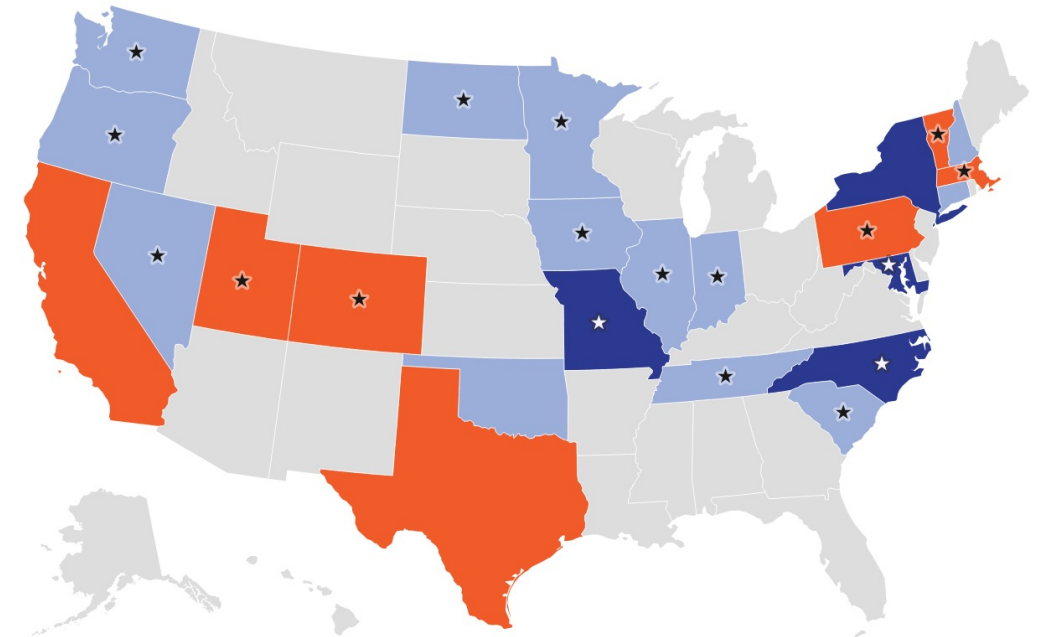
We are intentionally working in coordination with – not duplication of – local, state, and global planning efforts.

- The ICC recognizes the importance of state plans on aging and Multisector Plans on Aging
- The ICC champions existing coordination efforts among federal partners on aligned areas (e.g., mobility, homelessness, HRSNs).
- The ICC's work is a multi-year collaborative process embracing the best of public and private sector action.

MPA Activity Across States

★ = MPA Learning Collaborative

■ Fostering Development ■ Legislation/Executive Order ■ MPA Developed/Implementing



Created with Datawrapper



Multi-Sector Plans on Aging

| ICC Domain | Domain Focus Areas | Percent of MPAs with Aligning Actions |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Domain 1: Age-Friendly Communities | Purpose and Engagement | 100% |
| | Social Connection | 100% |
| | Accessibility and Universal Design | 86% |
| | Transportation | 86% |
| | Economic and Financial Security | 57% |
| | Employment | 86% |
| | Age-Friendly Health Systems | 29% |
| Domain 2: Coordinated Housing and Services | Housing Stability through Coordinated Services | 57% |
| | Affordable Housing | 86% |
| | Accessible Quality Housing | 43% |
| | Homelessness Prevention | 43% |
| Domain 3: Increased Access to Long-Term Services and Supports | Paid and Unpaid Caregivers | 100% |
| | Whole-Person Health Financing | 43% |
| | Elder Justice | 100% |
| | Person-Centered Access System - "No Wrong Door" and Other Statewide Access Systems | 100% |
| Domain 4: Aligned Health Care & Supportive Services | Benefits Access | 71% |
| | Optimize Health, Well-Being, and Functioning | 100% |
| | Aligning Health and Human Services | 29% |

Engagement



Nearly 80 older adults gathered at the Deanwood Community Center in Washington, D.C., to share their perspectives and experiences on May 3, 2024.

Ensuring the perspectives of older adults and community partners inform our work.

- National Plan on Aging Community Engagement Collaborative
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Listening Sessions and National Input
- Stakeholder Engagement

Our Vision



Our vision is an America that values older adults, embraces aging, and recognizes that all people have the right to live with dignity, make their own choices, and participate fully in society.

We want to be a nation that prioritizes independence, inclusion, well-being, and health across the lifespan.



Cross-Cutting Values

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Person-Centeredness | The preferences, needs, and voices of older adults drive the services and supports that enable them to live the lives they want. |
| Inclusion | All people regardless of age, disability, or life experience, should be able to live independently and participate fully in their communities. |
| Respect | All people have the right to live their lives with dignity and respect, free from abuse of any kind. |
| Collaboration and Innovation | All sectors should work together to streamline access to programs; avoid duplicative work and efficiently leverage resources; share lessons learned; and develop new, effective approaches to meeting the needs of older adults. |



Domains that Address Key Aging Issues



**Age-Friendly
Communities**



**Coordinated
Housing and
Supportive Services**



**Increased Access to
Long-Term Services
and Supports**



**Aligned Health Care
and Supportive
Services**

The domains harmonize with priorities in existing local, state, and global plans on aging. They will guide national plan development and recommendations, allowing for benchmarking future progress.



Age-Friendly Communities

Goal Statement

All older adults live in communities that respect and include them and are designed to encourage health, well-being, engagement, and connection.

Focus Areas

- Purpose and Engagement
- Social Connection
- Accessibility and Universal Design
- Transportation
- Economic and Financial Security
- Employment
- Age-friendly health systems





Coordinated Housing and Supportive Services

Goal Statement

All older adults have access to housing and the services they need to maintain their independence at home and thrive in their community.



Focus Areas

- Housing Stability through coordinated services
- Affordable Housing
- Accessible Quality Housing
- Preventing and Addressing Homelessness



Increased Access to Long-Term Services and Supports

Goal Statement

All older adults can easily access affordable, high-quality services and supports that promote their independence and goals.

Focus Areas

- Paid and Unpaid Caregiving
- Whole Person Health Financing
- Elder Justice
- Person-Centered Access System “No Wrong Door” and Other Statewide Access Systems





Aligned Health Care and Supportive Services

Goal Statement

All older adults maximize their health and reduce preventable disease and injury through comprehensive care that includes health and social services in the home or in the community

Focus Areas

- Benefits Access
- Optimize Health, Well-Being, and Functioning
- Align Health and Human Services





Next Steps

Build a national movement that inspires tangible actions and makes a difference.

The promise embedded in the Strategic Framework extends beyond government coordination. Its vision, values, goals, and actions are intended to create and strengthen cross-sector partnerships and for the betterment of older adults nationwide.

- Hear from individuals, communities, and service/advocacy leaders in partnership with the National Plan on Aging Community Engagement Collaborative.
- Create dialogue at the community, state, and federal level on leveraging our collective strengths toward our vision.
- Create recommendations in alignment with each domain.





Partnerships

- The ICC is working in partnership with the National Plan on Aging Community Engagement Collaborative, which consists of [West Health](#), [The SCAN Foundation](#), and [The John A. Hartford Foundation](#), to elevate the voices of older individuals and community partners and to build upon momentum for coordinated efforts to support healthy aging at the global, federal, and state levels.



We Need You!

- Please share your feedback on the Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging by September 15, 2024.
- Click [here](#) if you are an individual or older adult.
- Click [here](#) if you represent an organization.



Thank you!