

# Older Americans Act

## OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965

[Public Law 89-73]

[As Amended Through P.L. 114-144, Enacted April 19, 2016]

AN ACT To provide assistance in the development of new or improved programs to help older persons through grants to the States for community planning and services and for training, through research, development, or training project grants, and to establish within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare an operating agency to be designated as the "Administration on Aging".

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Older Americans Act of 1965".*

[42 U.S.C. 3001 note]

Congress passed the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965 in response to concern by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons. Although older individuals may receive services under many other Federal programs, today the OAA is considered to be the major vehicle for the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to this group and their caregivers.

The OAA legislation established the Federal Administration on Aging to implement and oversee the components of the OAA. In 2012, the AOA became part of the newly created Administration for Community Living (ACL). The ACL's purpose is to increase access to community supports, while focusing attention and resources on the unique needs of older Americans and people with disabilities across the lifespan.

Title I of the OAA, states that the purpose of the Older Americans Act is to ensure equal opportunity to the fair and free enjoyment of:

- Adequate income in retirement
- The best possible physical and mental health services without regard to economic status
- Suitable housing
- Restorative and long-term care
- Opportunity for employment
- Retirement in health, honor, and dignity
- Civic, cultural, educational and recreational participation and contribution
- Efficient community services with emphasis on maintaining a continuum of care for vulnerable older individuals
- Immediate benefit from proven research knowledge
- Freedom, independence, and the exercise of self determination
- Protection against abuse neglect and exploitation

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## Title II

established the Federal Administration on Aging to implement and oversee the OAA.

## Title IV

supports training, research and demonstration projects in the field of aging.

## Title V

established and supports the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

## Title VI

provides grants to organizations serving older Native Americans.

## Title VII

established the long-term care ombudsman program, which protects the rights of individuals residing in nursing homes and supports programs that work to prevent elder abuse, neglect and exploitation

## Title III

Funds programs providing in-home and community-based long-term care services\*, including:

- Supportive Services (Title IIIB): examples include: transportation, information & assistance, outreach, case management, homemaker or chore services, legal service, adult day centers
- Nutrition Services (Title IIIC): home-delivered & congregate meals
- Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (Title IIID)
- Family Caregiver Support (Title IIIE)

### \*Priority Areas

A fixed percentage of funding must be used to support priority areas that are established through the OAA, the Connecticut's State Plan on Aging and the local AAA's Area Plan. The current AOASCC Area Plan identifies the following priorities areas:

- Long Term Support & Services
- Economic Security
- Elder Rights
- Healthy Aging

### Target Population

Services provided through Title III funding are available to all individuals over 60 years of age. However, the OAA prioritizes services to older adults with the greatest economic and social needs, with particular attention to:

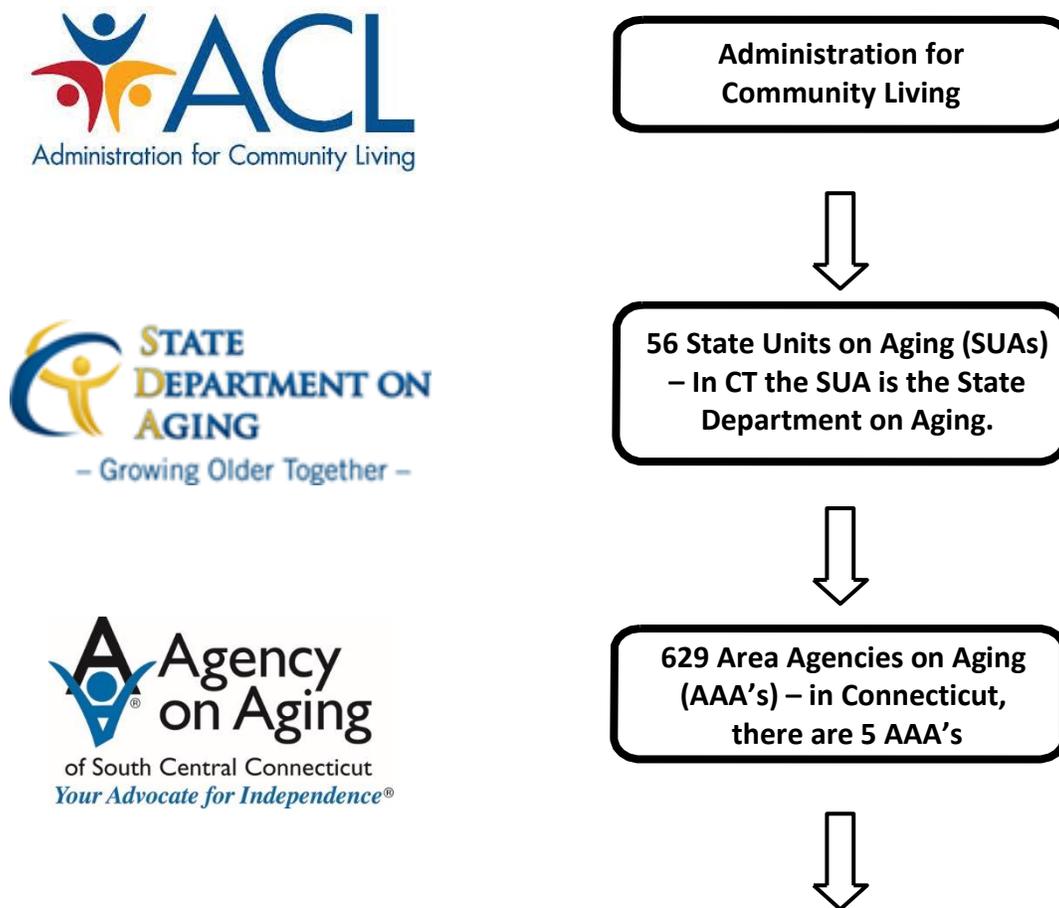
- low income older individuals
- low-income minority older individuals
- older individuals with limited English proficiency
- older individuals residing in rural areas
- older adults with Alzheimer's or related disorders
- older adults with severe disabilities
- individuals at risk for institutional placement

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## Funding for Older Americans Act Program

OAA funding for programs is allocated to each State Unit on Aging (SUA) based primarily on the number of persons 60 years of age and over in the state. Most states are divided into planning and service areas (PSAs), so that programs can be tailored to meet the specific needs of older persons residing in those areas. The SUA grants funds to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) designated for each PSA. The AAA determines the needs of older persons in the PSA and works to address those needs through the funding of local services and through advocacy.

### OAA funds are awarded:



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**Community  
Organizations**