



2014 NANASP Resolutions *Adopted May 30, 2014*

Older Americans Act

Current status: The Older Americans Act (OAA) is now over three years late in being reauthorized. On October 30, 2013, the Senate HELP Committee voted to send S. 1562, a bipartisan reauthorization bill, to the Senate floor. Two bills have been introduced in the House – a bill from Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, H.R. 4122, which would strengthen the Act along the lines of the Senate bill, and H.R. 3850, which would simply reauthorize the Act with no changes.

Resolved: NANASP supports S. 1562 and H.R. 4122. They are bills that would expand and modernize the Act for the next 5 years but preserve the separate titles for congregate and home delivered nutrition and maintain voluntary contributions for participants. We are aware that the process is currently deadlocked. As a last resort, NANASP would also support the straight reauthorization bill, H.R. 3850.

Funding for OAA Nutrition Programs

Current status: NANASP has worked with other advocacy groups over the course of the past year to end sequestration and restore the cuts that were made to senior nutrition programs. In the January 2014 omnibus spending bill which created the final funding agreement for FY 2014, the senior nutrition programs received a spending increase of \$47 million. This represented an end to sequestration for the programs and some restoration from cuts in the first round of sequestration. However, this restoration is still not enough to keep up with the growing senior population and the pace of inflation. The President's proposed budget for FY 2015 would fund senior nutrition programs at \$814.7 million, which is the current amount of funding they are receiving under the 2014 agreement.

Resolved: NANASP supports an FY 2015 funding level of \$819 million for senior nutrition programs, which is a return of funding to FY 2010 levels, the highest funding level ever achieved.



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Elder Justice

Current status: Elder abuse is a growing problem in our society—1 in 10 seniors are victims. The President’s FY 2015 proposed budget includes an Elder Justice Initiative which would provide \$25 million for data collection and research into elder abuse while strengthening adult protective services. It would be the first direct appropriation for the 2010 Elder Justice Act.

Resolved: NANASP, as a member of the Elder Justice Coalition, supports the President’s proposed Elder Justice Initiative as a first step in improving the federal government’s response to the problem of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Agriculture Appropriations

Current status: The Senate and the House are currently working to create and vote on appropriations bills for FY 2015. This includes the bill which funds the programs under the Department of Agriculture, including the USDA nutrition programs. The Agriculture funding bills have been considered by the full House and Senate Agriculture Committees and are awaiting floor votes.

Resolved: NANASP opposes any cuts to key USDA nutrition programs that support seniors, particularly those seniors who have lower incomes. These nutrition programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

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Vaccine Awareness

Current status: Immunizations are a critical step towards certain disease prevention. Two vaccine preventable diseases, influenza and pneumonia, result in more than 600,000 annual hospitalizations with direct costs of more than \$14 billion per year.

Resolved: NANASP supports public and private efforts to raise awareness about immunizations for older adults as a preventive health care goal. NANASP recommends that older adults follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, which call for yearly influenza and one-time shingles, pneumococcal (pneumonia) and Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccinations.

Part D and LIS

Current status: The Medicare Part D program continues to enjoy a 90% satisfaction rate among the older adults it serves. It continues to operate at a lower cost outcome than projected when the law was passed. It has maintained steady premiums over the past three years and has offered seniors wide choices in plans. As Medicare reform and deficit reduction options advance in Congress, changes to Part D are always possible.

Resolved: NANASP supports the existing Medicare Part D program and would oppose those proposals which would result in any cost shifting or higher premiums for beneficiaries or reduction in choice of plans. In particular, we maintain strong opposition to any proposal to increase the amount of co-pays that low-income seniors under Part D might have to pay for brand-name drugs.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

Current status: The Senior Community Service Employment Program, or SCSEP, is the largest federally-funded program which targets older adults seeking employment. It is authorized by Title V of the Older Americans Act. The President's FY 2015 budget request proposes a cut of over \$54 million to SCSEP (from \$434.4 million to \$380 million). This cut would mean a loss of jobs for 9,000 lower-income older adults. This loss of funding would impact not only the grantees, sub grantees, and employees who are members of NANASP, but also the NANASP nutrition

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programs who depend on SCSEP employees to operate. Further, the President's budget again proposes to transfer SCSEP from the Department of Labor into the Administration for Community Living.

Resolved: NANASP opposes the proposed \$54 million cut to SCSEP as well as its proposed transfer from the Department of Labor into the Administration for Community Living.

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Senior Corps

Current status: The President's FY 2015 budget request proposes that the Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) and the Senior Companion Program, administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service and also referred to as "Senior Corps," be restructured and cut. The Foster Grandparent Program and the Senior Companion Programs would be folded into AmeriCorps and cut by 14 and 16 percent respectively. RSVP would be cut by 67 percent. These changes would mean a loss of 250,000 volunteers nationwide and a total loss of over 35 million volunteer hours. NANASP has surveyed its members and found that many respondents use RSVP in particular and that these cuts would have a noticeable and immediate negative impact on their programs.

Resolved: NANASP opposes the proposed restructuring of the Senior Corps programs as well as any cuts to its funding. NANASP urges the Administration to seek ways to instead expand opportunities for community service, not eliminate them.

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