



## National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs

1612 K Street, NW Suite 400 Washington, DC 20006

(202) 682-6899 (202) 223-2099 fax

www.nanasp.org

### NANASP Conference Capitol Hill Visits-Additional Background

#### About NANASP

\*NANASP, the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs, is a national membership organization for persons across the country working to provide older adults healthful food and nutrition through community-based services.

#### About OAA Nutrition Programs

\*Nutrition services in the Older Americans Act include the congregate and home-delivered meals (Meals on Wheels) programs along with NSIP, the Nutrition Services Incentive Program.

\***Congregate meal** programs operate in a variety of sites, such as senior centers, community centers, schools, and adult day care centers. Besides meals, services include nutrition screening and education and nutrition assessment and counseling as appropriate. The program also presents opportunities for social engagement and meaningful volunteer roles, which contribute to overall health and well-being.

\***Home-delivered meals** provide meals and related nutrition services to older individuals that are homebound. Home-delivered meals are often the first in-home service that an older adult receives, and the program is a primary access point for other home and community-based services.

\***NSIP** provides additional funding to States, Territories and eligible Tribal organizations that is used exclusively to purchase food, and may not be used to pay for other nutrition-related services or for state or local administrative costs. States may choose to receive the grant as cash, commodities or a combination of cash and commodities.

\*The congregate and home-delivered (Meals on Wheels) nutrition programs and the Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) are the largest and most visible component of the Older Americans Act.

\*Next year, the senior nutrition program celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of helping to keep millions of the vulnerable elderly healthy and independent in their homes and communities.

\*The OAA nutrition programs serve more than 2.6 million older Americans daily with more than 236 million nutritious meals served each year.

***NANASP's vision is to reshape the future of nutrition and healthy aging.***

***NANASP's mission is to strengthen through advocacy and education those who help older Americans.***



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\* Senior hunger continues to grow, while the cost of food and fuel rapidly increases, leading to a staggering 20% increase in senior hunger in the past decade. NANASP's own 2011 survey of food and energy costs noted increased costs in food and energy which have led to waiting lists, loss of volunteers.

\*These meals are especially critical for the health of the 58% of congregate and 60% of home-delivered meal participants who report that they receive the majority of their daily food intake from the nutrition program.

### **OAA Appropriations-Labor-HHS (Health and Human Services)**

\*The President's budget proposes no increase for the senior nutrition programs in FY 2012.

\*According to the Administration on Aging (AoA), flat funding for the nutrition programs means that 36 million fewer home-delivered and congregate meals will be served in FY 2012 compared to FY 2010. Flat funding the programs is a cut.

\*NANASP and the LCAO (Leadership Council of Aging Organizations) propose an increase of \$44 million for OAA Title III C1 congregate meals; an increase of \$22 million for OAA Title III C2, home delivered meals; and an increase of \$8 million for the Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP). The represents a 10% increase for over FY 2012 levels for all three programs.

### **NANASP and Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) Ideas for OAA Reauthorization**

\* A five year reauthorization of the Act with sufficient authorization levels to allow the program to meet current and future needs.

\*Protect nutrition dollars. It is time to rethink the transfer authority currently in the statute. The authority has been a one way street. Most all of the money transferred comes from one program, the congregate nutrition program. Based on FY 2009 data, more than \$78 million was transferred out of the congregate program. Half of this went for the home-delivered meals program. The other half went for Title III B services. Some, but not all of these funds were used to support services not related to nutrition.

In these difficult fiscal times, we cannot afford to take \$39 million in funds intended for nutrition and have them go elsewhere. Only services that relate directly to nutrition, including transportation or senior centers should be funded under the transfer authority.

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- \*Enhance the current flexibility in the allocation of senior nutrition program funding in local communities while preserving the integrity of the separate congregate and home-delivered meals programs.
- \*Building on the link between nutrition and health, and establish a set aside of funds under Title III D for nutrition related evidence-based health promotion programs.
- \*Authorize a Nutrition Resource Center that will identify ways to increase cost effective food and nutrition services in home and community-based social and long-term care systems serving older adults. We see this as a public private partnership.
- \*Provide greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables through senior farmers markets, urban gardening and farm to table programs.
- \*Promote greater flexibility for meal planning including cultural considerations and preferences while maintaining current requirements on meal requirements being met.
- \*Look for and provide support for best practices in nutrition programs that have succeeded in recruiting and retaining first wave boomers who are at risk for malnutrition in addition to existing clientele.
- \*Invest in the opportunity to use Title III C funds not only to serve the current population in need but also to transform congregate home-delivered nutrition services to meet the nutrition needs of the burgeoning numbers of older individuals seeking to remain healthy in their communities.
- \*Stronger nutrition education including counseling and nutritional assessments. Include nutrition related information in the work of Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- \*Improve data collection in the Title III C nutrition programs, particularly measures of unmet need, such as waiting lists.
- \*Better recognize the essential role of transportation in the provision of nutrition services.
- \*Develop a stronger role for the nutrition programs to aid in the fight against elder abuse, especially in the areas of education, raising awareness and helping to detect and report elder abuse.
- \*Build the capacity of and funding for the Native American Nutrition Programs in order to better strengthen their ability to serve the complex and urgent needs of elders in Indian Country.

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### **Agriculture Appropriations**

\*NANASP is concerned with the House cut to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The Commodity Supplemental Food Program helps low-income seniors by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA commodity foods. It provides food and funding directly to states. The cut in the House Appropriations bill for CSFP is \$38 million compared to Obama's FY 2012 request and \$37 million below the FY 2011 funding level.

\*The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides fresh fruits and vegetables to eligible seniors and expands the use of farmers markets, farm stores, and community supported agriculture programs. NANASP opposes the President's FY 2012 request and the House Agriculture Appropriations bill which calls for flat funding of \$20.6 million.

\* NANASP is opposed to cuts proposed in the House passed Agriculture Bill for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) which amount to \$2 billion below Obama's FY 2012 request.

### **Elder Justice Act**

- ❖ NANASP as a member of the Elder Justice Coalition helped achieve the passage of the bi partisan Elder Justice Act in 2010.
- ❖ It is the largest federal commitment to the prevention of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation in history
- ❖ Bill is an authorization. Separate legislation is needed to fund the Act.
- ❖ President Obama proposed \$21.5 million for the Act in his FY 2012 budget to strengthen adult protective services, the long term care ombudsman program and elder abuse prevention for Native Americans.
- ❖ NANASP supports the President's budget request and urges the House and Senate to approve it.

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### **Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)**

- ❖ Was created as part of the Affordable Care Act as an initiative to slow the growth in Medicare costs.
- ❖ IPAB would be a 15 member board appointed by the President and would present Congress with proposals beginning as early as January 2014 to reduce Medicare spending if it exceeds a certain level.
- ❖ Congress has little ability to overturn IPAB decisions unless it develops its own plan to achieve equivalent savings.
- ❖ NANASP's concern relates to the extraordinary power vested in a non elected, non accountable commission to determine future Medicare spending, a job which throughout its 46 year history has been the responsibility of Congress.
- ❖ NANASP is also concerned about the potential of IPAB recommendations cutting payments to doctors leading more of them to stop treating Medicare beneficiaries. In addition IPAB may limit or end Medicare coverage for certain treatments or drugs.
- ❖ In January 2010 NANASP together with a number of other aging and patient advocate organizations signed a letter opposing the inclusion of IPAB in the health care reform bill.
- ❖ Bi partisan legislation H.R. 452 has been introduced in the House to repeal IPAB. The Senate bill is S 668
- ❖ NANASP supports H.R. 452 or any other legislation which would modify IPAB and its powers making it more advisory in nature and subject to normal Congressional review and action.

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