



USAging Leaders in
Aging Well
at Home

Legislative Update

FOR MEMBERS AND ALLIES

OCT. 1, 2021

Shutdown Averted as Congress Punts FY 2022 Spending Decisions to December 3

A federal government shutdown was narrowly averted last night as Congress raced to put a continuing resolution in front of the President in the waning hours of the 2021 fiscal year. This short-term funding solution will continue to fund the government at FY 2021 funding levels through December 3, 2021, giving Congress more time to resolve a final FY 2022 spending bill. Additional updates for aging advocates follow.

FY 2022 Appropriations

Unlike the House, the Senate has yet to pass any of the 12 annual appropriations bills required to keep discretionary funding flowing for another fiscal year. USAging will continue to share updates and calls to action as we seek to shore up Senate support for the House appropriations language passed in July. As a reminder, the House Appropriations Committee's bill closely resembles USAging's [longtime](#)

[advocacy requests](#), including an increase to the the Administration for Community Living (ACL) of \$846 million from FY 2021, which was \$96 million more than the President's budget request. Nearly all of USAging's key OAA priorities were reflected in the House's bill, so please visit [USAging's Appropriations Campaign page](#) to learn how you can help us push the Senate to follow the House's lead! (For a reminder on what's in the House bill, see our [July 16 Legislative Update](#).)

Build Back Better Act

In other news, the fate of the broader Biden economic agenda remains uncertain as intraparty tension rests on whether the House will move to pass the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill (passed in the Senate and strongly desired by moderate Democrats) and a broader, partisan \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package (Build Back Better Act, BBBA), which is strongly desired by progressive Democrats, but the price tag has made key moderates pause. The traditional bipartisan infrastructure package was intended to pass yesterday alongside its partisan companion, but the arbitrarily picked date suffered a self-imposed setback as Democrats negotiate the BBBA's \$3.5 trillion price tag. The White House has also upped the pressure on negotiators, reflecting President Biden's strong desire to strike a deal that provides both a bipartisan win and an historic investment in our nation's care infrastructure and workforce.

USAging does not have a crystal ball as to where things will end up, but we do know that the \$3.5 trillion price tag in the reconciliation package will likely face a significant reduction, especially given the recent announcement that Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) believes the package should be priced at

\$1.5 trillion. In its current form, the package would provide **an additional investment of \$1.2 billion** in critically needed Older Americans Act (OAA) funding, with a particular focus on workforce and other aging infrastructure issues that support existing programs and services. As negotiations remain under way, it's impossible to assess where cuts might be made in the event of a much lower price tag.

USAgging advocates have done an incredible job reminding Congress of the extraordinary work you are doing for their older adult constituents. Without you, we wouldn't have earned these unprecedented, proposed investments in OAA in the BBBA. (See our [September 10 Legislative Update](#) for details on those funding levels.)

Over the next month, advocates can continue to call on their elected officials sharing the critical importance of AAA programs and services, the mounting community needs and the personal stories that lend legislators the ability to support this critical funding.

Continue to check USAgging's recent [Advocacy Alerts](#) and our [Appropriations Campaign page](#) to help you connect with your elected officials today and stay tuned for what is expected to be a nail-biter October in Washington.

This *Legislative Update* is a USAgging membership benefit. For more information about these and other federal aging policy issues, please contact USAgging's policy team: Amy Gotwals and Monica Billger at policy@n4a.org, 202.872.0888.



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