

USAging

What's Ahead In 2026:

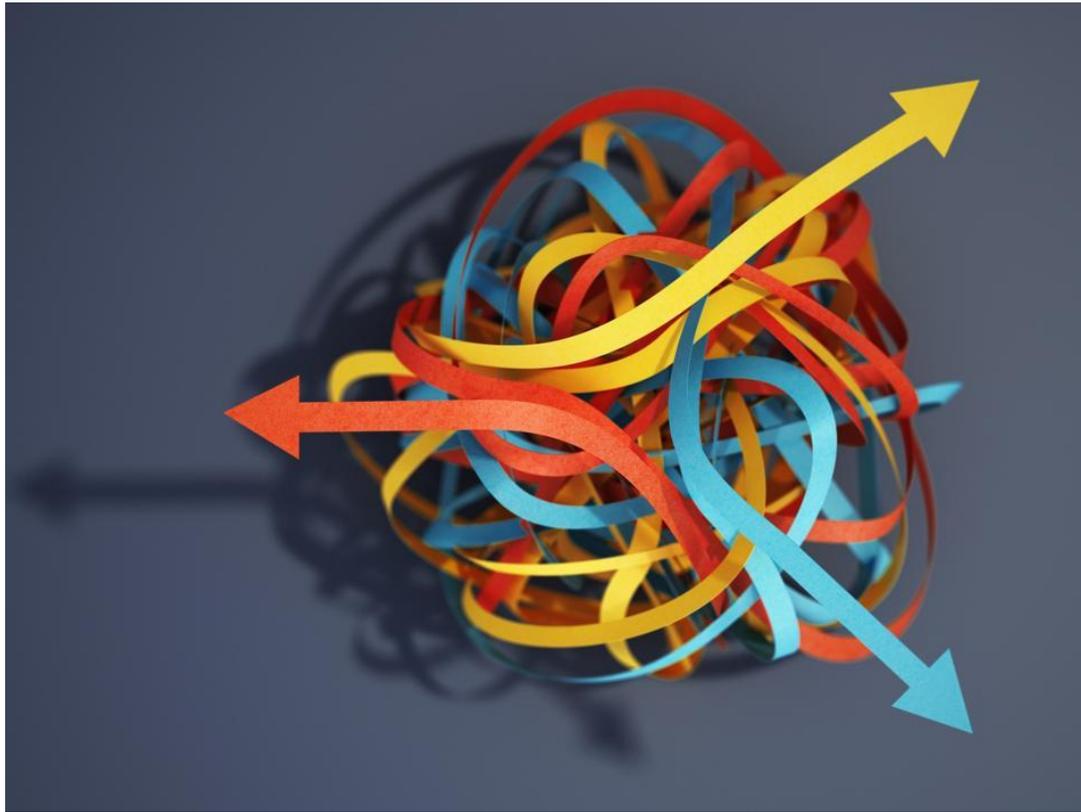
**An Association Update and
Conversation For USAging Members**

2.18.2026



Positioning the Aging Network in the Current Environment

Outlook for 2026



Uncertainty

Change.....

Uncertainty May Be Too Weak a Word!

- Government Shutdown
- Funding Instabilities (incl. arbitrary impoundments/freezes)
- Federal Leadership on Aging? Current Situation of ACL
- Executive Orders, DOGE and Other Continuing Impacts
- What's Next?

Aging Network: History of Moving Forward During Challenging and Uncertain Times



Resilience

Perseverance

Progress!

National Outlook for Aging

- Appropriations
- Older Americans Act
- OBBBA
- Health Policy
- Housing,
Transportation....



Trump Administration Priorities

- Make America Healthy Again
 - Food as Medicine
 - Prevention
- Administration for Children, Families and Communities?
- Potential Integrated Care Pilots at CMS/CMMI
- Rural Transformation Funding
- Caregiving



ACL Priorities and Operational Drivers

Priorities

- Caregiving
- Connecting People to Services
- Whole-Person Health
- Employment
- Protecting Rights and Preventing Abuse

Operational Drivers

- Scaling
- Marketing
- Outcomes
- Speed
- Grantmaking



Challenge of Change

- **Chaos as an Opportunity for Innovation**
- **Tread Water, Losing Ground**
- **Evolution or Disintegration**



Remember What All You Have Done: Evolution of AAAs

*Challenge
creates
change.*

- Expansion and Diversity of the Aging Population
- Services Added Each Reauthorization of the OAA
- Rebalancing Care Settings
- National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Medicare Part D
- Affordable Care Act
- Creation of ACL
- COVID

Opportunities for AAAs Now and in the Future

- Expand Who We Serve, HCBS for All
- Opportunities in Networks/Community Care Hubs
- Development of New Service Lines
- Focus on Longevity
- Looking to New Service System Strategies
- New Strategies on Marketing and Outreach



Core to Our Mission: What We Do Well

- Meeting Demographic Needs
- Person, Family and Community-Centered Services
- Human Benefits of HCBS
- Making the Most of Every Dollar/Resource
- Scrappy Innovation
- Partnerships

Core to Our Mission: What We Need to Amplify

- Advocacy
- Getting the Entire Aging Network Aligned with a Strong Message
- Data and Stories that Tell the Human and Economic Benefits of Services
- Focusing on the Assets of an Aging Population
- Marketing AAAs, Marketing AAA Programs
- Focus on Aging Well but also on Longevity

USAgging Key Focuses for 2026

- **Protecting and building upon the foundations of the Older Americans Act and the Aging Network**
 - Creating awareness of the demographics and their impacts.
 - Emphasizing the outcomes and impacts of programs and services.
 - Highlighting the economic as well as the human impacts of your services to individuals, families and the community.
 - Owning your programs/services! Ensuring consumers, policymakers and others know WHO delivers the services and with what FUNDING.
 - Strategize on diversifying your funding through existing and new service lines.
 - Supporting staff, advisory committee leadership development.

Key Focuses for 2026

- **Planning and preparing for the impact of the Medicaid cuts on consumers and the states**
- **Continue to explore ways to position AAAs to seed innovation and meet our mission**
 - Promoting and supporting health care and other contracting and partnerships (consider networks or Community Care Hubs as a vehicle).
 - Alternative funding mechanisms: Private pay, GUIDE, employer-based supports.
 - Shared program/staffing investments and efficiencies with other AAAs.
 - Explore foundation support (not maintenance of effort) and partnerships to seed innovation to enhance, expand and develop new programming.

The Imperative to Move Forward The Consequences If We Don't



- Not Being Able to Adequately Address the Evolving Needs of Older Adults and Caregivers
- Not Having the Resources to Grow and Expand Services for Older Adults
- Facing Competition
- Diminishing Relevancy
- OLDER ADULTS GOING UNSERVED

Now is the Time for Advocacy and Action!

Be BOLD!

Today and
Tomorrow's Older
Adults Are
Depending on Us!





Public Policy Updates and Forecast

Advocacy is Working

- Draft President's budget corrected after our pushback
- Averted dissolution of ACL; we still have champions
- OAA funding protected in FY 2026 (and small increases!)
- Appropriators working together to get their power back
- Preserved bipartisan support for your work
- HCBS wasn't directly hit in OBBBA

State of DC: 2026

- Disruption, Lawsuits, Uncertainty, Funding Irregularities
 - 1st week of new year = Holding of TANF, SSBG funding from **5 states**
 - Application of DOGE draw-down justifications to ACF programs (SSBG) in ALL states
 - Billions pulled from mental health services, only to be reversed swiftly after backlash
- Power Struggles: Congress pushing back more
- Impact of lost talent, institutional knowledge in federal workforce
- Midterms will add to the frenzied atmosphere



FY 2026 Discretionary Appropriations

FY 2026 Senate/House Levels

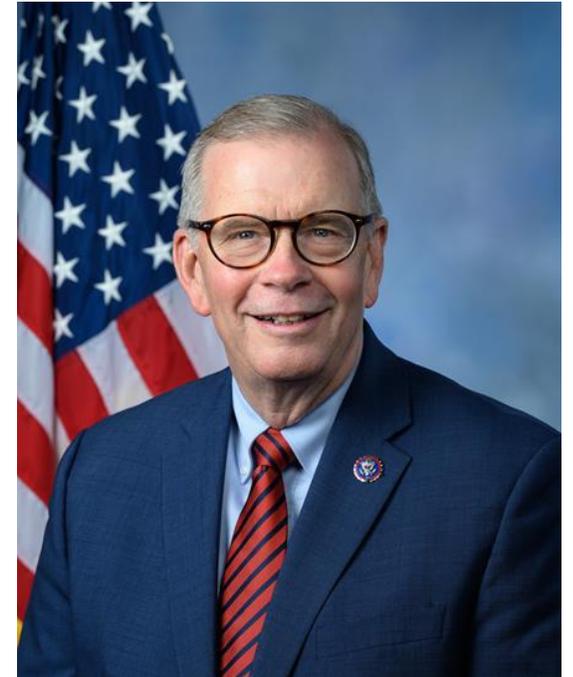
- OAA Title III B and Title VI: House bill is better!
 - \$4 million boost to III B Supportive Services and Senior Centers
 - \$2 mil boosts to Title VI Part C caregiver support (16%) and Part A meals and supportive services (5%)
- OAA III E: Senate is \$2 million more
- OAA Title V: Senate keeps the program (\$10 mil cut), House zeros it out
- Rest of core OAA about the same levels
- AmericorpsSenior preserved in Senate, cut in House
- MIPPA is mandatory spending but was in CR and needs to be extended past 1/30, too



Older Americans Act Reauthorization

OAA Reauthorization (119th)

- Senate sponsors re-introduced the Senate-passed bill on June 18, S. 2120
- May go in Senate on hotline
- House Education and Workforce Chairman is Tim Walberg (R-MI).
- Strategic: once we get a (safe) green light, THEN advocacy will be needed



Our To-Do List

- Protect and increase **federal funding** in FY 2027 appropriations
- **OAA reauthorization** without any damage to the Act
- Health care integration issues
- Transportation reauthorization
- Longer MIPPA extension legislation
- *AAA Advocates*: Weigh in on any OBBBA, OAA implementation/regulation opportunities at the state level!

EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE!