

## Snapshot

*(A 30-second read for busy people)*

- Yesterday, Congress released a bipartisan, bicameral three-bill FY 2026 funding package that included Labor/HHS appropriations.
- Almost all OAA programs were level funded, with increases to OAA Title III B Supportive Services and Title VI Native American Aging programs, which were USAging priorities.
- The House is expected to vote on final passage of the minibuss later this week followed by a vote in the Senate next week with the goal of getting the bill to the President's desk for him to sign it into law before January 30.
- For full details on the Labor/HHS levels, see [\*\*USAging's updated appropriations chart\*\*](#).

Yesterday, Congressional leaders released a bipartisan, bicameral FY 2026 funding package covering most of the federal government, including the Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), ahead of the January 30 deadline. The deal is the result of negotiations between appropriations leaders in the two months since Congress ended the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. HHS would be funded at nearly \$117 billion, a \$210-million increase.

In a win for the Aging Network and USAging's policy priorities, the package included modest increases for two of our three top Older Americans Act (OAA) appropriations priorities—Title III B Supportive Services and Title VI Native American Aging Programs! Our third priority, the Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP), also received an increase, but the added dollars were directed by Congress for demonstrations related to the National Family Caregiver Strategy and won't be a part of III E formula grants. We're also pleased that all of the other OAA programs at HHS, including the rest of Title III were protected from cuts—a key part of our collective advocacy over the past year.

Other programs that are critical to USAging members' work

to support older adults also were protected, including the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the AmeriCorps senior volunteer programs. While the Department of Labor's OAA program, Title V Senior Community Service Program (SCSEP), received a \$10-million cut, that is the best possible outcome this year, given that the President and the House had proposed a full elimination of Title V funding. More details follow and can be found on USAging's updated [appropriations chart](#).

## **OAA and Other Critical Programs With Funding Level Changes**

- **OAA Title III B Supportive Services** \$414 million, a *\$4-million increase*
- **OAA Title III E NFCSP** \$209 million, a *\$2-million increase*
- **OAA Title VI Native American Aging Programs** \$40 million (Part A, Grants to Indians), a *\$2 million increase*; \$14 million (Part C, Native American Caregivers), a *\$2-million increase*
- **OAA Title V SCSEP** \$395 million, a *\$10-million cut*
- **LIHEAP** \$4.04 billion, a *\$20-million increase*
- **CSBG** \$810 million, a *\$6-million increase*

## **Next Steps**

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Congress has fewer than 10 days to pass the package for the President's signature before federal funding is set to lapse on January 30. The House is set to vote later this week, with the Senate to follow next week. While obstacles could arise, the deal is expected to be passed by Congress and represents the best possible outcome that USAging was pushing for: a final bill for the rest of the fiscal year (versus a continuing resolution) and the highest possible levels for our prioritized programs. It's a testament to our collective advocacy and our members taking consistent action over the course of this year to ensure the best possible outcome in a difficult budget environment.

USAging will keep members updated on FY 2026 funding,

and should the package get to the President's desk, we will begin preparing for our FY 2027 appropriations campaign. Stay tuned!

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**This *Legislative Update* is a USAging membership benefit.** For more information about these and other federal aging policy issues, please contact USAging's policy team: Amy Gotwals, Olivia Umoren Ezeuko and Seth Ickes at [policy@usaging.org](mailto:policy@usaging.org), 202.872.0888.

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- The final six-bill FY 2026 funding package, passed by the House last week and expected to be passed by the Senate this week, is now in jeopardy following the fatal event over the weekend in Minnesota.
- Democrats are demanding changes to the bill that funds the Department of Homeland Security.
- Since the House already approved the whole package, any changes by the Senate would have to be approved by the House before this Friday, when the current continuing resolution (CR) expires.
- **The Senate plans to vote on the package tomorrow.** If Senate Republicans cannot secure seven Democratic votes to advance the measure, a partial, hopefully short, shutdown over the weekend is inevitable. USAging will continue to keep members updated over the next few days on new developments.

Despite the progress made towards finishing up the remaining FY 2026 funding bills this month, the Senate is at a standstill following the second fatal shooting of a U.S. citizen by federal agents in Minneapolis this month. This comes after the House passed a six-bill FY 2026 funding package last week, and the Senate was expected to approve the measure this week.

In response to last weekend's events, Democrats are calling for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding to be passed only with oversight reforms such as mandatory body cameras, limits on enforcement authority and accountability measures.

Regardless of whether reforms are added to the bill, or the DHS section of the bill is dropped in the Senate (for now), it would still require the House to vote again on any amended package. The House is not currently in session, and with Washington, DC, still affected by the recent ice storm, this is an unrealistic option until at least early next week.

The problem? The current CR funding these remaining federal programs expires this Friday, January 30.

## **What Does This Mean for Older Americans Act (OAA) Funding?**

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Unfortunately, since the funding package also includes Labor/HHS, OAA and other aging funding sources will be impacted should there be a partial shutdown. The House-passed package included funding for critical aging programs and all OAA programs, with increases to several US Aging appropriations priorities. The bill is a win for the AAA and Title VI network, but it is currently tied to the fate of the DHS negotiations. (For more information on what is included in the funding package, see our [January 21 Legislative Update](#).)

## **Next Steps**

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Senate Republicans and Democrats had separate meetings this afternoon to discuss how to avoid a partial shutdown at the end of the week. To do this, the House-passed funding package would need a minimum of seven Democratic votes in the Senate to advance. This package would then need to be approved and signed by the President by the end of the day on Friday, January 30. So far only one Senate Democrat, Senator John Fetterman (PA), has revealed plans to join Republicans and vote in favor of the funding package as is.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) is encouraging negotiations between the White House and Senate Democrats to reach an agreement. Majority Leader Thune has made it clear that members of his own conference would block any attempt to strip DHS funding from the package. The Senate will vote tomorrow on advancing the funding package and per Majority Leader Thune, it is "to be determined" what happens if that vote fails.

FY 2026 funding outcomes remain unknown. However, should there be a shutdown, it is not anticipated that it will

be nearly as long as the previous one, and could be resolved as early as next week when the House is back in town. USAging will continue to keep members updated as we hear more news from the Hill.

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