

n4a Legislative Update



President Biden's FY 2022 Budget Released & It's Great News for Advocates of the Older Americans Act!

May 28, 2021

This afternoon, President Biden presented his \$6 trillion FY 2022 budget blueprint to Congress. If enacted, this budget would dramatically increase the course of federal investment in health, transportation, the workforce and more. The budget includes previously released policy proposals—such as the American Jobs Plan which contains a \$400 billion investment in Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) and the direct care workforce delivering those supports—as well as specific FY 2022 discretionary funding (i.e., appropriations) recommendations.

Overall, the President's budget invests in the non-defense discretionary programs that largely stagnated or eroded during the 10 years of Budget Control Act caps and resulting fiscal austerity. In numbers slightly revised from an outline released last month, non-defense discretionary spending would increase by 16.5 percent in the coming fiscal year, compared with this year's enacted level. Much of the new spending is dedicated to elements of President Biden's \$2.25 trillion American Jobs Plan and the \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan.

As our headline suggests, the Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging programs within the Administration on Aging (AoA) and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) would see significant increases in the President's plan—in substantial alignment with n4a's [2021 Policy Priorities](#) and our appropriations requests that reflect the growing needs of America's aging population.

Signaling the President's commitment to supporting older adults and those with disabilities to age independently and with dignity at home, ACL received a program level request of \$3.1 billion, an increase of \$768 million (or 32

Here's how key OAA titles fared in the President's budget:

- **Title III B Supportive Services, n4a's top appropriations priority, would see a 40 percent increase (\$158 million)**, reaching \$551 million in FY 2022. This is a fantastic recommendation and n4a will be working with Congress to ensure the highest-possible funding level for III B.
- **Title III C Nutrition Programs earned the largest increase in the Biden budget, with a 41 percent increase (\$390 million)**. If passed by Congress, the FY 2022 funding for all three OAA nutrition programs would reach \$1.341 billion. Break outs among the III C programs were not available at press time.
- **Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program would increase by \$61 million, a 32 percent increase over this year**. III E is also a top n4a appropriations priority.
- **Title VI Native American Aging Programs Part A would be doubled to \$70 million! Part C would receive a 45 percent increase, growing funding for tribal caregiving programs to \$16 million in FY 2022**. This request mirrors n4a's Part A ask for Title VI programs.

The President recommended a 58 percent increase to the OAA Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and a doubling of the Lifespan Respite Program. Other OAA and ACL funding streams, while not as bold as the requests listed above, are slated for modest increases, such as OAA Title III D Evidence-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). More good news is that while a handful of ACL programs were level funded, there were no proposed cuts within the agency.

While ambitious, this extraordinary funding plan will face an uphill battle in Congress to reach its proposed allocations—and your advocacy will be needed in the coming weeks and months. Nonetheless, n4a is excited to comb through the full budget to bring you a more detailed analysis next week. In the interim, we celebrate the successful advocacy done by n4a members and others in the Aging Network that drove this investment in OAA programs and services.

The President's budget is a reflection of the incredible work done by AAAs, Title VI programs and your partners in the Aging Network throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to serve older adults and their caregivers across the country.

Stay tuned for more details and an appropriations chart in next week's *Legislative Update*!

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

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