



Federal Appropriations Committees Advance Budget Bills

For the first time in years, the Federal House and Senate Appropriations Committees are on schedule to pass their respective Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 funding bills this summer. Only the full House Appropriations Committee is left to consider their Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education proposal.

The good news is that most increases secured in FY 2018 for many Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging programs have been preserved, resulting in primarily level funding for the next fiscal year.

Despite this progress it is still likely that a late September continuing resolution (CR) will be needed to keep funding flowing and avoid a government shutdown. Below are some of the significant outcomes for the proposed FY 2019 budget:

- ◆ **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)** : Both House and Senate bills reject the Administration's proposals to eliminate the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, which funds Michigan's Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP), and the OAA Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) for older workers. Funding for both programs is being maintained at the FY 2018 level.
- ◆ **Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage Family Caregivers Act (RAISE)**: Senate lawmakers boosted OAA Title III-E by \$300,000 to provide funding to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to implement this new act which was signed into law earlier this year.
- ◆ **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**(\$715 million), the **Social Services Block Grant** (\$1.7 billion) and the **Community Development Block Grant** (\$3.3 billion): The administration proposed to abolish. Lawmakers preserved funding, and the Senate approved a \$10 million increase for CSBG.
- ◆ **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**: The Senate proposed a \$50 million increase. The House requested flat funding at \$3.64 billion. This program provides low income households with assistance for heating and energy bills throughout the year.

Save the date!

Tuesday, August 7 is the primary election. If you would like an [Absentee Ballot](#) mailed to you, your [Absentee Voter Ballot Application](#) must be received by local clerks by 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 4. All completed [Absentee Ballots](#) must be returned to the clerks office by 8:00 p.m. on election day. Absentee voting is available for registered voters age 60 or older, voters unable to vote without assistance at the polls, or voters expecting to be out of town on election day.

The Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) is a nonprofit agency serving the needs of older adults in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, and Washtenaw counties.

Contact Katie Wendel, (248) 798-0599 or by e-mail at kwendel@aaa1b.com to join the Senior Advocacy Network or receive copies of AAA 1-B reports referenced in The Advocate.