



Michigan Elder Abuse Task Force Listening Tour Visits Region 1-B

In March 2019 Attorney General Dana Nessel and Michigan Supreme Court Justices formed the Michigan Elder Abuse Task Force. More than 30 different organizations including law enforcement, state agencies, the Michigan House, Senate and Congressional delegation, and advocacy groups have committed to being part of the task force. The task force initiatives include requiring professional guardians to become certified, developing statutory basic rights for families of wards, limiting the number of wards per guardian and mandating reporting for financial institutions on suspected fraud/exploitation.

Attorney General Nessel and Supreme Court Justice Megan Cavanagh are conducting a state-wide listening tour to identify additional issues the Michigan Elder Abuse Task Force should address. Three listening tour events are being held in Region 1-B. Senior advocates should plan to attend to share their perspectives on how to combat Elder Abuse. The AAA 1-B and other elder-care resource providers will be present at each event. For more information about the task force visit www.mi.gov/elderabuse.

Listening Tour Events:

July 22, 2019
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Doors open at 8 a.m.

Macomb Intermediate School District
44001 Garfield Rd.
Clinton Twp, MI 48038

July 22, 2019
2:30-4:30 p.m.
Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Building
4800 E. Huron River Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

July 23, 2019
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Farmington Community Library
32737 W. 12 Mile Rd.
Farmington, MI 48334

Senate Committee Begins Work on Older Americans Act Reauthorization

The federal Older Americans Act (OAA) funds critical services for older adults and their caregivers provided by Area Agencies on Aging, such as home delivered meals and in-home care. The current Older Americans Act authorization expires at the end of September, which means Congress will work to reauthorize the law to keep programs up to date and ensure that the aging network can continue to support the needs of our rapidly growing older adult population and their caregivers. In June a bipartisan working group of members from the federal Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) and Aging Committees released a draft reauthorization bill, marking the first step towards reauthorization. Future editions of The Advocate will feature updates on this process. For more information on the OAA Reauthorization, see the attached fact sheet produced by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A).

Older Americans Act



advocacy | action | answers on aging

GET THE FACTS

For more than 50 years, the Older Americans Act (OAA) has connected older adults and their caregivers to services that help older adults age with health, dignity and independence in their homes and communities—where they want to be! **In 2019, Congress must again reauthorize this vital federal program that serves every community in the country.** With the rapid growth of America’s aging population, it’s essential that Congress make wise investments in critical OAA programs and services!

Why Is the OAA Important? The OAA...

Enables aging at home and in the community where people want to be.

The OAA provides the person-centered services and supports that can help older adults be better able to age where they want—in their homes and communities—thus avoiding more expensive medical or institutional care. Examples include meals, in-home help, transportation, home modification, legal services and many other supportive services that keep older adults healthy and independent.

Supports caregivers.

Family caregivers are the backbone of the nation’s long-term services and supports system. The OAA provides vital supports to caregivers to bolster their ability to continue caring for their loved ones.

Strengthens communities.

OAA services are delivered through a nationwide network of community-based agencies and service providers that know and can best meet the needs of older adults in their communities.

Protects vulnerable older adults.

Through programs like the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, the OAA helps to identify and prevent the abuse and neglect of older Americans.

Prepares us for the future.

The country is aging at an historic rate. Every day 10,000 people turn 65, and the vast majority of people want to age in place. If society is going to be prepared for an aging nation, we need to invest in the cost-effective programs, such as those provided by the OAA, that allow people to stay healthy and independent while living in the community!



Visit n4a.org/OAA to learn more about the Older Americans Act

What is Available Through OAA?

The OAA funds a wide range of aging services across five core areas, with local flexibility built into the Act to reflect the needs of that area's older adults and caregivers.



What Can Congress Do? Reauthorize the OAA to...



Make Bold Investments in Aging Services!

Funding isn't keeping up with the needs of older adults. To keep up with the population growth of older Americans and caregivers and inflation over the next five years, **Congress should double the funding for the Act.**



Protect Consumer Focus!

Thanks to the Act's flexibility, OAA programs and services are person and family-centered. Congress should reject any proposal that changes the local focus of the OAA.



Foster Innovation!

Congress must invest in research, innovation and best practices to ensure that these supports can efficiently serve a growing population for years to come.



Visit n4a.org/OAA to learn more about the Older Americans Act

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Washington, DC, 202.872.0888