



## COVID-19 Emergency Response– AAA 1-B, State, and Federal Updates

The AAA 1-B is open and working to ensure our programs are providing needed care while keeping staff and those we serve safe. AAA 1-B employees are working remotely, and our call center is open and ready to assist people seeking help. Our network of community partners is supplying food to seniors, with home delivered meals and shelf-stable food pick up programs, and providing essential in-home care services.

Here are some links to help seniors connect with the help they need:

- Visit the AAA 1-B COVID-19 Website: <https://aaa1b.org/coronavirus/> for resources and up-to-date information about AAA 1-B operations.
- Call our Resource Center at 1-800-852-7795 to be connected to resources in your community.
- Identify ways to access food (attached).
- Learn about how to protect seniors from scams (attached).

### Impact on Legislative Activity

The Michigan Legislature is not in session as the state abides by the stay at home order which is scheduled to continue until April 30th. Legislative activity has been put on hold, with legislators meeting briefly on April 7<sup>th</sup> to expand the Governor's emergency authority until the end of April. Reduced tax revenue estimated to be between \$1 billion and \$3 billion, and the need for emergency response spending, will put a significant strain on the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

Congress has passed several bills in response to the COVID-19 emergency. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act passed on March 18<sup>th</sup> included \$250 million of Older Americans Act (OAA) nutrition funding, \$1.9 million of which is being directed to Region 1-B. The CARES Act passed on March 27<sup>th</sup> included an additional \$820 million for OAA programs, with an estimated \$6.4 million to be directed to Region 1-B. Most CARES Act funding is directed towards nutrition programs, with some funds also allocated to support Title III-B Supportive Services, like in-home care, and services for family caregivers.

## Older Americans Act Reauthorization Signed into Law

The Older Americans Act of 1965 (OAA) is the foundation of the Aging Network. The OAA created Area Agencies on Aging and funds many of the programs that we operate, such as home delivered meals and in-home care. Reauthorization of the OAA is important to keep programs up to date and to ensure that the aging network can adapt to serve the needs of our rapidly growing older adult population and their caregivers. On March 25<sup>th</sup> the OAA Reauthorization was signed into law- the reauthorization included:

- Reauthorizing the OAA for five years through Fiscal Year 2024
- Increasing authorized, or maximum allowable, funding levels for OAA programs. Congress must still allocate funds each year, but higher authorization levels are a positive step toward securing funding increases.
- Removing the funding cap on the amount of funds that can be directed to support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.
- Establishing a federal research, demonstration and evaluation center to improve assessment and promote advancement of the relationship between OAA programs and services and health outcomes