



Leadership Council  
of Aging Organizations

***Katie Smith Sloan, Chair***

## **LCAO FY 2022 Omnibus Appropriations Letter**

As members of the Leadership Coalition of Aging Organizations (LCAO), we urge you to enact omnibus Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations legislation by the time that the current continuing resolution (CR) ends on February 18 that includes all 12 subcommittee bills. Our nation continues to face the economic, health, and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Relying on long-term CRs would result in flat and therefore inadequate funding, which in turn impedes the capacity of programs providing critical services to individuals across the country.

LCAO is a coalition of 69 national nonprofit organizations concerned with the well-being of America's older population and committed to representing their interests in the policy-making arena. Federally appropriated programs are essential to helping millions of older adults age with dignity, health, and independence. These discretionary programs include, but are not limited to, those provided by the Older Americans Act (OAA) and others through the Administration for Community Living (ACL), falls prevention programs, initiatives and research that address chronic disease, workforce programs both for participating older adults and professionals providing care to them, AmeriCorps Seniors, person-centered trauma-informed care, Social Security Administration administrative expenses and HUD's housing programs.

In order to sustain current services throughout FY 2022, these federally appropriated programs need year-over-year increases. Without increased funding, as the FY 2022 bills provide, the programs will not have sufficient resources to continue current programs, not to mention expanding their reach to help older adults during a pandemic that has overwhelmingly impacted them.

After a decade of appropriation caps and austerity for most annually funded programs, and with the compounding impacts of the pandemic, increased investment through an omnibus appropriations bill is a critical step to address existing shortfalls and improve and expand access to services for older adults and their caregivers. This, in turn, builds a stronger and more equitable American economy. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed deep inequities and brought to greater light our nation's most at-risk older adults living in food, transportation, affordable housing, and health care deserts. If Congress fails to enact omnibus appropriations legislation, programs that are in desperate need of increased resources will be left with stagnant funding, restricting their ability to assist with recovery in communities and across the country.

We urge Congress to provide the highest level of funding for the programs and services that support older adults at levels that reflect the true and growing demographic and human need. Long-term continuing resolutions would fail to address these needs and impede recovery when our country needs it the most. We strongly urge you to enact omnibus appropriations legislation including all 12 appropriations bills as quickly as possible.

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The Gerontological Society of America  
Meals on Wheels America  
National Council on Aging  
American Society on Aging  
Retirees Department, American Postal Workers Union  
Justice in Aging  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
Jewish Federations of North America  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs  
AMDA The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine  
Aging Life Care Association  
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The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care  
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Alzheimer's Foundation of America  
Alzheimer's Association  
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American Association of Service Coordinators  
Medicare Rights Center  
National Association for Home Care and Hospice  
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)  
National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs  
Community Catalyst