



OLDER AMERICANS ACT (OAA) NUTRITION PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS
(IN MILLIONS USD)

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026 ASK	FY 26 HHS BUDGET
Title III C-1, Congregate	\$490.342	\$495.342	\$510.342	\$515.342	\$515.342	\$540.342	\$565.342	\$565.342	\$669.965	\$565.342
Title III C-2, Home-Delivered	\$246.342	\$251.342	\$266.342	\$276.342	\$291.342	\$366.342	\$381.342	\$381.342	\$774.589	\$381.342
Title III, Nutrition Services Incentive Program	\$160.069	\$160.069	\$160.069	\$160.069	\$160.069	\$160.069	\$112.000	\$112.000	\$160.069	\$112.000
OAA Nutrition Program Total	\$896.753	\$906.753	\$936.753	\$951.753	\$966.753	\$1.067 B	\$1.059 B	\$1.059 B	\$1.605 B	\$1.059 B
Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)					\$250.00*					
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act					\$870.00*					
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021					\$175.00*					
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)					\$750.00*					



* During the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed a series of emergency relief packages that provided critical support for senior nutrition programs under the **Older Americans Act (OAA)**. In 2020 alone, the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)** allocated **\$250 million**, and the **CARES Act** contributed an additional **\$870 million** specifically to help states and tribal organizations deliver nutrition services to older adults. These funds helped programs rapidly shift from in-person congregate dining to home-delivered meals and other flexible service models to meet the unprecedented increase in the number of seniors sheltering at home and needing nutrition support. **This support continued into 2021 through the Consolidated Appropriations Act (\$175 million)** and was significantly reinforced by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which provided an additional \$750 million for nutrition services.

- These investments were critical, ensuring that seniors continued to receive the necessary nutrition services, especially as traditional congregate meals and in-person programs faced disruptions. During the pandemic, demand for home-delivered meals increased by **50% or more in some states**. No-cost extensions and emergency funding allowed states to **scale up operations rapidly** and reach newly isolated populations. Without this flexibility and additional funding, many programs would have been forced to turn away older adults in need, a risk that remains as funding returns to pre-pandemic levels.
- While the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) officially ended in May 2023, the need for continued funding did not. Recognizing this, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) provided multiple no-cost extensions, allowing states to use unspent pandemic-era funds through December 2024, provided states formally requested extensions.
- These extensions have been invaluable. However, they also highlight a crucial fact: **the demand for senior nutrition services remains high, and pandemic-era flexibilities and funding levels were essential to meeting these needs**. Many states have already exhausted these temporary funds or are facing challenges in stretching them to cover the growing population of older adults who depend on these services. Moreover, the expiration of PHE-era flexibility, coupled with the ongoing pressure of rising food and operational costs, leaves a dangerous gap in services
- The experience of the pandemic demonstrated not only the vital importance of these services but also their remarkable nimbleness and impact when resources. To ensure older adults can continue to rely on nutritious meals and social connection from community-based organizations, Congress and policymakers must recognize that the heightened challenges of food insecurity and isolation did not end with the PHE, and neither should the needed increase in funding.

Source: Various Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bills, conference reports and Administration for Community Living (ACL) budget and funding documents, available at <https://crsreports.congress.gov/AppropriationsStatusTable> and <https://acl.gov/about-acl/budget>,

Source: Every CRS Report, https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R47602.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com