NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR CAREGIVING

A Closer Look at How the Older Americans Act Supports Family Caregivers

November 2026

Since 1965, the Older Americans Act (OAA) has been the primary federal vehicle for helping older Americans live independently and with dignity in their own homes and communities. Woven into its programs is an equally vital mission: supporting the more than 63 million family caregivers who make that independence possible. Through the National Family Caregiver Support Program, the RAISE Family Caregivers Advisory Council, and dedicated Native American caregiver support services, the OAA supports the counseling, respite care, training, and coordination that keep caregivers from burning out and keeps older Americans out of costlier institutional care. The number of family caregivers continues to grow, and more than 4 in 10 report high-intensity caregiving demands. Sustaining this support requires two actions from Congress: reauthorizing the OAA, which renews its programs and sets maximum funding levels through FY2030, and appropriating the actual dollars each year. NAC urges the House to pass S. 2120 and Congress to fund the OAA's caregiver programs at the levels below in FY2027.

National Family Caregiver Support Program

Title III-E in the OAA, the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) provides grants to states to fund services that support informal caregivers, including by providing information and outreach; access and resource assistance; individual counseling; support groups; caregiver training; and respite care.

In 2018, **NFCSP** provided support for caregiving services to more than **700,000 caregivers**[1]

Nearly **1 in 5 enrollees** lives in a rural area

NAC supports funding request of **$256,069,552**

RAISE Family Caregivers Advisory Council

The Recognize, Assist, Include, Support & Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Advisory Council provides recommendations to the Secretary for Health and Human Services on policies to best support family caregivers and coordinate strategy across government agencies & programs. The National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) was heavily involved in developing the RAISE strategy and is currently represented on the Council.

The **RAISE Council** is an essential element in a cohesive and coordinated National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers

NAC supports funding request of **$400,000**

Native American Caregiver Support Services

Title VI (C) in the OAA establishes the Native American Caregiver Support Services, which provides culturally appropriate caregiver supports for tribal communities, including information and outreach; access and resource assistance; individual counseling; support groups; caregiver training; and respite care.

In 2021, **Title VI (C)** provided services to more than **237,000 tribal elders**[2]

Title VI (C) elders reported an average of **36% fewer hospital visits** for all causes than elders outside the program[2]

NAC supports funding request of **$18,000,000**

1. https://www.caregiving.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/National-Family-Caregiver-Support-Program.pdf
2. https://generations.asaging.org/title-vi-older-americans-act/

Caregiving Affects Us All

Support for caregiving services within the Older Americans Act (OAA) is critical to address the continuous and growing need for home and community-based care. With 63+ million family caregivers - or 1 in 4 adults - providing ongoing, complex care for family and friends in every state and every community, the need for meaningful policy action has never been greater.

29%

of caregivers are **sandwich generation caregivers**, meaning they are caring for both children and adults[1]

30%

of family caregivers have been providing care for **more than 5 years**[1]

44%

of caregivers are in **high-intensity caregiving situations**, providing 27 or more hours of care/week[1]

64%

of caregivers report feeling high **emotional stress** and many also experience physical strain and negative financial impacts[1]

$1.01 Trillion

annual value of unpaid care provided by caregivers across the U.S.[1]

CURRENT STATUS OF THE OAA

Authorization expired September 2024

The Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Act (S.2120), which reauthorizes the OAA through FY2030 with an approximately 18% increase in funding over the next four years, passed the Senate with unanimous consent on July 14, 2026. The bill now sits with the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which NAC urges to swiftly pass S. 2120.

The OAA Reauthorization provides:

- grants to support nutrition services
- grants to support counseling and resource assistance, supportive services, and transportation
- regional resource centers for aging and disability and senior centers
- programs to prevent elder abuse & neglect and protect nursing home residents

About the National Alliance for Caregiving

The National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) is a catalyst for change, transforming how the United States recognizes, supports, and values our 63+ million family caregivers providing complex care. Through our nationally recognized research and advocacy for the first-ever National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers, we drive the policy, system, and culture change needed to make family caregivers a national priority. To learn more, visit caregiving.org.

1. https://www.caregiving.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/National-Family-Caregiver-Support-Program.pdf