Older Americans Act:
Wartburg College – Understanding Financial Supports and Benefits for Older Iowans

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Older Americans Act of 1965

Lyndon Johnson signing the OAA, 1965
OAA, Influenced by Political and Policy Trends in Aging

1965: Legacy of the Great Society: One of the foundation pieces for evolving public policy on aging

1970s: New Federalism: State and area agency on aging infrastructure development

1980s: National policy focus on nursing home reform and Medicaid HCBS waivers: OAA authorization for ombudsman program and Title III funding priority on home care services
Timeline of Major Amendments

1972: Nutrition program authorized

1978: Home-delivered meals authorized and ombudsman services required

2000: National family caregiver support program authorized

1965: AAAs created; multipurpose senior centers and community service employment authorized

1992: Elder rights recognized

2006: HCBS systems through ADRCs, evidence-based health promotion services

2012: How best to position the Act for the baby boom population and the vulnerable elderly?

2012: Formation of Administration on Community Living (ACL). Merger of Administration on Aging, the Office on Disability and the Administration on Development Disability
OAA: Major Amendments

**1965 Act** was one of the foundation pieces for evolving public policy on aging

- Creation of strategies, programs, and services to meet needs of older people
- Provision of tangible and intangible help to innumerable older people
- Continuous and dynamic identification of needs of older people
- Development of nationwide aging infrastructure
- Recruitment of thousands of career professionals to field of aging
1967-1973: State and area agency on aging infrastructure development

- Increased state agency authority for statewide planning and coordination (1967, 1969, 1973)
- AAAs created; States and AAAs required to develop a comprehensive and coordinated service system (1973)
- AAAs primary responsibility: coordinate services, stimulate expansion of services, serve as advocates for, and exercise leadership on behalf of, older persons (1973)
- AAAs —not intended to be —primary provider of services (1973)
**OAA: Major Amendments**

**1972-1978**: Beginning of specific service programs

- National nutrition program (1972)
- Multipurpose senior centers (1973)
- Community service employment (1973)
- Separate authorization for home-delivered meals (1978)
- Long-term care ombudsman program (1978)
1978-1992: Consolidation, coordination, and streamlining

- **1978**: Consolidation of titles for State/AAA operations, nutrition services, and senior centers
- **1987**: New and separate authorizations for in-home services, health education and promotion, elder abuse prevention and long-term care ombudsman, etc.
- **1992**: Again, major restructuring by creating a new Title VII for Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities
OAA: Major Amendments

2000
- National family caregiver support program authorized
- Cost-sharing recognized

2006 (examples)
- Greater focus on development of home and community-based services and systems development
- Implement Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) in all states
- SUAs and AAAs to focus on planning for baby boom population

2011 Reauthorization (?) stay tuned . . . . . . . . . . . .
## 2006 OAA Titles

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<td>Title I</td>
<td>Declaration of Objectives; definitions</td>
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OAA Programs and Funding, FY 2010

Total Funding = $2.3 billion

As a percentage of total OAA funding, $1.913 billion
FY13 – OAA Funding

FFY 2013 Older Americans Act Authorization
Iowa Department on Aging [$16,388,908]
Themes in Legislative Developments

Participation of older people in OAA programs

• Universal vs. targeted participation
  – No means-testing
  – Focus on —greatest social and economic need
  – Low income and minority older people
  – People with Alzheimer’s disease; frail elderly; those at risk for institutionalization; limited English proficiency
  – Rural constituencies
  – Caregivers
  – Abused, neglected, exploited older persons, both in home and institutional settings
Themes in Legislative Developments

• Tension between federally designated services and state and local needs
  – For example, congressional directives for mandatory services, but states allowed to transfer of funds between supportive and nutrition services
• Consolidation, simplification, flexibility vs. increasing number of congressionally imposed requirements
• Planning, coordination, and advocacy functions vs. management of specific service programs
Themes in Legislative Developments

Title III formula controversies

- How to equitably distribute funds

Specific statutory recognition of functions already performed by state/area agencies (law catch-up)

- For example, outreach for public benefits, HCBS

Some R&D initiatives become operating programs

- For example, nutrition program, long-term care ombudsman, HCBS waivers
Policy Questions for Reauthorization

How should Act be positioned to prepare for baby boom population?

• How should current programs be altered to accommodate changing older population? (for example, nutrition, senior center modernization? More focus on HCBS?)

• How to balance universal participation with focus on special populations?

• Increased authority for AoA?
Policy Questions for Reauthorization

How to balance interest group requests for new authorities with requests for increased appropriations?

• Are authorizing programs too broad or too restrictive for relatively limited funding?

• What is needed most? New programs, expanded authority, flexibility, and/or increased funding?

• How do new programs affect funding for existing programs? ADRC??
Beyond the OAA

Management of Medicaid and state-funded HCBS programs
  • 2/3 of SUAs and 60% of AAAs manage Medicaid HCBS waivers
  • Some SUAs have played a pivotal role in state LTSS systems redesign

Management of adult protective services funds
  • 31 SUAs and almost half of AAAs manage APS funds

State Health Insurance Program (SHIP)
  • 2/3 of SUAs and AAAs manage CMS’ SHIP funds
  • (Moving to ACL)
OAA: Broad Mission, Limited Resources

• Many advocates say OAA resources have not kept pace with increasing older population
• Effect of state budgetary woes on aging programs
• Aging network successful in leveraging non-OAA funds and in developing varied services programs; will this continue?
• The aging of the baby boom and their caregivers will pose challenges for the aging infrastructure
LifeLong Links

1 – 866 – 468 – 7887
Older Iowans Act

Iowa Code 231
Elder Iowans Act

Provides Authority to:

• Establishes Iowa Department on Aging as the designated State Unit on Aging
• Establishes Commission, duties and authorities
• Administer/aligns programs with Older Americans Act
• Administers Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) – LifeLong Links
Percent of IDA State General Fund Approps in relationship to entire State FY13 Budget

FY 2013 General Fund Appropriations

- Department on Aging: 0.16%
- State of Iowa: 99.84%
IDA Approps FY13

$10,342,086.
Questions

Sources:
- Funding for the Older Americans Act and Other Aging Services Programs: Congressional Research Service (February 22, 2013)
Thank you

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