

The Senior Alliance **COLLOQUY**

The Senior Alliance's Monthly Advocacy Update

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*Welcome to The Senior Alliance's advocacy newsletter, COLLOQUY!
This monthly e-mail is a look at the issues, legislation, and events impacting aging.*

Federal Budget Update

On July 31, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced its FY 2026 Labor/Health and Human Services (HHS) spending bill on a bipartisan basis. The measure maintains nearly level funding for most Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, with the exception of Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support Program funding, which receives a \$2 million increase over FY 2025 to further implementation of the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers.

The legislation also preserves funding for several programs targeted for elimination in the President's FY 2026 budget request, including the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and the OAA's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

Congress will return from August recess in early September and negotiations over FY 2026 spending are expected to resume. The House has not yet released its version of the Labor/HHS bill.

Take action and reach out to your Representatives to urge them to increase OAA funding and safeguard other essential programs in the House bill.

[Take Action on OAA](#)

State Budget Update

Michigan House passed an \$78.5 billion budget on August 26th. The budget includes \$3.4 billion for roads, \$115 million for public safety, and flexibility for school districts to support initiatives such as free school lunches, transportation, and textbooks. The budget eliminates state taxes on tips, overtime, and Social Security.

The budget now heads to the Michigan Senate for review. The Michigan Legislature has until September 30th to agree on a spending plan and get that budget before Governor Whitmer to sign into law. If lawmakers fail to do that, the state will face a government shutdown.

The Senior Alliance is closely monitoring the state budget process to ensure the needs of older adults remain a priority throughout negotiations.

Advocate for Older Adult Programs & Services

The Senior Alliance is actively advocating for programs that are vital to the independence and well-being of older adults in our community.

Senior Community Service Employment Program, SCSEP, provides older adults with job training and part-time employment opportunities that help build skills, confidence, and financial stability.

State Health Insurance Assistance Program, SHIP, offers free, unbiased Medicare counseling to ensure older adults can make informed decisions about their health coverage.

MI Choice makes it possible for individuals to receive care and services in their homes or communities, rather than moving into a nursing facility. MI Choice is essential.

Together, these programs help older adults remain active, informed, and independent. The Senior Alliance is committed to protecting and strengthening them--but we can't do it alone. Visit our website or take action below to learn more about these programs and to ensure they remain available for the older adults we serve.

MI Choice

State Health Insurance Assistance Program

Senior Community Service Employment Program

Advocate!