

THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT - A LINK TO SERVICES

The Older Americans Act of 1965 affirms our country's high sense of responsibility toward the well being of older citizens. The assistance it offers has expanded tremendously over the years to include a wide range of services that touch many lives and communities across the land. Most importantly, it provides an essential stimulus - through partnership of federal government with state and local governments, the private sector, and older people themselves - for creating a comprehensive and coordinated service system aimed at improving the lives of older Americans.

The goal of the OAA is to remove barriers to economic and personal independence and to assure the availability of appropriate services for those individuals who need them. The law's present emphasis on the frail elderly - many of who are, or will be, in nursing homes - and on community-based long term care offers a tremendous opportunity for hospitals and the OAA social services network to work together in addressing specific community problems.

The Older Americans Act embraces the following objectives for assuring:

- an adequate income
- the best possible physical and mental health
- suitable housing
- full restorative services for those who require institutional care, including a comprehensive array of community-based long term care services
- opportunity for employment
- retirement in health, honor, and dignity
- civic, cultural, educational and recreational opportunities
- benefits from research
- freedom to plan and manage their lives

Though the original objectives of the OAA remain much the same today, emphasis on community-based long term care services, on the vulnerable elderly, on services for victims of Alzheimer's disease and special training for those who will care for such individuals were more recently incorporated in the legislation. The new reauthorization bill of 2000 is for a five-year period and maintains the seven distinct titles, consolidates subparts, and adds new programs.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT

<p>Title I Declaration of Objectives; Definitions</p> <p>Title II Administration on Aging</p> <p>Title III Grants for State and Community Part A General Provision Part B Supportive Services (In-home, Assistance for Special Needs of Older Adults, Supportive Activities for Caretakers) and Senior Centers Part C Nutrition Services Subpart 1 – Congregate Nutrition Subpart 2 – Home Delivered Meals Part D Disease Prevention & Health Promotion Part E National Family Caregivers Support</p> <p>Title IV Training, Research, & Discretionary Projects and Programs Part A Grant Programs Part B General Provisions</p>	<p>Title V Community Service Employment for Older Americans</p> <p>Title VI Grants for Native Americans Part A - Indian Programs Part B - Native Hawaiian Programs Part B - Native American Caregivers Support Program</p> <p>Title VII Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities Subtitle A – State Provisions Chapter 1 General State Provisions Chapter 2 Ombudsman Programs Chapter 3 Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Chapter 4 State Legal Assistance Development Subtitle B - Native American Organization Provisions Subtitle C – General Provisions</p>
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