

Senator Sanders' Older Americans Act 2011 Amendments

1. Increased funding levels in 4 core areas throughout Act

- Meals programs increased by 50% - \$1.2 Billion
- SCSEP program increased by 50% - \$660 Million
- Supportive Services increased by 50% - \$551 Million
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention increased by 50% - \$32 Million

2. Meals program improvements and streamlining

- To maintain the integrity of separate meals programs - a 40% floor for congregate meals programs, a 35% floor for the home-delivered meals programs and the remaining 25% shall be used for either home-delivered or congregate meals – including transportation costs associated with meals
- Changing the transfer authority from III-B and III-C from 30% to 25%

3. Preventive health care through innovative models and access to primary care

- Including Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) language in the Act to encourage collaboration with FQHCs
- Allowing states to give all preventive services funding to AAAs, or to programs with demonstrated and evidence based prevention models, or to retain funding for prevention services coordinated by the state
- Listing out the 7 tested clinical preventive services and diabetes screening

4. Jobs: Seniors Helping Seniors

- Requiring SCSEP programs to enter into agreements with entities within the Act or any other approved entity in order to increase the numbers of eligible individuals' placements to be within entities who help other seniors with a goal of achieving 50% of total placements
- Require that DOL and AoA complete a feasibility study in response to the Administration's suggestion that SCSEP be moved to AoA

5. Updating the CPI-E

- Adopted recommendations from GAO on how the CPI-E can be expanded and improved to be used in the future for the COLA.
- Require BLS to report to Congress within 2 years of enactment

6. Economic Security

- Updating the declaration of objectives to state "Economic Security in later life in accordance with the American standard of living" instead of "An adequate income in retirement in accordance with..."
- Re-defining "greatest economic need" to 200% of FPL
- The term economic security has been defined as having the income necessary to pay for housing, health care, transportation, food, long-term care, and goods and services to meet other basic needs

7. Safety and Protection: Ombudsman program and legal services improvements

- Strengthen the independence of the Ombudsman program and to clarify conflicts of interest and an issue with maintenance of effort provisions with regard to state funding for this program
- Allowing some National Caregiver Support Program dollars to be used to support family and resident councils in nursing homes
- Giving states flexibility to select an agency to coordinate legal services contracts
- Updated requirements for the Legal Services Developer position

8. Modernized Senior Centers and Community Planning for an aging population

- Adding language encouraging existing funds to be used to modernize senior centers in order to encourage participation in Older Americans Act programs and services by more seniors
- New provision in Title III creating a Community Planning grant program to be administered by AoA and implemented by the States who receive the grant

9. Re-defining "greatest social need" to include Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and HIV positive older individuals. Also including persons with Alzheimer's disease in this definition.