



National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs

1612 K Street, NW Suite 400 Washington, DC 20006

(202) 682-6899 (202) 223-2099 fax

www.nanasp.org

NANASP 2016 RESOLUTIONS

Older Americans Act

WHEREAS the Older Americans Act reauthorization was signed into law as P.L. 114-144 by President Barack Obama on April 19, 2016;

WHEREAS federal fiscal year 2017, which begins on October 1, 2016, marks the first year of funding for the new Older Americans Act reauthorization;

WHEREAS the President in his fiscal year 2017 budget proposed funding increases of \$13.8 million for congregate and home delivered meals and \$10 million for home and community-based services;

WHEREAS even with recent prior funding increases, overall funding for Older Americans Act programs has actually decreased over the past decade;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP urges Congress to adhere to the bipartisan two-year budget agreement from 2015 which will prevent sequestration and will allow for increases in non-discretionary defense programs. NANASP supports at a minimum the funding levels proposed by the President to help address the needs of Older Americans Act programs as the older adult population continues to grow.

Elder Justice

WHEREAS elder abuse in America is a growing crisis affecting one in ten older adults;

WHEREAS the landmark Elder Justice Act is now six years old;

WHEREAS this Act has prompted a more coordinated federal response to elder abuse;

WHEREAS too many seniors are victimized by scams, fraud, and other forms of financial exploitation;

WHEREAS elder abuse must be seen as a crime in all jurisdictions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP supports, at a minimum, the President's fiscal year 2017 budget proposals for programs to combat elder abuse, including Title VII of the Older Americans Act and the Elder Justice Initiative under the Administration for Community Living.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NANASP urges the Department of Justice to use their increases in funding for crime victim programs to help more elder abuse victims.

Malnutrition

WHEREAS older adult malnutrition is a growing national problem, affecting up to 70 percent of hospitalized older adults;¹

WHEREAS up to 56 percent of older adults are at risk of being malnourished;²

WHEREAS disease-associated malnutrition in older adults in the United States may cost up to \$51.3 billion annually;³

WHEREAS malnutrition leads to more complications, falls, and readmissions, and can prolong hospital stays by four to six days;^{4,5}

WHEREAS malnutrition is greatly under-detected in the older adult population, both in and out of the hospital;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP supports using malnutrition as a vital sign and indicator of older adult health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NANASP supports the greater use of malnutrition screening and interventions across the health care spectrum and the development of quality measures to address screening and interventions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NANASP supports better access to affordable high-nutrient foods for older adults as another means of malnutrition prevention and intervention.

Medicare Part B

WHEREAS on March 8, 2016 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed a rule that would impose a new Medicare Part B payment model;

WHEREAS Medicare Part B covers prescription drugs that are administered in a physician's office or hospital outpatient department, such as medicines used to treat conditions common among older adults including cancer, macular degeneration, hypertension and rheumatoid arthritis;

WHEREAS on a bipartisan basis, House and Senate members, through letters to CMS, have raised serious concerns about the proposed rule and its potential negative impact on Medicare beneficiaries' access to physician-administered drugs, as well as its impact on physician participation in existing Medicare delivery and payment reform models, especially physicians in small independent and rural practices;

WHEREAS a recent study indicates that both urban and rural hospitals will see as much as a two percent reduction in their Part B drug payments;

WHEREAS the proposed rule was issued with no discernible input from stakeholders representing older adults and patient groups, and the first phase of this proposed rule could take effect as early as August of 2016;

¹ Mogensen K., DiMaria-Ghalili RA. Today's Dietitian, 2010;17(9):56.

² Id.

³ Snider JT, et al. JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr. 2014;38(2 Suppl):77S-85S.

⁴ Norman K, et al. Clin Nutr. 2008;27(1):5-15.

⁵ Izawa S, et al. Clin Nutr. 2006;25(6):962-967.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP calls on CMS not to move forward with any aspect of this demonstration or any similar demonstration until the agency has engaged those affected by these proposed changes, from patients to physicians to hospitals, in a dialogue to share the concerns they have raised.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while NANASP is encouraged by comments made by a CMS official that the agency is open to change, the agency should withdraw this proposed rule and work with Congress on addressing the bipartisan concerns that have been raised.

Presidential Platforms

WHEREAS there are less than six months before the November election;

WHEREAS in addition to electing a new President, the entire House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate are also standing for election;

WHEREAS older voters become more significant as they will increase from 16 percent of the voting population in 2012 to 23 percent in 2016;

WHEREAS surveys have indicated that older voters care more about candidates' positions on issues;

WHEREAS issues related to older adults and their families have not been featured to date in the campaign for President;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP, as a bipartisan membership organization working on behalf of older adults, calls on all candidates for national office as well as their political parties to specifically address issues of importance to older adults and their families, and also calls on moderators of political debates and the national media to raise these issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NANASP offers to be an informational resource to candidates on a bipartisan basis and looks forward to working with a new President on shaping aging policies.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

WHEREAS the Senior Community Service Employment Program, or SCSEP, is the largest federally-funded program which targets older adults seeking employment;

WHEREAS SCSEP was just reauthorized as part of the Older Americans Act reauthorization in April 2016;

WHEREAS the President's FY 2016 budget request proposes maintaining the SCSEP funding levels from FY 2016 at \$434 million for FY 2017;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP supports the maintenance of the \$434 million funding level from FY 2016 at a minimum and would like to see these funding levels increased to reflect the increase in minimum wage in certain states and localities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NANASP supports the implementation of the amendments to SCSEP as called for in the 2016 Older Americans Act reauthorization which aligns it with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act while continuing SCSEP's community service and healthy aging goals.

Increasing Digital Inclusion/Internet Access for All Older Americans

WHEREAS using the Internet at home can be a critical resource for older Americans to maintain their health, well-being, and independence, as well as reduce isolation and enhance socialization with their friends, family, and community; and

WHEREAS currently 18 million Americans 65 and older are not online; and

WHEREAS 89% of Americans 65 years and older with incomes of \$50,000 or more and some college education are already Internet users, but only 22% of 65 years and older with family incomes below \$20,000 and no college education use the Internet; and

WHEREAS lack of perceived relevance and appropriate digital literacy training are barriers to Internet use among older Americans, in addition to cost;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP applauds new efforts to increase Internet access (including the Federal Communications Commission's modernized Lifeline program) among offline older Americans, especially those with less income and education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nutrition and aging services programs—as trusted community institutions—consider partnerships with local initiatives seeking to increase Internet access among older Americans.

These position resolutions were adopted by the NANASP Board of Directors on May 31, 2016 and by the NANASP Membership on June 3, 2016.

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