



National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs

1612 K Street, NW Suite 200 Washington, DC 20006

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

www.nanasp.org

March 16, 2017

A statement issued by Bob Blancato, Executive Director, National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP):

NANASP strongly opposes the initial Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposed by President Trump today.

It is a mean-spirited budget, targeting its greatest harm on those most in need.

Prominent examples of proposed eliminations of funding which would particularly harm vulnerable older adults include:

- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Legal Services Corporation

This will put older adults' health at risk, promote unemployment for some 65,000 low-income older adults, and cripple our ability to provide needed services in our communities for persons of all ages.

We also strongly reject the proposed elimination of funding for Senior Corps, including the RSVP, Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs, which have helped so many of our members' programs over the years.

In addition, we strongly oppose the level of funding cuts proposed for the Department of Health and Human Services, which would see its budget slashed by more than 16 percent. While details are still emerging, it is hard to see how key programs that provide vital nutrition services to older adults, like the Older Americans Act and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), are not reduced. These programs now operate on the edge in terms of funding and any reductions will mean service disruptions and waiting lists for needy older adults.

We intend to work individually and collectively with other aging organizations to keep this budget from ever passing.

About NANASP:

Founded in 1977, NANASP is proud to be a leading organization advocating for community-based senior nutrition programs and staff. Our member programs represent a wide range of essential services providers who support the nutrition, health and life quality of seniors. With over 1,100 members from across the United States, we are national advocates for senior health and wellbeing who strengthen the policies and programs that nourish seniors. We accomplish this mission through a collective national voice and through local community action.