History of Aging Policies in the United States: The Older American Act

1935: Social Security Act
- President Roosevelt
- Great Depression → New Deal
  - Goals: stimulate job growth, provide relief, economic recovery

1965: Older Americans Act
- President Johnson
  - Enacted OAA
    - Administration on Aging
  - Also allowed for Medicare/Medicaid under Social Security Act
Older Americans Act (1965)

“The Older Americans Act clearly affirms our Nation’s sense of responsibility toward the well-being of all our older citizens. But even more, the results of this act will help us to expand our opportunities for enriching the lives of our citizens in this country, now and in the years to come”

- President Lyndon B. Johnson
July 14, 1965

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OAA Title I – Objectives 1-7

- An adequate income
- Best possible physical and mental health
- Suitable housing
- Full restorative services
- Opportunity for employment
- Retirement in health, honor, and dignity
- Participate and contribute to meaningful activity

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OAA Title I: Objectives: 8-10

- Efficient community services
- Immediate benefit from research findings
- Freedom, independence, and free exercise of individual initiative
OAA Title II: Administration on Aging

- The Administration on Aging (AoA) is responsible for carrying out OAA Objectives
  - Assistant Secretary (appointed by Pres.)
  - Oversight of Area Agencies on Aging
- Data gathering
- Setting policies
- Coordinating efforts among fed, state, local agencies as well as private and public agencies

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OAA Title III: Grants for State and Community Programs in Aging

- Older Americans Act
  - Administration on Aging (federal)
    - Office on Aging (state)
      (can be independent or part of DHHS)
  - Area Agencies on Aging
    (can be county, city, town, or private nonprofit agency)

Older Americans Act

Outline
1. Title III – State and Community Programs
2. Title IV – Training and Research
3. Title V – Community Service Employment
4. Title VI – Native American
5. Title VII – Elder Rights and Protection
6. Get Into Grant Proposal Groups
Title III: State and Community Programs and Services

- Largest section of the OAA
- Lists responsibilities of state and local agencies

Part A – General Provisions
- Monies provided to states are based on the number of older adults over age 60
- The governor must select a state agency (State Unit on Aging – SUA) to set up multi-year plans to carry out programs
- State agency is responsible to be an advocate for older adults
- Bare minimum services
  - Access services, in-home services, legal assistance

Part B – Support Services for Senior Centers
- Must follow Federal, SUA, and AAA guidelines for special populations: rural, those in most economic and social need, specific guidelines for low-income minority older adults
- Supportive Services
  - Health
  - Transportation
  - Info and Assistance
  - Housing
  - LTC
  - Legal Assistance
  - Services to Encourage Employment
  - Crime Prevention
Title III: State and Community Programs and Services

- Part C – Congregate and Home Delivered Nutrition Services

Title III: State and Community Programs and Services

- Part D – Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs) – CIRC Maps
Title III: State and Community Programs and Services

Part E – National Family Caregiver Support Program

Title IV: Training, Research, and Discretionary Projects & Programs

- In order for programs implemented by OAA, SUAs, AAA to have ongoing Must have research!
- Grants given to eligible
  - Public non-profit agencies, organize, institutions
  - Private non-profit agencies, organize, institutions
- Grants awarded for 1 to 4 years
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title V: Community Service Employment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promote useful part-time employment in community service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement: low income, 55 years or older</td>
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<tr>
<th>Title VI: Native American</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians</td>
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<tr>
<td>Same programs under Title III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants can be given if have at least 50 persons over age 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special issues:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Restore dignity</td>
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<td>- Restore self-respect</td>
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<td>- Restore cultural identities</td>
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<tr>
<th>Title VII: Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Created in 1992 by Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>OA who may need advocacy b/c of physical/mental disability, social isolation, limited education, and limited financial resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Ombudsman Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Legal Assistance Development Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>AoA Strategic Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Increase the number of OA access to health care and social supports</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Increase the number of active and healthy OA</td>
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<td>3. Increase the support for family caregivers</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Increase the number of OA who use elder rights programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Strengthen the effectiveness of AoA management</td>
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