



July 14, 2016

[Celebrating 51 Years of the Older Americans Act](#)

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

President Lyndon B. Johnson spoke these words 51 years ago today as he signed [the Older Americans Act](#) (OAA) into law. In the decades since, the OAA has indeed enriched the lives of many as the foundation for a system of services and supports that helps millions of older adults continue to work, play, and volunteer in their communities, to the great benefit of all. The OAA underpins a promise to preserve the right to live independently, with dignity, making everyday decisions according to our individual preferences and goals across our lifespan.

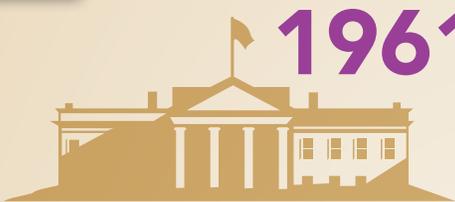
In April of this year, Congress passed and the President signed [a reauthorization of the OAA](#), reaffirming our nation’s commitment to the health and well-being of older adults. This was the latest of many milestones for the law over the last 51 years.

Learn about earlier milestones and the OAA’s impact on older adults today.

THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT: AGING WELL SINCE 1965

1960: 16.6 Million Older Adults Living in the U.S.

1961



1st White House Conference on Aging held in Washington, DC Led to key legislation, including the OAA

1965



OLDER AMERICANS ACT (OAA) ENACTED

Administration on Aging and state agencies on aging created

1970: 20.1 Million Older Adults Living in the U.S.



1972

Enacted: Congregate Nutrition Program

1973



Enacted: Area Agencies on Aging, Multi-purpose Senior Centers, and Community Service Employment Program

1978

New Requirement: Long-term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Services

Enacted: Home-delivered Nutrition Program



Enacted: Services for Native Americans Program



1980: 25.5 Million Older Adults Living in the U.S.



1987

Enacted: Disease Prevention, Health Promotion, and Elder Abuse Prevention Activities



LTC Ombudsman Program received separate authorization of funds

1990: 31.2 Million Older Adults Living in the U.S.



Separate authority for elder rights activities bringing together LTC Ombudsman; prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and state legal assistance development programs

1992

1993

Commissioner on Aging elevated to Assistant Secretary for Aging

2000: 35 Million Older Adults Living in the U.S.



2000

Enacted: National Family Caregiver Support Program

2006

Enacted:

- Home and Community-Based LTC Development Activities
- Evidence-based Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services



Authority to implement Aging and Disability Resource Centers in all states

2015: 47.8 Million Older Adults Living in the U.S.*

Learn more at <http://acl.gov/>