

Advocacy Accomplishments

2017

- Medicaid funding and structure preserved, despite year-long efforts to transform it into block grants or per-capita capped allocations to the states
- Moratorium (through 11/28/2018) on civil monetary penalties for deficiencies cited under Phase II of the new nursing home requirements of participation in Medicare and Medicaid
- Tax legislation preserved medical expense deduction and tax-exempt status of private activity bonds

Bipartisan Budget Act, signed into law February 9, 2018

- Medicare therapy caps repealed after 21 years of never saving any money. We advocated heavily for repeal for many years.
- Medicare home health rural add-on extended for 5 years
- Nursing homes' 2019 Medicare payment update set at 2.4%.
 - CMS later calculated the update would have been 1.8% under prior law.
- Home health Medicare payment update set at 1.5%; would have been 1.4% under prior law
- CHRONIC Care Act provisions included – expands Medicare coverage of telehealth and extends the Independence at Home demonstration program
 - Independence at Home tests effectiveness of delivering primary care at home
 - Currently 16 programs in 13 states (1 in the Boston area)
- Budget caps on domestic discretionary programs raised, allowing for increased spending on senior housing and services programs in 2018 and 2019

Consolidated 2018 Appropriations Act, signed into law March 23, 2018

This measure funds federal discretionary programs through the end of the 2018 fiscal year (September 30, 2018).

We advocated heavily for the housing provisions listed below. We worked primarily in coalitions with other stakeholders on the HCBS, research and workforce provisions listed.

Affordable senior housing

- Bill provides some of the highest funding levels most housing programs have seen in years.
- Includes \$105 million for new Section 202 construction and project-based rental assistance, the first new construction funding for Section 202 since fiscal 2011 (except for a little bit of money last year).
- Expands HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration to include Section 202 communities with Project Rental Assistance Contracts ("RAD for PRAC").

- LeadingAge priority for several years
- Gives senior housing providers a proven way to bring private financing to the preservation of their communities.
- Funds all Project-Based Rental Assistance renewals and new Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities construction
- Increases funding for the Housing Choice Voucher, public housing, homeless assistance, HOME, and healthy housing programs.
- Authorizes “income averaging” in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program to better serve lower income households
- Includes a four-year 12.5% increase to states’ LIHTC allocations to counter losses faced after the 2017 tax legislation cut corporate income tax rates.

Home- and Community-Based Services

- National Family Caregiver Support program - \$180 million, a \$30 million/20% increase over 2017
- Congregate and home-delivered meals - \$40 million and \$19 million increase over 2017 respectively
- Supportive services and senior centers - \$34.9 million increase over 2017
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) - \$250 million increase for total funding of \$3.6 billion
- Social Services Block Grants, which many states use to provide elder services – level funded at \$1.7 billion
- Falls prevention - \$2 million
- Health promotion related to Alzheimer’s Disease - \$4.5 million

Workforce

- Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program – a \$2 million increase over 2017
- Geriatrics education programs - \$40.7 million

Research

\$2.5 billion for National Institute on Aging