



American Association of Service Coordinators

# **2018 Policy Priorities**

# Preserve & Expand

**SINCE 1999, the American Association of Service Coordinators has represented the interests of service coordinators while also providing guidance and training.**

**Our more than 3,000 members play a pivotal role in nationwide efforts to promote self-sufficiency among older adults, persons with disabilities and families living in affordable housing.**

Each year, AASC sets policy priorities that guide our organization's work as well as our legislative advocacy. These priorities are targeted to the programs that directly impact service coordination. Therefore, they don't encompass the myriad of federal policies and resources affecting Americans living in affordable and public housing, which AASC also watches closely and cares deeply about.

We believe it's necessary that decision makers at all levels take service coordination into consideration as part of a holistic approach to preparing for a massive demographic shift that is currently underway. As our aging population continues to grow rapidly, the nation at-large will look to provide older adults better, more affordable care. A need to replenish the workforce and keep the economy moving will also require an emphasis on job training. Service coordinators are already working to achieve those goals and countless others.



**As lawmakers develop policies that impact service coordinators and their residents, we hope they'll follow the guiding principles in AASC's 2018 policy priorities. These include:**

**PRESERVING** programs that are vital to the safety, health and security of older adults, persons with disabilities, and families. Protecting resources for low-income Americans provides more opportunities for service coordinators to assist and empower them.

**EXPANDING** service coordination to more safe and affordable housing communities as part of a comprehensive effort to improve the quality of life for residents and promote long-term federal, state and local cost savings.

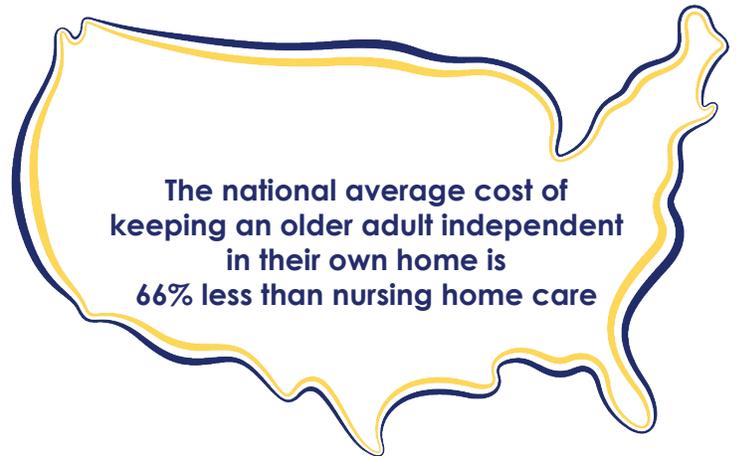
**National average cost of service-coordinator-enriched housing for older adults. Average nursing home costs are \$7,148 monthly.**

Homemaker/Home Health Services	\$1,700
Rent Subsidy	\$489 <sup>3</sup>
Food Stamps/SNAP Benefit	\$192 <sup>4</sup>
Cost of a Service Coordinator	\$56 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Total Monthly Expense:</b>	<b>\$2,437</b>

According to FamilyMetrics data, service coordinators working with families provided more than 500,000 services to more than 52,000 households in 2016. Youth development, homeownership and employment services were among the most common provided to families.

Meanwhile, 2,202 service coordinators using the AASC *Online* documentation system delivered more than 5.4 million supportive services to 295,000 older adults and persons with disabilities living in affordable housing.

Ninety-one percent of older and disabled adults living in affordable housing and receiving service coordinator direction on health care, benefits, meals and home management remained in their communities that year.



**Service coordinators assess residents’ needs and link them with resources in the community as well as facilitate on-site programs. Policy makers can help.**

AASC thanks Congress for recent funding increases for HUD and other specific programs that provide safety nets for low-income Americans. For Fiscal Year 2019, we propose continued investments and sound policy making in existing affordable housing initiatives as well as:

- Older Americans Act  
Social Security**
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
Community Development Block Grant**
- Medicare and Medicaid  
Social Services Block Grant**

We strongly oppose any efforts to weaken or eliminate programs that have been proven to promote housing, financial, health and mental stability among the nation’s most vulnerable citizens. We will push back against proposals to impose additional work requirements for entitlement programs and increase rents on the lowest-income Americans.

**FY19 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

- \$30 million in new funding to support SCs in 500 additional Section 202 communities
- \$600 million for Section 202 housing, which will allow for new construction
- Reasonable increase to the HUD budget to provide safe and affordable housing to the nearly 75% of families currently eligible for federal assistance but unable to receive it
- Sufficient funding to protect the nation’s existing 1.1 million units of public housing



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