

Great Gains for the Administration on Aging

The excellent news is that the Administration on Aging (AoA) emerged from the President's budget a big winner, securing significant increases for several core Older Americans Act (OAA) programs through inclusion of the Middle Class Task Force's Caregiver Initiative, as well as dramatically expanding their budget and reach by incorporating several aging-related existing programs from other federal agencies.

Assistant Secretary on Aging Kathy Greenlee's goal of strengthening and enhancing the capacity of AoA was realized through the migration to AoA of the State Health Insurance Program (SHIPs) from CMS and OAA's Title V from the Department of Labor; the creation of Elder Justice Act funding for Adult Protective Services within AoA; and with the previously announced placement of the CLASS program within the agency.

At a budget briefing yesterday attended by n4a CEO Sandy Markwood, Assistant Secretary Greenlee shared her top priorities for the FY 2012 AoA budget: Elder Justice, Caregiver Initiative, CLASS program, and bringing the SHIPs and Title V's SCSEP to AoA.

Funding Gains:

For the second budget in a row, OAA **Title III B (Supportive Services)** would see a significant boost in FY 2012 under the President's budget. As part of the Administration's Caregiver Initiative, Title III B would see a 13 percent increase over FY 2010, or \$48 million in additional dollars.

The **National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)**, OAA Title III E, would also receive \$38 million more as part of the Caregiver Initiative, which equates to a 25 percent increase over the FY 2010 level. This is just a slight reduction over last year's recommended increase.

While not in OAA, the **Lifespan Respite** program administered by AoA makes great strides in this budget, increasing from less than \$3 million in FY 2010 to a funding level of \$10 million. This program is also a part of the Caregiver Initiative.

The **Title VI Native American aging program's Part C** would receive \$2 million more under the Caregiving Initiative, a 31 percent increase. (Unlike last year's budget, there is no increase for Title VI Part A.)

Title VII Elder Abuse and LTC Ombudsman programs fared very well this year in the President's budget, with a boost of \$5 million for the state long-term care ombudsman program, bringing the overall level for Title VII to nearly \$26 million. Combined with the Elder Justice Act funding outlined below, these increases represent a new role for AoA on elder justice.