



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

News Release

202-690-6343

media@hhs.gov

www.hhs.gov/news

Twitter [@SpoxHHS](https://twitter.com/SpoxHHS)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2020

HHS Announces Grants to Provide Meals for Older Adults

Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing \$250 million in grants from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to help communities provide meals for older adults.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed into law by President Trump on March 18, 2020, provided the additional funding for the nutrition services programs authorized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965. These programs provide meals to more than 2.4 million older adults each year, both through home delivery and in places like community centers. The need for these services, particularly home-delivered and packaged meals, has increased as community measures to slow transmission of COVID-19 have closed meal sites and have left many family caregivers unable to assist their older loved ones.

“The Trump Administration recognizes that the measures needed to protect older Americans from the serious threat of COVID-19 have been disruptive for many of our most vulnerable,” said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. “Getting more funds to community organizations that deliver meals to older adults, such as Meals on Wheels, is another example of the Trump Administration’s whole-of-government, whole-of-America approach to combating the COVID-19 pandemic.”

In addition to meals, Older Americans Act programs provide a wide range of services, such as help with bathing and dressing, rides to doctors’ offices, education on managing chronic illnesses, support for family caregivers, and much [more](#). Provided by a network of community-based organizations, such as Area Agencies on Aging, local community and senior centers, faith-based organizations, and other non-profit service providers, these programs work together to help millions of older adults each year stay healthy and continue living independently.

“The network of community-based organizations that provide Older Americans Act services has an exceptional capacity to coordinate services, bring together service providers, and adapt to overcome challenges, and they are employing innovative solutions to continue meal services,” said ACL Administrator Lance Robertson. “This additional funding will help communities across the country provide older adults, especially those at greatest risk, with the healthy meals they need.”

Funding will be provided to states, territories and tribes this week for subsequent allocation to local meal providers.

Older adults who need assistance can contact the Eldercare Locator to find services available in their community. The Eldercare Locator can be reached at 1-800-677-1116 or <https://eldercare.acl.gov/>.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit CDC’s website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. For more information about the Older Americans Act nutrition programs, please visit [ACL.gov](https://acl.gov).

###

Follow [@SecAzar](https://twitter.com/SecAzar) on Twitter, like [HHS on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HHS), and sign up for [HHS Email Updates](https://www.hhs.gov/updates)