



The Federal Government Reopens: Congress Passes a Short-Term Spending Bill on November 12th

The longest government shutdown in U.S. history ended on November 12th after Congress approved, and the President signed, a spending bill to reopen the government. The spending package restores government funding but does not address the Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies, a central issue of the shutdown.

Overview

Key elements of the legislation include:

- Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging programs are funded through January 30th.
- Full funding for SNAP through fiscal year 2026, which is set to expire on September 30th.

More Information

OAA - Older Americans Act funding is extended through fiscal year 2026. This includes funding for other key aging initiatives, including Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). MIPPA provides funding for outreach and assistance to low-income Medicare beneficiaries.

SNAP - The USDA began issuing up to 65 percent of partial SNAP benefits last week after a federal court directed the agency to tap a contingency fund. States may experience delays in distributing the remaining benefits, as some SNAP processes at the state level were paused during the shutdown.

What Now?

Area Agencies on Aging may expect to see funds four to six weeks after a funding bill passes, according to national estimates. AgeOptions will continue to monitor and provide updates.

Thank you for being an advocate for our older adult family, friends and neighbors - your voice is an important part of our work. Continued advocacy in the weeks ahead is crucial to ensure OAA and other essential aging programs are fully protected in the next spending measure. Please visit our [Advocacy Alerts website](#) frequently in the coming weeks to continue to advocate for aging services.

Diane Slezak, CEO & President

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Slezak".