



March 2021

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

President Joe Biden signed the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) into law on March 11, 2021. For older adults, this bill provides various forms of genuine social and economic relief. Overall, the bill will lift [16 million](#) people of all ages out of poverty this year with its new programs, including the \$1,400 stimulus checks as well as child tax credits (which will help grandfamilies), SNAP increases, and rental assistance.

In traditional older adult programming, the Older Americans Act (OAA) will receive over \$1.4 billion in funding:

- \$750 million for OAA Title III-C nutrition
- \$460 million for OAA Title III-B supportive services, including vaccine-related services and social isolation alleviation
- \$145 million for OAA Title III-E caregiver support services
- \$44 million for OAA Title III-D preventive health services
- \$25 million for OAA Title VI A/C (tribal nutrition, supportive services, caregiver services)
- \$10 million for OAA Title VII long term care ombudsmen

Another important and historic provision in the new law is the \$276 million provided for elder justice funding for work related to the pandemic. For example, reports have been intensifying about vulnerable older adults falling victim to vaccine-related scams. In addition, this funding can help local and state efforts to stop the rash of hate crimes being directed against Asian Americans, including older adults.

For older adults living in long-term care facilities, this landmark law also includes \$500 million for nursing home strike teams and another \$200 million for nursing home infection control.

Nutrition assistance benefits should help many low-income older adults. This legislation includes \$37 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and a continuation of the 15 percent increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for SNAP participants, [which include 5.4 million people over the age of 60.](#)

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!

Please share questions, suggestions or concerns.

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Older workers have been directly impacted by the pandemic. According to the [New York Times](#), workers 65 and over suffered a 20 percent job loss from the pandemic—a higher rate than almost any other age group. They will be included in the law’s extension of pandemic unemployment programs, including the supplemental \$300 per week benefit that will last through September 6, 2021. Further, [almost 15 million persons](#) of all ages have lost their employer-based health insurance during the pandemic—this includes the “younger old” who might not yet qualify for Medicare. The American Rescue Plan Act will subsidize health insurance regardless of age for those who buy coverage through the exchanges. A related benefit is the inclusion of language to pay COBRA premiums for workers of all ages who lose their jobs.

With regard to housing, the law provides \$21.6 billion in emergency rental assistance, which will include older adult renters. Also, another \$5 billion is provided to secure safe, socially distant housing and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness, which is a growing crisis for older adults. It also includes \$10 billion in mortgage assistance.

Marcia Fudge Confirmed as HUD Secretary

Marcia Fudge was officially confirmed as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on March 10. Fudge has represented Northeast Ohio in Congress since 2008 and previously chaired the Congressional Black Caucus. Her appointment to Biden’s Cabinet leaves a vacancy in the House, where Democrats hold a narrow majority.

As a member of Congress, Marcia Fudge was a member of the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Education and Labor she advocated for policies that championed supports for older adults and family caregivers. As the new Secretary of HUD, she will play a key role in federal effort to address housing challenges facing many Americans, including a growing number of older adults.

The special election for Ohio’s 11th Congressional District will be held on November 2, 2021. Prior to the special election, a primary election will take place on Aug. 3.