



**June 2023**

## **Debt Ceiling Bill Becomes Law**

On June 3, President Biden signed the Fiscal Responsibility Act into law. It averted a default by the United States Government, which would have been its first. This agreement passed the House and Senate by wide margins. As is often the case in these kinds of bills, it was a compromise and a difficult one at that. However, the alternative of default was not considered a path to go down.

It established a two-year cap on non-defense discretionary funding. The cap for FY2024 will be slightly below FY 23 funding with a cap on the following year's (FY 2025) budget increase at one percent. The agreement also included language allowing for the so-called clawback of unused funds provided to programs during the pandemic. According to the Administration for Community Living, this will not include any money provided to the Older Americans Act, Adult Protective Service formula grants, or Long-term Care Ombudsmen Program pandemic funding.

This agreement also includes language adding new work requirements for SNAP recipients ages 50-54, compared to the 65-year-old upper limit initially proposed.

## **HHS Announces Additional \$200 Million in Funding for 988 lifeline**

This additional funding will be distributed to states, territories, and tribes to build local capacity for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and related crisis services. Among other projects, these funds will support enhanced recruiting of the 988 workforce, ensure access to culturally competent 988 crisis center support, and enable call centers to provide follow-up to suicidal persons who reach out to the 988 lifeline.

## **Senate Holds Round Table on Healthy Aging**

A Senate bipartisan roundtable on healthy aging was held late spring by Chairman Bernie Sanders of the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. Also in attendance were HELP Ranking Member Sen. Cassidy (R-LA) and Sens. Bob Casey (D-PA), Mike Braun (R-IN), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Tina Smith (D-MN) and John Hickenlooper (D-CO). It was a wide-ranging discussion involving our colleagues from other national aging organizations, with Bob Blancato attending as the national coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition, as well as representatives from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The meeting closed with a commitment from Chairman Sanders that he would be working to expand and strengthen the Older Americans Act when it comes up for reauthorization in his committee in 2024.

## Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!

Please share questions, suggestions or concerns.

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## CMS issues final rule to Combat Misleading Medicare Advantage Marketing

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final regulatory rule governing Advertising of Medicare Advantage plans. Per the CMS press release, the final rule “includes changes to protect people exploring Medicare Advantage and Part D coverage from confusing and potentially misleading marketing practices. Ads will be prohibited if they do not mention a specific plan name, or if they use the Medicare name, CMS logo, and products or information issued by the Federal Government, including the Medicare card, in a misleading way. Further, the final rule strengthens accountability for plans to monitor agent and broker activity.”

## WEAAD is coming June 15th

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) provides an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons. This year, the Elder Justice Coalition will be holding a briefing for democratic and republican staff on the state of elder abuse prevention with a special focus on social isolation and loneliness as a contributing factor to elder abuse.

[Register Here.](#)