



American
Society
on Aging

February 7, 2025

ASA Chicagoland Roundtable

**Navigating the Future of Aging Policy:
A Candid Conversation with Aging Advocates**

Welcome to the ASA Chicagoland Roundtable

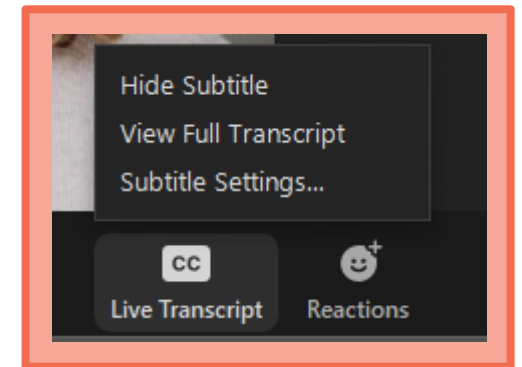
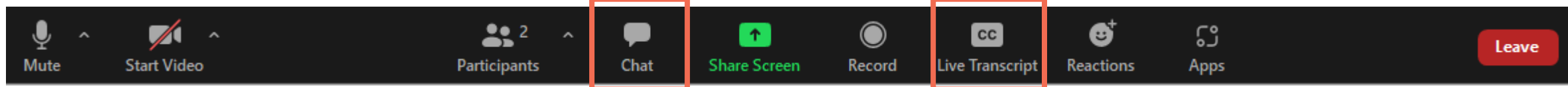
- **Longstanding series of bimonthly educational gatherings with professionals in aging in the greater Chicago area**
 - Hosted by RUSH University Medical Center – Center for Excellence in Aging
 - Organized by local volunteer planning committee
 - Communications support from the American Society on Aging
- **Virtual sessions since 2020 available at <https://aging.rush.edu/policy/asa-chicagoland/>**

Logistics

Submit your questions into the chat box as we go

Slides and a recording will be shared with registrants

Closed captioning available



Key topics we will explore today

- **The potential for a coordinated national aging strategy**
- **Funding pause / the new Administration**
- **The Older Americans Act reauthorization**
- **Future of Medicare and Medicaid**
- **Social Security sustainability**
- **Advocacy**

Today's panelists

- **Michelle Paucar**, Health Legislative Assistant, Representative Jan Schakowsky | IL-9
- **Ryann Hill**, Founder/CEO, Indigo Hill Strategies, and member of ASA Public Policy committee
- **Bob Blancato**, President of Matz, Blancato, & Associates, and National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition and Defeat Malnutrition Today
- **Introductory remarks by Diane Slezak**, Chief Executive Officer, AgeOptions, and Member, Illinois Multi-Sector Plan for Aging Community Advisory Council

Frozen Funding Equals Suffering for Many Older Adults in Illinois



Funding for services that enable older and disabled Illinoisians to live at home in their communities comes from the Federal Older Americans Act (OAA). In FY24, 478,000 older adults (17% of the IL older adult population) received services.

AAAs and the aging network are important employers and drivers of job creation in the communities we serve. In 2019 it was estimated that this network provided more than 2000 jobs in Illinois.

Statewide, with no OAA \$ the following will be lost;

30,264
Fewer Contacts Providing Information, Assistance, & Outreach
Information, assistance, and outreach helps older adults make informed decisions about program, benefits, and services to help them live independently at home for as long as possible.

542
Fewer Older Adults Receiving Options Counseling
Options Counseling advises older adults about cost-effective options for community-based, long-term services and supports.

14,933
Fewer Rides Provided to Older Adults
Transportation programs provide older adults access to medical appointments, shopping, congregate dining locations, and senior centers.

925
Fewer Older Adults Receiving In-Home Services
In-Home services include housekeeping, respite care, telephone reassurance, and minor home repairs.

1,138
Fewer Consultations provided by the Ombudsman Program
The Illinois Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) is a resident-directed advocacy program which protects and improves the quality of life for residents in a variety of long-term care settings.

5,378
Fewer Older Adults Served by Health Screening, Health Promotion & Education Programs

187,941
Fewer Home-Delivered Meals to
1,035
Fewer Older Adults

154,971
Fewer Congregate Meals Served to
4,981
Fewer Older Adults

3,389
Fewer Contacts Providing Older Adults Legal Assistance

1,388
Fewer Older Adults Served by Multi-Purpose Senior Centers

753
Fewer Informal Caregivers and Relative/Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Served

The US Administration on Aging estimates that every federal dollar leverages an additional \$3 through private donations, local and state support.

Cost of Home Delivered Meals for One Senior for Entire Year	Cost of One Day of Hospital Care	Cost of Ten Days in Long Term Care Facility
\$2,602	\$2,754	\$2,070

Source: Meals on Wheels America. 2021. "Delivering So Much More Than a Meal in Illinois."

AgeOptions Advocacy Alerts

<https://www.ageoptions.org/about-ageoptions/advocacy/advocacy-alerts/#/composeyourown>

Advocacy Alerts

Scroll down to take action: contact your legislators about important Aging and Disability related issues and track key legislation.



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Panelist introductory remarks

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NATIONAL STRATEGY/ PLAN ON AGING

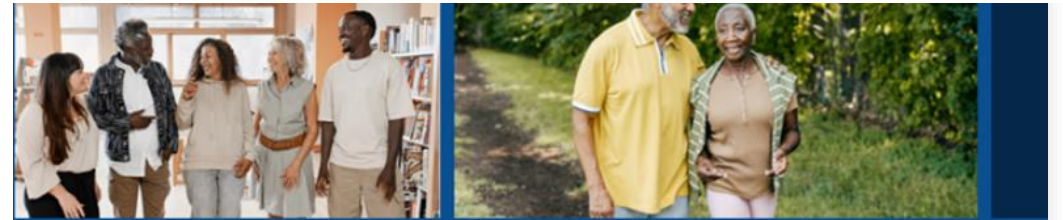
- Fascinating question in year 2025 where we still lack a National Plan on Aging
- We have elements of it via key federal programs like Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid and the Older Americans Act
- We have historic efforts to frame a national plan on aging
 - OAA's original title 1 laid out what could be a National Plan
 - The 1995 White House Conference on Aging in its final report outlined a national plan



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- Hope rose last year when the Biden Administration, following a 2022 law from Congress, embarked on a plan to develop a Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging.
- They formed the ICC, which
 - convened a host of federal agencies with aging portfolios to look for common areas to build on
 - held a series of listening sessions for input into a national plan
- Question is where will it go from here?

Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities



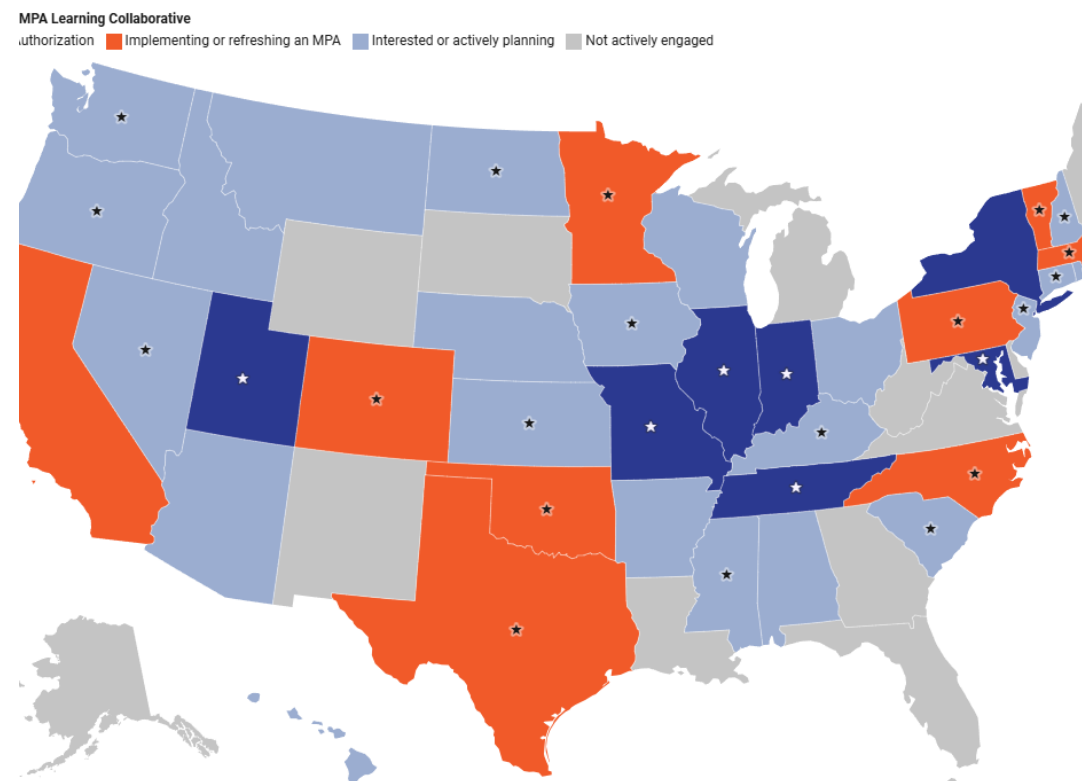
WHAT WE HEARD:

Initial Feedback on The Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging

Developed by the Administration for Community Living
December 2024

STATE-LED EFFORT

- Another factor that might lead us closer is states working toward a multisector/ master plan on aging (MPA)
- The importance of this work goes beyond each individual state plan to the common elements of these plans could impact a national plan
- And the final issues is...





2025 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

- In the last Congress, the Senate but not the House passed S4776 Older Americans Act Reauthorization of 2024
 - Included an authorization for a 2025 White House Conference on Aging, following the inclusion for this conference in President Biden's final budget
 - The OAA reauthorization was not completed in 2024 and now we enter 2025 with the OAA and the WHCOA as question marks
 - If it happens, it could be a platform for a new effort on a national plan on aging
 - There are also considerable risks in going forward
 - Your input in the chat would be interesting
-

ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR AGING

- Including Claude Pepper 125th anniversary
- Three most recent White House Conference on Aging: 30, 20 and 10 years ago
- So much opportunity
- Can it be realized holistically or just program by program



Elder Justice Act

15



Affordable Care Act

15



Medicare
Medicaid

60



Administration for Community Living
Older Americans Act

60



Social Security

90

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SOCIAL SECURITY SUSTAINABILITY

- Social Security should be in a quiet place in 2025
- Again, its in the protected part of the radar screen
- Only exception would be Trump pushing to end taxation of benefits or a bad Trustees Report moving the date of doom up (Report comes out in May)
- Remember immigrants legal or otherwise pay into Social security
- Undocumented immigrants paid an estimated \$25.7 billion in Social Security taxes in 2022



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ADVOCACY TIPS FOR 2025

- Be Constant—Creative—Courageous
- Be Aggressive and Adaptable
- Keep your Eyes and Ears Open and Head down when necessary
- Get as granular as possible
- Don't run after every rumor or news article—play it out
- Really get to know your electeds—and do it at home not DC
- Have your data and your stories at the ready

Senator Tim Kaine

“Advance where you can– Defend where you must”

Former President Obama

“It is not about abandoning your convictions and folding when things get tough. It is about recognizing that in a democracy power comes from forging alliances and building coalitions. Purity tests are not a recipe for long term success”

Moderated discussion

- **Michelle Paucar**, Health Legislative Assistant, Representative Jan Schakowsky | IL-9
- **Ryann Hill**, Founder/CEO, Indigo Hill Strategies, and member of ASA Public Policy committee
- **Bob Blancato**, President of Matz, Blancato, & Associates, and National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition and Defeat Malnutrition Today

Thank you!

Please share any announcements in the chat

View recordings from recent sessions at <https://aging.rush.edu/policy/asa-chicagoland/>

Please join us for our upcoming Roundtable

- Friday April 4, 2025, 8:30-10:30am
- Registration / details will be shared in March via ASA listserv
 - *Rush team will also share registration details in follow-up from today's event*

And, we hope to see you at ASA On Aging conference in Orlando!

- April 21-24, 2025

Additional reference slides

Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities

Aging in the United States: A Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging

Overview: Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age Friendly Communities



Led by the Administration for Community Living, the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities was established under the Older Americans Act to foster coordination across the federal government and to develop a national set of recommendations on key aging issues.

As a part of the ICC, ACL convenes leaders and experts across 16 federal agencies and departments.

Our Vision



Our vision is an America that values older adults, embraces aging, and recognizes that all people have the right to live with dignity, make their own choices, and participate fully in society.

We want to be a nation that prioritizes independence, inclusion, well-being, and health across the lifespan.

Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging

Vision

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We want to be a nation that prioritizes independence, inclusion, well-being, and health across the lifespan.

Cross Cutting Values

- Person-Centeredness
- Inclusion
- Respect
- Collaboration and Innovation

Age-Friendly Communities

All older adults live in communities that respect and include them and are designed to encourage health, well-being, engagement, and connection.

1

Purpose and Engagement
Social Connection
Accessibility and Universal Design
Transportation

Economic and Financial Security
Employment
Age-Friendly Health Systems

Coordinated Housing and Supportive Services

All older adults have access to housing and the services they need to maintain their independence at home and thrive in their community.

2

Affordable Housing
Accessible Quality Housing
Preventing and Addressing

Homelessness
Housing Stability through Coordinated Services

Increased Access to Long-Term Services and Supports

All older adults can easily access affordable, high-quality services and supports that promote their independence and goals.

3

Paid and Unpaid Caregiving
Whole Person Health Financing
Elder Justice

Person-Centered Access System “No Wrong Door” and Other Statewide Access Systems

Aligned Health Care and Supportive Services

All older adults maximize their health and reduce preventable disease and injury through comprehensive care that includes health and social services in the home or in the community

4

Benefits Access
Optimize Health, Well-Being, and Functioning

Align Health and Human Services





Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging Introduction



More than 55 million people living in the United States **are 65 years old or older**. They represent over **16 percent** of our country's population, and their numbers will continue to grow over the next thirty years.¹

Purpose: Outlines the approach to prepare our nation for the future. It is the initial step in the development of a national plan on aging to improve the experience of aging in America.



Key Components: Vision, cross-cutting values, and four domains with goals and associated focus areas, appendix focused on falls-prevention.

1: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/05/2020-census-united-states-older-population-grew.html>

Building on Momentum



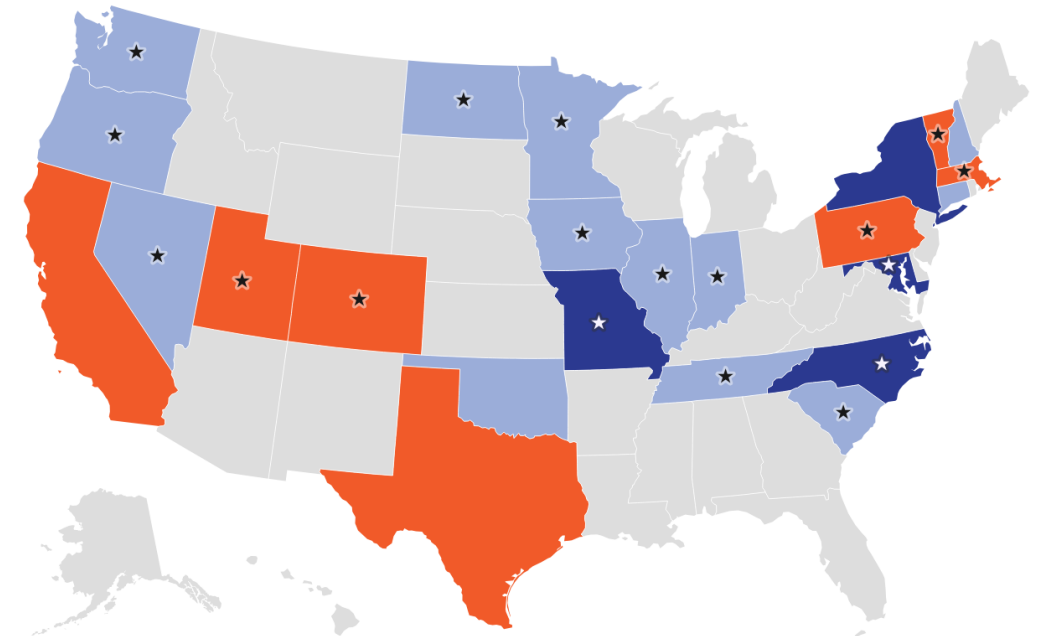
We are intentionally working in coordination with local, state, and global planning efforts.

- The ICC recognizes the importance of state plans on aging and Multisector Plans on Aging.
- The ICC champions existing coordination efforts among federal partners on aligned areas (e.g., mobility, homelessness, HRSNs).
- The ICC's work is a multi-year collaborative process embracing the best of public and private sector action.

MPA Activity Across States

★ = MPA Learning Collaborative

■ Fostering Development ■ Legislation/Executive Order ■ MPA Developed/Implementing



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