

AUGUST 2020

MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy Information to Share

Advocacy and Awareness: Food Insecurity and COVID-19's Disparate Impact on Seniors

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has released its COVID-19 and the Medicare population report. Both COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations of Medicare beneficiaries are highest among minority groups, according to the agency's [Medicare COVID-19 Data Snapshot](#). Older adult malnutrition further compounds these problems because poor nutrition is associated with decreased immune health.

Older Americans Act senior nutrition programs, such as Meals on Wheels and other home-delivered meals programs, have seen huge increases in demand since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are a number of reasons for this, including stay-at-home orders impacting many older adults, increased isolation, and increased food insecurity.

In response, Congress provided a total of \$750 million in emergency supplemental funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) nutrition programs in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), both signed into law in March.

However, since then, no further aid for senior nutrition programs has been approved, even as the need continues to rise. On August 10, Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Susan Collins (R-ME) sent out a [letter](#) to Senate leadership advocating for providing \$1.1 billion in supplemental emergency funding for OAA programs, including \$750 million for senior nutrition programs, in the next COVID-19 emergency relief package. View the press release from Sen. Gillibrand [here](#). **Take action now** to let Congress know that continued increased funding for OAA programs is needed! Visit DMT member organization [NANASP's Take Action page](#) to send a note to your members of Congress.

Save the Date:

Malnutrition Awareness Week is coming up from **October 5-9, 2020.**

Are you interested in submitting a resolution or proclamation request in your state? Check out [Defeat Malnutrition Today's State Resolution Template](#) or contact Meredith Whitmire at info@defeatmalnutrition.today to learn more.

[Register for Rise Up! The Power of State Advocacy for Malnutrition Webinar](#)

August 19, 2020 – 2:00pm ET / 1:00pm CT

One-hour webinar that highlights the history of malnutrition, role of state advocacy in finding policy solutions and case studies from successful advocates.

