



Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

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### ***n4a Hails Passage of Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009***

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), the leading voice on aging issues for Area Agencies on Aging and a champion for Title VI Native American aging programs, hails the February 13 passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. n4a and its member agencies around the country advocated persistently over the past several months for Congress to provide emergency funding to stem the tide of service reductions and protect the older adults who are at risk of losing the critical health care and supportive services they depend upon.

“The additional resources provided in the economic recovery bill will help local Area Agencies on Aging and Native American aging programs to better respond to the unique needs of older adults in their communities during the challenging times ahead of us. Without these additional resources, more seniors would not receive the critical supports and services they need to stay healthy and live independently in their homes and communities,” said Sandy Markwood, n4a Chief Executive Officer.

#### **The following key provisions n4a advocated for were included in the final agreement on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009:**

- **\$100 million for formula grants to states for Older Americans Act senior nutrition services** including home-delivered meals (\$32 million), congregate meals (\$65 million) and \$3 million for **Title VI Native American meals programs**;
- **\$120 million for the OAA Title V Community Service Employment for Older Americans program** to provide subsidized community service jobs to an additional 24,000 low-income older Americans;
- **\$87 billion in aid to states for Medicaid programs**; and
- **\$650 million for the DTV Conversion Coupons** to enable American households to convert from analog television to digital, including **\$90 million for related outreach and assistance**, particularly to vulnerable populations such as older adults.

#### **Other key provisions n4a strongly supported include:**

- **\$1 billion for prevention and wellness programs** to fight preventable diseases and conditions with evidence-based strategies;
- **an extension of the moratoria on Medicaid and Medicare regulations** through June 30, 2009, **including harmful Medicaid targeted case management regulations** that n4a opposed last year;
- **\$1 billion for Community Services Block Grant** funding to local communities to support employment, food, housing, and health care efforts serving those hardest hit by the recession; and
- **\$1 billion for Community Development Block Grant projects** including housing and services for those hit hard by tough economic times.

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**National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)** is the umbrella organization for the 650 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and more than 240 Title VI Native American aging programs in the U.S. The fundamental mission of the AAAs and Title VI programs is to provide services that make it possible for older individuals to remain in their homes, thereby preserving their independence and dignity. These agencies coordinate and support a wide range of home and community-based services, including information and referral, home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation, employment services, senior centers, adult day care and a long-term care ombudsman program. For more information, go to [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org).