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# Older Americans Act

Iowa Dept. on Aging (IDA)

[www.aging.iowa.gov](http://www.aging.iowa.gov)

1-800-532-3213

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A Guided Tour  
Then and Now

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**OAA Signed by President Lyndon Johnson  
July 14, 1965**



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# Title I – Declaration of Objectives for Older Americans

## THEN

- (1) Adequate income
- (2) Physical and mental health
- (3) Suitable housing
- (4) Restorative services for those who require institutional care.
- (5) Non discriminatory opportunity for employment
- (6) Retirement in health, honor, dignity
- (7) Pursuit of meaningful activity
- (8) Efficient community services
- (9) Benefit from proven research knowledge
- (10) Freedom and independence

## NOW

- Objectives 1,2,5,6,and 10 remain unchanged
- Objectives 3 and 7 have minor additions
- Objectives 4, 8 and 10 have major changes

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## Title I – Definitions

### **THEN**

4 Definitions

- Secretary
- Commissioner
- State
- Non-profit institution or organization

### **NOW**

56 Definitions including

- Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- Civic Engagement
- Evidence-based Health Promotion Programs
- Elder Justice
- Caregiver
- Long-term Care
- Self-directed care

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## Title II – Establishment of Administration on Aging

### THEN

- No reference where to be placed – AoA put under the Social and Rehabilitation Services Administration in 1970
- Commissioner on Aging appointed by President

### NOW

- Assistant Secretary for Aging in the Office of the Secretary appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the senate
- Establishes
  - Director of Office of Long Term Care Ombudsman Programs
  - Director of the Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Aging
  - “a person” to have responsibility for elder abuse prevention and services
  - “an employee “ responsible for administration of mental health services authorized under the Act
  - From 8 to 28 functions.

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## **Title III – Grants for community Planning, Services, and Training**

### **THEN**

- Originally Five Sections
  - Section 301 – Authorization
  - Section 302 – Allotments
  - Section 303 – State Plans
  - Section 304 – Cost of State Administration
  - Section 305 – Payments

### **NOW**

- Currently 31 Sections
  - Definitions such as family caregiver added
  - Organizational structure of the state
  - Disaster Relief reimbursements
  - Nutrition Services Incentive Program
  - Consumer Contributions
  - Supportive Services and Senior Centers
  - Nutrition Services

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## Title III – Section 301

### THEN

Four purposes for Title III

- (1) community planning and coordination
- (2) Demonstrations of programs & activities
- (3) Training of personnel for programs
- (4) New programs & activities including centers to conduct them - but no construction

### NOW

Purpose includes the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated systems to serve older individuals, in order to—

- (A) secure and maintain maximum independence and dignity in a home environment for older individuals capable of self care with appropriate supportive services;
  - (B) remove individual and social barriers to economic and personal independence for older individuals;
  - (C) provide a continuum of care for vulnerable older individuals; and
  - (D) secure the opportunity for older individuals to receive managed in-home and community-based long-term care services
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# Title IV Research and Development Projects

## THEN

- Two sections – 401 & 402
- Grants supporting
  - Study of patterns and conditions of living to identify factors impacting “meaningful living”
  - Development, demonstrate and evaluate new approaches, techniques and methods including multipurpose activity centers and improvements in coordination of community services

## NOW

- **Titled Activities for Health, Independence and Longevity**
- **11 Specific programs identified**
  - Career Preparation for field of aging
  - Older Individuals’ protection from violence projects
  - Health care service demonstrations in rural areas
  - Computer training
  - TA and innovation to improve transportation for older individuals
  - Multigenerational and civic engagement activities
  - Legal assistance demonstrations
  - Native American programs
  - Multidisciplinary centers
  - Ombudsman and advocacy projects
  - Community Innovations for Aging in place

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## Title V – Training Projects

### THEN

- Two sections – 501 and 502
  
- Grants to support “specialized training of persons employed or preparing for employment” in programs related to the purposes of the Act.

### NOW

- Senior Internship Program (SIP)
- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

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## Title VI – Grants for Native Americans

### THEN

- Section 601 – Advisory Committees
- Section 602 – Administration
  - Secretary authorized to provide consultative services, technical assistance, short-term training and instruction, conduct research and demonstrations, collect, prepare, publish and disseminate special education or information materials.
- Section 603 – Appropriations
  - Title IV & V - \$1.5 million in FY1966 and \$3.0 million in FY1967

### NOW

- Section 601 - Purpose
- Section 602 - Sense of Congress
- Part A - Grants to eligible tribal organizations
- Part B - Grants for Native Hawaiian programs
- Part C – Native American Caregiver Support Program

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## **Title VII- Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities**

### **THEN**

- Ombudsman program added to the Act in
- Elder Abuse Neglect and Exploitation added to Act in
- Legal Assistance programs added to Act in

### **NOW**

- Section 701 establishes program for vulnerable elder rights protection activities for states
- Section 702 authorizes appropriations for
  - Ombudsman Program
  - Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation
  - Legal Assistance Development Program
- Section 751 establishes Native American Program

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# Key Points

- The “Bill of Rights” for older Americans
- The creation and expansive scope of AoA’s authority
- Its emphasis on States to sponsor community planning, coordination and improvement in existing resources
- Permission to support research, development and demonstration of new activities & programs
- The expectation it would train a specialized workforce

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# Things to Consider

- What expectations did Congress have in creating this legislation?
- What endures today from the 16 sections of the 1965 Act?
- Have we lost anything today from its many makeovers?
- What improvements are needed for the age-wave?
  - New Prgms?
  - Increased funding?
  - Improved performance measures?
  - More oversight?
  - More flexibility?
  - Interplay with Medicaid and prvt-pay long-term sppts & svcs?

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Older Americans Act

## In Your Own Words

- Public Comments Welcome.
- Please Respect 2 minute limit.
- Please speak in the order in which you are called.
- Please Hold Q's or Additional Comments to the End.
- This presentation will be posted on:  
[www.aging.iowa.gov](http://www.aging.iowa.gov).
- Thank You!