

Federal Updates

Congress has been on recess, and is slated to return November 12th. They will have just one month to approve FY25 appropriations bills before the current Continuing Resolution expires on December 20th. The CR holds funding for all programs at FY24 levels. On top of regular appropriations, Congress is expected to discuss emergency disaster funding to cover the costs of Hurricane Helene and Milton and replenish disaster relief funds. There is an opportunity for Congress to potentially approve non-disaster supplemental funding.

Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA) introduced the “Fresh Food Act” ([S.5120](#)) to expand access to fresh, healthy food while also helping local farmers and growers sell their products to local grocery stores. The bill would provide tax benefits for grocery stores operating in underserved areas, such as rural communities and communities with high poverty rates.

On September 23, Representative Brittany Pettersen (D-CO) introduced both the “Catching Up Family Caregivers Act of 2024” ([H.R.9764](#)) and the “Improving Retirement Security for Family Caregivers Act of 2024” ([H.R.9765](#)). These bipartisan bills would allow family caregivers to contribute to a Roth IRA and make catch-up contributions to employer-sponsored retirement plans.

The Government Accountability Office released a [report](#) on older adult homelessness, and found that 138,000 older adults experienced homelessness on a single night in 2023. The report includes recommendations for the Department of Health and Human Services on addressing older adult homelessness.

NANASP Webinar

This year, there are some new programs available to enrollees and other important changes to Medicare. Join us on Monday, November 4th at 1 p.m. ET for a webinar focused on getting the word out to older Americans, so they can choose the best coverage before open enrollment concludes.

The webinar will review the new Medicare Prescription Payment Plan and other important changes to 2025 plans that enrollees need to be aware of, best practices for educating your clients and older Americans on the changes, and resources that are available from CMS, NANASP, and other partners. Additionally, we want to hear from you on any challenges you have encountered so far and your ideas for helping spread the word! We look forward to a collaborative and lively discussion! Our speakers include:

- Bob Blancato, Executive Director, NANASP
- Jeff Klein, FACHE, President & CEO, Nevada Senior Services, Inc.
- Melinda Forstey, Chief Operating Officer, Serving Seniors
- Cynthia Walker, HUD Certified Housing Counselor, Benefits Counselor, Benjamin Rose

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