

# FACTSHEET

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## Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act

### What is the Older Americans Act?

- The Older Americans Act (OAA) was enacted in 1965 to expand and improve the services available to Americans aged 60 and older.
- The law focuses on delivering home- and community-based programs and supports, including nutritional programs, in-home services, transportation, legal services, elder abuse prevention, and caregiver support.
- OAA services are targeted at older individuals who have the greatest economic and social need, have low income, are members of low-income minority groups, reside in rural areas, have limited English proficiency, or are at risk of entering a nursing home.

### The National Plan and the OAA

The Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services, which advises the Department of Health and Human Services on updating and implementing the National Alzheimer's Plan, has noted that those with younger-onset Alzheimer's face unique challenges in accessing care and support services.

In 2017, the Advisory Council made a series of recommendations to help address the needs of family caregivers. One of those recommendations was that Congress amend the Older Americans Act (OAA) to ensure that younger individuals living with dementia have access to OAA services.

### Are individuals with Alzheimer's covered under the Older Americans Act?

- Yes, many individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias receive vital assistance and support under the OAA—and many Alzheimer's caregivers receive respite care. These services help maintain an individual's independence. But they are available only if the person with Alzheimer's disease is aged 60 or older.
- Approximately 200,000 individuals in the United States have younger-onset Alzheimer's (sometimes referred to as early-onset Alzheimer's).
- Those with younger-onset Alzheimer's face unique challenges when it comes to family, work, and finances. Also, the stigma associated with younger-onset Alzheimer's can have a significant impact on their well-being and quality of life.
- These individuals who are under 60 are not eligible for OAA programs. Additionally, programs and supports largely do not exist elsewhere because there are relatively few people with younger-onset.

### What does the Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act (H.R. 1903 / S. 901) do?

- The Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act would make individuals with younger-onset Alzheimer's who are under 60 years old eligible to access supports and services under the OAA.
- In addition, the Administration on Community Living would submit a report to Congress identifying gaps in services provided to the younger-onset population.