

# MEALS ON WHEELS FUNDING EXPLAINED



**END**  
*the* **WAIT™**

For more than 50 years, Meals on Wheels has set the gold standard as an evidence-based public-private partnership that effectively addresses the issues of senior hunger and isolation.

## A FOUNDATION OF FEDERAL FUNDING



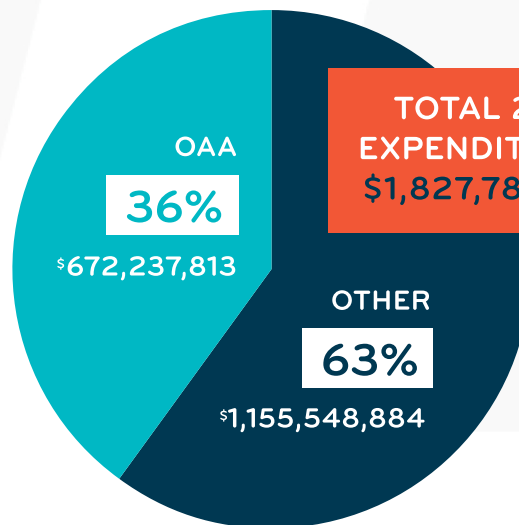
### 9 OUT OF 10 LOCAL MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAMS RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDING

and for more than 60% of providers, federal funding represents half or more of their total budget.

Meals on Wheels America is the leadership organization supporting the more than **5,000** community-based organizations across the country through federal advocacy, private funding, programming, education, research and more.

**Meals on Wheels America does not receive or disperse federal funding to local providers.**

The primary source for federal funding for the Meals on Wheels network is the **OLDER AMERICANS ACT (OAA) NUTRITION PROGRAM**, which covers 37% of the costs to serve over 2 million seniors annually.



**TOTAL 2021  
EXPENDITURES:  
\$1,827,786,696**

#### OTHER

State and/or local sources

Private donations including corporate, foundations and individual contributions

Additional federal funding (e.g., Social Services Block Grant, Community Development Block Grant, Community Services Block Grant)



**OAA Nutrition Program** funding is distributed from the federal government to states, territories and tribal nations according to formulas based partly on the population of older adults.



**State Units on Aging** then allocate grants to Area Agencies on Aging based on their own funding formulas.



Finally, contracts for services are issued to community-based providers like **Meals on Wheels**. The amount of federal funding a provider receives varies by contract.

**BUT IT ISN'T ENOUGH, AND SENIORS ARE WAITING.**



**56%** of seniors feel lonely



**ONLY 1%** of philanthropy goes to aging issues



**GAS PRICES INCREASED 39%**  
from 2021-2025



**FOOD PRICES INCREASED 24%**  
from 2020-2024

**1 IN 3**



**MEALS ON WHEELS  
PROVIDERS HAS A WAITLIST**

with seniors waiting on average  
**4 MONTHS** for meals.



**HELP US END THE WAIT. FUND AND SUPPORT MEALS ON WHEELS.**

