



Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness

Monthly Policy Committee Meeting
February 2024

Agenda

- Welcome
- CESIL 2024 Work Plan and Objectives
- Hill Engagement
- Policy and Legislative Updates
- Closing & Next Steps

2024 CESIL Work Plan and Objectives

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Overview of Projects:

- Older Americans Act Positioning and Activation
- CESIL Legislation & Global Loneliness Awareness Week (GLAW)
- Policy Priorities Refresh
- Technology Position Paper
- Advocacy for Existing Legislation

Objectives and Goals

- Draft, introduce, and champion the passage of legislation dedicated to addressing SILC
- Actively endorse existing legislation and regulation aligned with CESIL's priorities
- Increase public awareness through sustained advocacy efforts

Older Americans Act Reauthorization Activities

- The OAA authorizing statute is set to expire in September this year, however Congress is working to introduce legislation to reauthorize and extend the program.
- **CESIL is working internally to develop our positions and recommendations regarding OAA reauthorization, which we plan to share with you soon!**
- **Meals on Wheels America [Advocacy Agenda](#)**: Includes to reauthorize and strengthen the Older Americans Act (OAA)
- **USAgings OAA Reauthorization [Recommendations and Advocacy Toolkit](#)**: Reduce social isolation and loneliness among older adults by authorizing a national resource center dedicated to providing training and technical assistance for Aging Network professionals on innovative strategies to build and expand social engagement programs and activities.

Hill Engagement

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Recent Hill Engagement:

- Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL)
- Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)
- Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE)
- Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH)
- Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)

Upcoming Hill Engagement:

- Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
- Rep. Mike Flood (R-NE)
- Sen. Pete Ricketts (R-NE)
- Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA)

CESIL Is Looking to Endorse the Healthy at Home Act of 2023

This bill would provide standards for preventing, detecting and remediating indoor mold in residential buildings to protect residents from health and safety risks.

Specifically, the bill would:

- support research and standard-setting on mold and mold mitigation;
- provide federal funding to support building owners as they seek to make the changes needed to improve a building's safety for tenants;
- create minimum housing stock quality requirements for federally-assisted housing;
- create an education campaign for tenants and landlords to reduce health risks; and
- incentivize states to disclose health and safety concerns in the building to future residents.

The House bill was introduced in September 2023 by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT-02) with cosponsor's Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-OH-3) and Del. Moylan, James C. (R-GU-At Large)

Aligns with CESIL's policy priorities to promote housing services and supports that increase connection and reduce social isolation

Policy and Legislative Updates

ACL Releases Final Rule to Update the Older Americans Act Regulations

- The Administration for Community Living (ACL) [released](#) a [final rule](#) ([overview](#)) to update the regulations implementing its Older Americans Act (OAA) programs. The new regulations will take effect on March 15, 2024, but regulated entities have until October 1, 2025, to comply. The OAA authorizes programs and services that help older adults age in place, ombudsman services that support older adults who live in long-term care facilities, and additional services for caregivers and older adults.
- Key provisions of the final rule include providing more information about implementing the definition of “greatest social need” in State and area plans, incorporating guidance for the National Family Caregiver Support Program and the Native American Caregiver Support Program, establishing expectations for legal assistance and activities to prevent elder abuse, and updating definitions, modernizing requirements, and clarifying flexibilities within the senior nutrition programs.

CY 2025 Medicare Advantage Advance Notice NCQA Measure on Social Isolation & Loneliness

- CMS released the Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Advance Notice of Methodological Changes for Medicare Advantage Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (fact sheet) which updates MA payment rates and technical improvements to the program overall.
- Among other changes, the Advance Notice updates the MA & Part D Star Ratings system – which rates plans’ quality and beneficiary experiences based on an established measure set.
- Beginning in 2025 – CMS intends to use the Social Connection Screening and Intervention measure that NCQA is developing.
 - Assesses the percent of individuals ages 65 and older who were screened at least once during the measurement year for social isolation, loneliness, or inadequate social support, and received a corresponding intervention.
 - Reported using electronic clinical data: electronic health records, registries, case management, and administrative claims.

CMS Announces \$50 million in Grants to Increase School-Based Health Services for Children

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) it would provide \$50 million in grants for states to enhance school-based health care services. These grants will give 20 states up to \$2.5 million each in funding to increase children's access to health care services, such as mental health, at school through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- These grants are made available through funding provided by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA). Targeting children covered by Medicaid and CHIP, CMS aims to enhance state's abilities to offer critical health care services at school, and expand offerings related to mental health.
- Amongst the 20 grants, a minimum of 10 will be awarded to states that do not yet cover school-based health services for all Medicaid or CHIP beneficiaries.

SAMHSA Announces \$36.9 Million in Grants to Strengthen Behavioral Health Services Nationwide

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has [announced](#) \$36.9 million in funding opportunities to bolster behavioral health services nationwide, aligning with the priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration to combat the overdose and mental health crises. These grants aim to support community-based behavioral health services to foster positive outcomes and advance health equity. Funding opportunities include:

- \$8.1 million for Prevention Technology Transfer Centers to enhance substance use prevention strategies,
- \$10 million for Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) programs targeting various age groups and settings,
- \$5 million for trauma-informed interventions for youth at clinical high risk for psychosis,
- \$6.2 million for Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act initiatives aiding first responders in overdose situations,
- \$5.4 million for integrating substance use disorder education into health professions programs,
- \$1.1 million each for Statewide Consumer and Family Network Programs promoting consumer-centered mental health services and supporting families raising children with emotional disturbance, respectively.