

MRA 2025 Advocacy Alerts

April 1, 2025



Take Action Now to Protect Services for People with Disabilities, Older Adults, and Families in

Michigan!



The Administration for Community Living (ACL), a vital agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that provides oversight and funding for numerous programs and services for older adults and people with disabilities, is under threat. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced in a press release Thursday, March 27, 2025](#), that the ACL's functions will be reorganized under other HHS department agencies, at the same time that 300 critical positions will be eliminated. The press release did not include any information or a plan on exactly what specific ACL functions would transition to other federal agencies.

ACL has been a cornerstone in ensuring that older adults and individuals with disabilities receive essential support services, including access to home and community-based care, independent living, and community integration programs. Dissolving the ACL will have a devastating impact on millions of Americans who rely on these services – including . ACL supports programs like the Older Americans Act, the Independent Living Program, and the Administration on Disabilities, all of which provide essential support and resources for individuals to live independently and participate fully in society.

Why the ACL Matters:

- **Programs for Aging Populations:** The ACL administers programs that help seniors remain in their homes and communities longer, preventing institutionalization. These include but are not limited to: Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Area Agencies on Aging, and the Senior Centers and Supportive Services for Older Adults.
- **Support for People with Disabilities:** Through the ACL, people with disabilities can access services that support independence, such as assistive technologies, caregiving support, and inclusive community opportunities. These include but are not limited to: Americans with Disabilities Act National Network and Assistive Technology Programs.
- **State and Local Support:** The ACL works with state and local partners to create a national network of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of each community. Some examples include but are not limited to: Centers for Independent Living, Protection and Advocacy Systems, State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

The Impact of Eliminating ACL and What it Means for Michigan:

The lack of clarity on how the responsibilities of the ACL will be disseminated is of grave concern. According to USAspending.gov data, a web site that provides open data on federal spending by agency, program and location, the ACL awarded a total of \$26.5 million across 37 different grants to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for federal fiscal year 2025 alone. These vital

services are critical for some of the nation's most vulnerable populations – including in Michigan – and could be drastically disrupted, reduced, or defunded. This could lead to:

- Increased reliance on institutional care for older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- Loss of community-based programs that help people with disabilities live and work independently.
- Drastically reduced resources for caregivers and families supporting loved ones with aging or disability-related needs

What You Can Do:

We need your voice to call on Congress and the Administration to immediately reverse this course and commit to strengthening the ACL; moving these programs under other agencies risks diminishing their impact and accessibility when they are needed most. Here's how you can help:

1. **Call or Email Your Representatives:** Contact your Congressional representatives at [House of Representatives Directory](#) and your US Senators at [U.S. Senate Directory](#)

Sample message:

“I urge you to call on the Administration to immediately reverse the elimination of the Administration for Community Living. ACL’s programs are essential to ensuring that people with disabilities and older adults in Michigan can live independently, receive care, and thrive in their communities.”

2. **Share Your Story:** Personal stories can make a significant impact. Share how ACL programs have made a difference in your life or the life of a loved one. Use social media and tag your representatives to amplify your message.
3. **Stay Informed:** Follow news about the federal budget process and any proposed changes to ACL. Contact your elected officials regarding proposals that threaten this critical agency. We cannot afford to lose the Administration for Community Living nor the essential services and support it provides. By speaking up today, we can help ensure that future generations continue to have access to the services they need to thrive in their communities.