



To: Senator Ginny Lyons, Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Re: FY 2026 Budget-- Funding for Older Vermonters' Nutrition Programs
Date: April 2, 2025

V4A and VASCAMP's request for \$2 million for older Vermonter Nutrition Program (MOWS) was not included in the House Appropriations Committee's base or one-time appropriations. We are greatly concerned about this for these reasons:

- Our meals programs are serving more people with the same amount of meals
 - **Impact:** Older Vermonters will not be receiving enough meals to sustain their nutritional health.
- Inflation continues to cause increased expenses for food, supplies, and overhead for meal sites, as well as supports for MOWS volunteers;
 - **Impact:** Inflation is creating affordability crises for older Vermonters with the most economic need.
- The federal Continuing Resolution passed on March 14 level-funded Older Americans Act programs, including MOWS through the end of September, without even an inflationary increase.
 - **Impact:** This amounts to a cut to our programs, including the Nutrition programs.
- These funds qualify for federal Global Commitment match
 - **Impact:** Vermont will miss the opportunity to draw down more matching federal funds.

Please support **an additional \$2 million in the SFY2026 base budget for Meals on Wheels.**

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