



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DFSS “DAY OF ACTION” EVENT TO BRING MAYOR, CITY OFFICIALS, SENIOR CITIZENS  
AND COMMUNITY AGENCIES TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FEDERAL  
FUNDING FOR SENIOR SERVICES**

**CHICAGO, IL** — On Wednesday, May 28, the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) Senior Services Division, which serves as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the City of Chicago, will join 12 other AAAs across the state in hosting a local “Day of Action” event in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Older Americans Act, as well as Older Americans Month. Called “Don’t Blow Out the Candles on the Older Americans Act,” the statewide events will call upon Congress to continue to support the vital services the Older Americans Act funds for hundreds of thousands of senior citizens in Illinois.

“Our seniors are the pillars of our communities in Chicago,” said **Mayor Brandon Johnson**. “We need to support our seniors and continue to call on Congress to make sure that they continue to receive the critical services that they rely upon.”

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Southeast (Atlas) Regional Senior Center and is anticipated to include remarks from **Mayor Brandon Johnson**, who will issue a proclamation recognizing May 28 as Older Americans Day in Chicago. The event will also include a Call to Action forum, bringing elected officials, seniors, and community-based agencies together in dialogue. DFSS Senior Services leadership and senior citizens who themselves depend on critical services funded through the Older Americans Act will be

among the event's speakers, with additional participating elected officials to be announced. The day will also include a variety of special activities for seniors.

"The 'Day of Action' event will bring a lot of joy and celebration for our seniors," said **DFSS Acting Commissioner Maura McCauley**, "but the driving force behind the day is the responsibility we have, and Congress has, to protect the crucial services our seniors rely on. We must preserve federal funding for these key programs to help ensure the health, safety and well-being of our often-vulnerable senior populations."

The City of Chicago receives \$14.9 million in federal funding from the Illinois Department on Aging through the federal Administration for Community Living as directed by the Older Americans Act. This constitutes 37% of Chicago's 2025 Senior Services budget. Federal funding allows DFSS Senior Services to provide essential services citywide, such as home-delivered meals, congregate dining, senior centers, information and assistance, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, caregiver support, and more. These services benefit over 100,000 older adults throughout Chicago every year.

"We hope this event will help increase awareness of the great impact of federal funding on our senior programming," **McCauley** said. "This includes the efficiencies realized through the prevention of premature residencies in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, and the ways federal funding helps older adults live independently with dignity in their local communities."

The agenda for May 28 includes:

- 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. — **DFSS Senior Service Fair** and program showcase (tapdancing, line dancing, chorus) highlighting vital federally-funded older adult programs and the agencies that receive this funding and provide these life-affirming services
- 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. — **Call to Action**: Elected officials, DFSS leadership, seniors, and community-based agencies will speak during this town hall-style forum on the importance of defending the Older Americans Act and federal funding for senior programming. Seniors and agency staff will also be available to speak to the media
- 12:25 to 12:45 p.m. — **Proclamation from Mayor Brandon Johnson** declaring May 28, 2025, as Older Americans Day in the City of Chicago
- 12:45 p.m. to 4 p.m. — **Golden Life Celebration** featuring karaoke and line dance

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