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Older Adults Speak Out: St. Louis Voices Join National Outcry Over Federal Cuts to Aging Programs

Hundreds respond within hours to Oasis survey, joining national Aging on the Line campaign

St. Louis, MO — In a powerful show of concern, more than **200 older adults in St. Louis** responded within hours to a call from Oasis to share how their lives would be impacted by proposed federal cuts to aging services. To amplify these voices and provide valuable resources, Oasis created stloasis.org/agingontheline—a dedicated space where testimonials continue to be published as they arrive.

This grassroots momentum comes as part of [Aging on the Line](#), a national campaign running April 22–24 to spotlight how proposed federal budget reductions under the Trump administration threaten to gut core programs like the **Older Americans Act (OAA)**, **Medicaid**, and **Social Security**.

“They’re coming for our future. If these programs go, so do our chances to age with dignity,” said one 74-year-old Oasis participant from Kirkwood.

“Without Oasis and Medicaid, I would be isolated, inactive, and in worse health,” said another respondent.

“We serve around 175 meals a day—105 delivered to homebound seniors. For many, the person delivering that meal is their only human contact of the day. Without Older Americans Act funding, it will be incredibly difficult to keep this running. A quarter of our clients live below the poverty line. Many are surviving on \$1,200 or less a month. I’d love to see our elected officials try living on that for a year.”

— *Debbie, Oasis participant*

Programs funded through the Older Americans Act support **millions of older adults nationwide**, providing access to:

- Health and wellness classes
- Home- and community-based care
- Caregiver support
- Transportation
- Medicare navigation and chronic disease management

“These aren’t extras — they’re lifelines,” said **Paul Weiss**, President of Oasis St. Louis. “Our community is raising the alarm loud and clear. These stories are a reminder that behind every budget line item is a human life.”

Oasis is compiling the stories collected through its survey into a formal testimonial packet and delivering it to legislators at the state and federal level. The organization is also encouraging participants and the public to join **#AgingOnTheLine**, a national mobilization effort April 22–24 coordinated by leaders like NCOA, Justice in Aging, and USAging.

“Cuts like these will not go unnoticed. The people affected are paying attention — and they’re speaking out,” said Weiss.

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About Oasis St. Louis:

Oasis is a national nonprofit with a mission to promote healthy aging through lifelong learning, active lifestyles, and volunteer engagement. The St. Louis Oasis center serves thousands of older adults each year through free and low-cost programs that foster connection, wellness, and purpose.