



SPECIAL DELIVERY

THE MEALS ON WHEELS DELAWARE NEWSLETTER -MAY 2025

UPDATE ON FOOD SERVICE FOR HOMEBOUND SENIORS

As we mark Older Americans Month in May, many seniors and their families are worried.

They cannot understand why a program that helps so many stay healthy and at home is under threat. They know how much of a difference a warm comforting meal makes to thousands of lives. For family members it nourishes their mother, brother, or neighbor. The family are reassured that someone connected with their loved one in person today.

While we wait for the decisions from the upcoming Federal budget cycle, we already watch as departments that have years of experience in meeting the challenges of an aging population have been restructured.

The "skinny budget" released in May requests a 26% cut to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) budget, the agency that oversees and funds numerous programs and supportive services for seniors. The good news is, in this revision, Older Americans Act funding for senior meals is not included in the budget cuts. **For the coming year there should be no drastic reduction in funding for homebound senior meals.**

We do not know what the coming years will hold. However, we do know for those who are turned away the impact will be devastating. Studies have shown seniors are more food insecure and malnourished without meal support. Hospitalizations are more frequent.

Seniors are able to stay healthy at home due to a diversified funding stream, committed staff and an extensive volunteer group. In Delaware senior meals are funded by Federal Funds primarily from the Older Americans Act, along with State funding and Medicare. Meals On Wheels Delaware contributes to the needs of the Meals On Wheels programs.

Support from the community is vital, however it is unrealistic that it will replace Federal funding, should it be cut in future years.

Close to one million nutritionally balanced meals are prepared, packaged, and delivered annually in Delaware by meals on wheels programs. The need is rising with an aging population.

Please remember the men and women sitting home today waiting for a hot meal and fearing the day when the meal may not arrive. Help them by staying up to date with future federal funding changes and adding your voice in support of senior services.

We all deserve to live with dignity, security, and hope, no matter our age, health, or financial situation.

A banner for Memorial Day with a dark, textured background and a portion of the American flag visible on the left. The text "MEMORIAL DAY" is in large, white, serif capital letters, and "HONORING ALL WHO SERVED" is in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters below it.

MEMORIAL DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



MEALS ON WHEELS DELAWARE

100 W. 10th Street, Suite 207, Wilmington, DE 19801

MealsOnWheelsDE.org

"MAY" OLDER AMERICANS MONTH



April showers do bring May flowers, and it also gives us a chance to celebrate Older American Month!

These individuals have given to their families and now should be able to enjoy the fruits of life, something that does not always happen! These generations of Moms and Dads, Aunts and Uncles and friends have assisted with the generations who have come after them, and have helped to educate, to prosper, to grow and learn the history of their families.

This generation of people deserve our respect, and a helping hand when the stars do not line up for them. Meals on Wheels Delaware is here to offer support to our 5 partner meals on wheels

programs to ensure that every eligible older American, living in Delaware, can receive the nourishment and the delivery of food for their well-being, along with a safety check!

This month we encourage individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions. Join with us as we honor older adults' contributions, exploring the many opportunities for staying engaged as we age, and highlighting the opportunities for purpose, exploration and connection that comes with aging.

It is during this month, we ask for everyone to look around, is there a neighbor, a relative, a friend who could use a helping hand? This is our opportunity to reach out to our older individuals and offer assistance, a helping hand, or maybe just a simple smile and a nod of Good Morning! Smiles all around, as we acknowledge our older Americans during this month of May!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS ON MOTHER'S DAY!

A heartfelt thank you to each and every one of our generous donors who contributed in honor of Mother's Day! Your donations have provided nourishing meals and heartfelt companionship, spreading love and kindness beyond the family circle.

This Mother's Day, your kindness has helped us celebrate the nurturing spirit of mothers everywhere while ensuring cherished seniors feel loved and valued. Together, we've created moments of joy and gratitude that resonate far beyond this special day.



Thank you for being a beacon of hope and compassion. Your generosity continues to inspire us and uplift those who need it most. Here's to making a meaningful impact, one meal at a time!

VISIT: MealsOnWheelsDE.org CALL: 302-656-3257 SOCIAL:  Meals On Wheels Delaware   MealsOnWheelsDE

Together we can end senior hunger.