

2025 NATIONAL SNAPSHOT

WHAT WE DELIVER

The Meals on Wheels network is comprised of around 5,000 community-based providers across the country dedicated to addressing senior hunger and isolation. But with growing demand and rising costs, many seniors are left waiting for nutritious meals and moments of connection. The need has never been greater, but together, we can End the Wait.

IT STARTS WITH THE MEAL...



251 MILLION MEALS served annually



MORE THAN 2 MILLION SENIORS served annually

7 OUT OF 10 LOCAL PROVIDERS are facing higher demand for home-delivered meals than before the pandemic



AND DELIVERS ON SO MUCH MORE.



BUT SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES MEAN MILLIONS OF SENIORS ARE WAITING.



1 IN 3 LOCAL PROVIDERS has a waitlist with seniors waiting on average **4 MONTHS** for vital meals.



Nearly all Meals on Wheels providers report making impossible choices due to funding challenges, such as tapping into reserves to cover increased costs and adding older adults to waitlists. Funding is receding while community need is not, and **PROVIDERS ARE STRUGGLING**. NEARLY ALL PROVIDERS report one or more challenges to serving home-delivered meals to all seniors in their community, such as:



LACK OF FUNDING TO PAY FOR MEALS



RISING FOOD PRICES



DIFFICULTY RECRUITING AND RETAINING VOLUNTEERS



ESCALATING GAS PRICES



DIFFICULTY HIRING AND RETAINING ENOUGH STAFF



FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

MEALS ON WHEELS PROVIDERS ARE WAITING, TOO. NEARLY ALL PROVIDERS ARE READY AND WILLING TO END THE WAIT... WITH MORE RESOURCES.

REACHING ALL SENIORS WHO NEED MEALS IS CONSTRAINED BY FUNDING AND CAPACITY LIMITATIONS





of local providers believe there are seniors in their community who need meals who they ARE NOT CURRENTLY SERVING.



are confident that they could serve more seniors, IF THE NEW CLIENTS CAME WITH MORE FUNDING.

HELP US END THE WAIT. FUND AND SUPPORT MEALS ON WHEELS.



Information data sources available at www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/facts. © February 2025 Meals on Wheels America