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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**July 29, 2011**

### **WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS URGED TO PROTECT ELDERS THROUGH BALANCED APPROACH TO DEFICIT REDUCTION**

*Leadership Council of Aging Organizations Suggests Eight Principles to Guide Budget  
Negotiations*

**Washington, D.C.** —As the deadline to raise the debt ceiling nears, the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations ([LCAO](#)) is calling on Executive and Congressional leadership to address the deficit in a balanced way that would protect America's elders. The LCAO is a coalition of 66 national not-for-profit organizations representing more than 60 million older Americans. A recent letter to policymakers involved in deficit reduction talks included eight principles to guide budget negotiations and was signed by 39 of the LCAO's member organizations, including the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a).

The letter stated the following:

*“As the budget negotiations move forward, we are extremely concerned about elements of a possible deal that would undermine the health and economic security of older Americans. We believe the nation can and should reduce the deficit over time through a balanced approach that includes budget savings from increases in revenue and thoughtful, targeted reductions in spending when and where necessary... The challenges we face are great, and we must rise to these challenges with solutions that represent the best of who we are as a nation and who we aspire to be.”*

**Sandy Markwood, n4a CEO**, said, “n4a urges President Obama and Congress to come together on a balanced approach to addressing the nation's budget deficit. We cannot and should not balance the budget by making spending cuts to discretionary programs alone, nor can we risk harming the most vulnerable of our society, including low-income and frail older

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#### **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

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adults. These older Americans are expecting Washington to keep its promise that the critical social supports—such as home care, nutrition and health prevention programs—they depend on to stay independent and healthy in their own homes and communities will continue to be there in the future.”

**The full text of the letter, including the eight principles and a list of signatories, is available at: [LINK](#).**

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