# 📞 Call Script: Ask Your Legislator to Fix Funding Timing for Senior Meals

## STEP 1: INTRODUCE YOURSELF

Hi, my name is [Your Name], and I live in Pinellas County. I’m a **client** in the Older Americans Act congregate dining program offered by Neighborly Care Network.

I’m a **volunteer** in the Older Americans Act nutrition programs offered by Neighborly Care Network.

## STEP 2: SHARE WHY THE PROGRAM MATTERS

**Clients**: This program gives me more than a healthy meal. It gives me a reason to get out of the house, see friends, and stay connected. It helps me stay healthy, both physically and emotionally. **(share your personal experience)**

**Volunteers:** As a volunteer, this program… **(Share your personal experience)**

## STEP 3: EXPLAIN THE PROBLEM

I recently learned that Neighborly received extra funding last year from the Older Americans Act, but it didn’t arrive until the end of July—just five months before the end of the year. They had to quickly use it, so they expanded meal service to more people like me.

But starting this year, that extra money isn’t available—even though the need is still there. At this rate, the funding for our meals may run out by August. That means meals might be cut by 40%, and many of us could lose access to regular meals and social support.

## STEP 4: ASK FOR ACTION

I’m calling to ask for your help. The funding already exists—it’s just coming too late. Please work to fix the timing of these Older Americans Act funds so organizations like Neighborly can plan properly and serve us all year long. Please also ensure there is enough funding to at least continue all clients currently in these programs.

## STEP 5: SAY THANK YOU

Thank you for your time and for supporting Florida’s seniors.

# 📍 Federal Legislators Representing Pinellas County, FL

* Senator Ashley Moody

Phone: (202) 224-3041
Website: https://www.moody.senate.gov

* Senator Rick Scott

Phone: (813) 225-7040
Website: https://www.rickscott.senate.gov

* Representative Gus Bilirakis (District 12) Tarpon Springs area

Phone: (202) 225-5755
Website: https://bilirakis.house.gov

* Representative Anna Paulina Luna (District 13) Most of Pinellas County

Phone: (202) 225-5961 or (727) 610-3980
Website: https://luna.house.gov

* Representative Kathy Castor (District 14) South St. Pete

Phone: (727) 369-0201

Website: https://castor.house.gov