

Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

February 23, 2018

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, California Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 – Health & Human Services
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814
via fax: (916) 668-7004

Re: 4170 Department of Aging FY 2018-19 Budget

Dear Senator Pan,

The Senior Services Coalition represents over 40 organizations that provide health and supportive services to over 65,000 seniors in Alameda County. We are writing to request that the budget subcommittee take action to increase by \$33 million state funding for local aging services administered by the California Department of Aging in California's FY 2018-19 budget, and commit to maintaining that new baseline going forward.

Demographic trends show the state's aging population is on a collision course with the inadequate supply of community alternatives that help people avoid nursing home placement. Investment is desperately needed to ensure an adequate infrastructure for aging. But the state has continued to rely on federal funding for the majority of existing services while keeping much needed state investment at minimum match levels. State General Funds allocated for local assistance for the many CDA programs has remained flat for a decade. This budgetary neglect has resulted in inadequate capacity, limited access, health disparities and suffering.

Continued fiscal neglect will result in the loss of programs that are vital to the seniors they serve, and are essential to the health care entities that rely on them to keep their patients stable in the community. These programs include meals on wheels and congregate meals, case management, respite care, friendly visiting, adult day care, information and assistance, senior employment, the Long Term Care Ombudsman, Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) and the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). These programs are powerfully successful models; they need relatively small state investments to build out their capacity to serve a growing population.

Our request for FY 18-19 funding is urgent in light of a decade or more of flat funding. The table on the second page of this letter shows State General Funds allocated for Local Assistance over the last several years (it does not include federal funding, or State General Funds allocated for state operations). It shows that allocations for local assistance have dropped since 2008 – a decade during which the number of Californian's age 65 and older grew by 2 million. The table also shows our request for FY 18-19 funding levels, an increase of \$33 million over the Governor's proposal.

We need your leadership. We urge the Subcommittee to take action to adequately fund aging services so that Californians will have the support they need to live healthier lives and navigate the challenges of aging.

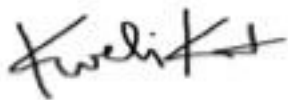
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State General Fund allocations for local assistance have dropped since 2008 – a decade during which the number of Californian’s age 65 and older grew by 2 million.
These programs are powerfully successful models; they need small state investments to increase their capacity so they can serve the growing need.

Department of Aging Programs	State Funding Level 08/09	State Funding Level 16/17	State Funding Level 17/18	Governor’s 18/19 Proposal	SSC Request 18/19
Nutrition Meals On Wheels and Congregate Meals (3890)	\$8.3 million	\$10.26 million	\$8.3 million	\$8.3 million	\$20.8 million
Senior Employment (3895)	0	0	0	0	\$4 million
Supportive Services (3900100) Case Management, Respite, Information & Assistance, Visiting, Adult Day Care, Senior Center Activities	0	\$ 0.19 million	\$ 0.26 million	\$ 0.26 million	\$ 3.26 million
Long Term Care Ombudsman (3900200)	0	\$ 1 million	\$ 1 million	\$ 1 million	\$7.29 million
Community Based Programs (3905) HICAP & other programs	\$13.8 million	\$2.24 million	\$2.24 million	\$2.24 million	\$ 4 million
Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (3910100)	\$ 18.78 million	\$ 20.23 million	\$ 20.23 million	\$ 20.23 million	\$ 25.33 million
Totals:	\$40.88 million	\$33.92 million	\$32.03 million	\$32.03 million	\$64.68 million

The Senior Services Coalition asks that you take action to adequately fund aging services so that older Californians can have the support they need to live safe and stable lives in their communities.

Sincerely,



Kweli Kitwana
 Associate Director of Policy & Advocacy
 Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

CC: Senator Nancy Skinner
 Senator Bob Weickowski