

OLDER ADULTS NEED MORE THAN HEALTHCARE TO STAY HEALTHY

We Demand State Policy that Meets Seniors' Needs

Why hasn't California made the investments that are needed to build an adequate infrastructure for aging? 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.

Instead, our legislators continue to rely on federal funding for the majority of existing services while keeping much needed state investment at minimum match levels. This budgetary neglect has resulted in inadequate capacity, limited access, health disparities and suffering. Alameda County older adults, their families and the community-based organizations that serve them are deeply concerned about the future of aging services.

Our state legislators must commit to adequately fund aging services so that Californians will have the support they need to live healthier lives and navigate the challenges of aging.

None of us can afford to lose the aging services that we have today. These "small but mighty" services are vital to the seniors they serve, and federal and state funding is foundational for the community-based organizations that provide them.

We Urge the Following:

- **Increase state funding for all programs administered by the California Department of Aging** by investing \$33 million across the service mix in FY 2018-19, and committing to maintaining that new baseline going forward.
- **Invest \$5.1 million in new funding for the Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)**, the Medi-Cal case management program proven to decrease costs and improve health outcomes for nursing home-eligible seniors who want to live in their communities. This would increase the number of frail seniors who can be served throughout the state.
- **Include CBAS/Adult Day Health Care on the list of providers to receive Prop 56 Medi-Cal provider rate increases.** These valuable community-based providers are struggling with a rate level unchanged since 2009, more than 100 have had to close their doors due to low reimbursement rates.
- **Restore cuts to SSI/SSP.** Economic insecurity is the single most significant threat to the stability of low and moderate income older adults in our community today.
- **Backfill any federal funding cuts to the greatest extent possible.** The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) received a mid-year federal cut of 9.6% in 2017.

With smart state investments, older Californians can have the support they need to live safe and stable lives in their communities.

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It's Time to End Flat Funding and Invest in Aging Services

The Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County urges our state legislators to commit to adequately fund aging services so that Californians will have the support they need to live healthier lives and navigate the challenges of aging. Our request for FY 18-19 funding are urgent in light of a decade or more of flat funding:

Key Aging Programs	State Funding ¹ Level FY 16/17	State Funding ¹ Level FY 17/18	Governor's FY ¹ 18/19 Proposal	SSC Request ¹ FY 18/19
Department of Aging				
Nutrition Meals On Wheels and Congregate Meals	\$10.26 million	\$8.3 million	\$8.3 million	\$20.8 million
Senior Employment	0	0	0	\$4 million
Supportive Services Case Management, Information & Assistance, Visiting, Respite, Adult Day Care, Senior Center Activities	\$ 0.19 million	\$ 0.26 million	\$ 0.26 million	\$ 3.26 million
Long Term Care Ombudsman	\$ 1 million (GF)	\$ 1 million (GF)	\$ 1 million (GF)	\$7.29 million(GF)
Community Based Programs/Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP)	\$2.24 million	\$2.24 million	\$2.24 million	\$ 4 million ²
Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)	\$ 20.23 million	\$ 20.23 million	\$ 20.23 million	\$ 25.33 million

¹ All funding levels listed are State General Funds allocated for Local Assistance. (Does not include federal funding, or State General Funds allocated for state operations.)

² HICAP received a 9.6% cut in federal funding last year, a loss to California of about \$720,000 in FY 17/18 and in future years.

The Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County is a coalition of 40 nonprofit and public organizations that provide health care and supportive services to over 65,000 seniors and their families. We are committed to establishing an easily accessible, coordinated system of social, medical and supportive care for seniors in Alameda County.