



April 9, 2019

Honorable Eloise Reyes, Acting Chairman
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
State Capitol, Room #2175
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 1-916-319-2131

Honorable Dr. Richard Pan, Chairman
Senate Budget Subcommittee #3
State Capitol, Room #5114
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 1-916-651-4906

Re: 2019/20 Budget Funding Request, 4140 – Department of Aging

Dear Assemblymember Reyes and Senator Pan:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports (CCLTSS) is comprised of [37 statewide aging and disability organizations](#) that promote dignity and independence in long-term living. Our members include advocates, providers, labor, and health insurers and collectively we represent millions of California seniors and people with disabilities, their caregivers, and those who provide health, human services, and housing.

On behalf of the CCLTSS, we respectfully request your support to adopt the proposed Budget Request by the Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County and sponsored by Assemblymember Chu to appropriate \$45.092 million from the General Fund to increase California's investment in aging services in order to build local assistance capacity in Older Californians Act programs administered in the California Department of Aging (CDA). This appropriation would be ongoing, and would grow to \$48.43 million in FY 2020/21 and \$51.77 million in FY 2021/22.

The services administered through CDA are highly valued in counties throughout California. These services represent lifelines for older people who are economically insecure, isolated, or at risk for poor health outcomes or acute crises. As California's older adult population has grown, the need for home and community-based services has exploded. Since 2008, the population of older Californians age 65+ has grown by over 40%, to 5.5 million. By 2030, this cohort will represent more than 9 million people – more than 20% of the population in California. As the aging population has grown, it has also become poorer and the average age

older, increasing the number of people who have complex needs requiring home and community-based services. California's funding for aging services is half what it was in 2008. Under Governor Schwarzenegger, the state's General Fund spending for CDA went from \$62.2 million in FY 07/08 to \$33.4 million in 09/10, and has been virtually flat for over a decade while the state's over-65 population has grown by over two million people. The need for adequate capacity is now urgent. The flat funding has constrained local efforts to build adequate capacity to meet the needs of a growing aging population and prompted program closures in some communities, thus limiting access to community-based services and creating health disparities especially in impoverished communities.

The requested \$45.092 in new General Fund investments, when added to the Governor's proposed General Fund expenditures for FY 2019/20, will bring the total state investment in programs administered through the CDA to \$81.841 million, or the equivalent of 2008 General Fund expenditures for CDA adjusted for inflation, plus a minor adjustment for the growth in population of Californians age 65+ since 2008. The new funding will generate increased service capacity in communities throughout the state, increasing access to the continuum of services that improve health outcomes, prevent acute crises, and enable older Californians to live safe and connected lives. The investment will build capacity in the following critical program areas:

- Senior Nutrition – to provide more meals to address the needs of the more than 1.2 million older Californians who are food-insecure because they are impoverished, isolated, mobility-challenged, unable to prepare meals, and/or frail and home-bound.
- Senior Employment – to increase the number of low-income older Californians who will receive community service and work-based job training that is specifically tailored to their needs and serves as a bridge to stable employment.
- Supportive Services – to increase capacity of local programs statewide to provide Case Management, Information & Assistance, home Visiting, Adult Day Care, Family Caregiver Support and Respite, and Senior Center Activities to serve more older Californians needing assistance to maintain health and economic stability and navigate the challenges of aging.
- Long Term Care Ombudsman – to build capacity at 35 local LTC Ombudsman programs across California to increase unannounced facility visits and complaint investigations to serve the over 370,000 Californians who are cared for annually in long term care facilities.
- Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) – to build capacity and increase the number of MSSP program slots available to serve frail Medi-Cal-eligible Californians age 65+ in their homes rather than in institutions.

Together, these increased investments in Older Californians Act programs will enable communities to improve life and health outcomes for aging Californians – from preventive interventions that keep seniors connected and help them navigate the challenges of aging, to high-touch supportive services that help “high utilizers” comply with care plans and avoid institutionalization.

The CCLTSS strongly supports the proposed investment of California General Funds to build capacity in these essential services in communities across the state, and we urge your Committees to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber C. Christ". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amber" being the most prominent.

Amber C. Christ, JD
Vice Chair for Policy
California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports