



FROM CRISIS TO RECOVERY: MEETING THE MOMENT WITH LTSS 2021 POLICY PRIORITIES

California is at an historic turning point filled with opportunity for meeting this moment of crisis and recovery for its aging population and people living with disabilities. A year of pandemic, fires, and widespread power outages exposed and exacerbated life-threatening weaknesses in the LTSS infrastructure of care. The crises also provided important lessons for strengthening LTSS, including the dangers of an over-reliance on highest levels of care and the benefits of offering flexible and sustainable home and community-based care options. These lessons have informed bold new initiatives and possibilities, including:

- **Implementation of a new [Master Plan for Aging \(MPA\)](#)** forged by the Governor, state agency leaders, stakeholders, and advocates to address longstanding systemic gaps in LTSS
- **State and federal budget** proposals, including increased commitments to home and community-based services (HCBS) that were essential to the survival and well-being of older adults and people with disabilities throughout the COVID-19 crisis
- **Federal COVID-19 relief funds and potential infrastructure investments** which could support the development of a comprehensive statewide LTSS system of care

California Collaborative members have served on the front lines of crisis response in the past year as direct service providers and leaders of networks adapting to deliver critical support services in neighborhoods and communities. Our experience has demonstrated the efficacy and urgency of increasing capacity for personalized care offered at the level required by individuals and families. The Collaborative's 2021 policy priorities reflect this understanding and the necessity of providing a full range of home and community-based health and LTSS supports through a coordinated system of care.

2021 POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Investing in a Statewide LTSS System of Care
2. Master Plan for Aging Implementation
3. Master Plan for Aging Oversight



CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE 2021 PRIORITIES

Investing in a Statewide LTSS System of Care

Utilize federal COVID-19 and infrastructure funding to:

- **Increase HCBS organizational capacity** to serve areas where access is currently limited or non-existent
- **Approve continuation of the Community Care Transitions program (CCT)** that improves transitions from hospital to home and community settings, and reduces re-admissions
- **Expand federal waiver services** to assist with supportive housing placements
- **Invest in HCBS workforce** recruitment, retention, and training
- **Allocate funds to prepare HCBS facilities** for the safe return of participants
- **Continue and expand telehealth** and remote health monitoring technologies

Master Plan for Aging Implementation

2021-2022 new state budget funding to support the MPA:

- **Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRC) Expansion:** \$7.5 million in 2021-22, half-year funding of \$5 million in 2022-23 to delay the suspension of and expand ADRC networks to serve the entire state
- **Integrated Data Collection and Transparency:** \$250,000 to allow for the Department of Health Care Services to aggregate and report out data relating to Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS), so that individuals eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare and Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (SPDs) can access the full range of health and LTSS supports and services. See the Collaborative's full proposal [here](#)
- **\$5 million General Fund placeholder** for spring proposals to further implement the MPA

Master Plan for Aging Oversight

- **Conduct regular legislative hearings and oversight** to ensure effective coordination and implementation of the MPA
- **Utilize the Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee** for cross-Cabinet, inter-departmental, and stakeholder coordination and communication
- **Immediate appointment of a Senior Advisor to the Governor on Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer's** to advance strong and coordinated leadership for MPA implementation across agencies, in partnership with the Legislature and stakeholders

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