



May 21, 2019

President Pro Tempore, Toni G. Atkins
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Impact of May Revise Cuts on Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Dear President Pro Tempore Atkins,

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Support (CCLTSS) is comprised of over [60 statewide and local 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.

We recognize that these are unprecedented times. With the state facing a \$54 billion deficit, decisions to reduce costs to the state's budget will need to be made. The CCLTSS strongly urges you to consider the unintended consequences of cutting these programs. These vital safety-net services result in savings to the state by keeping low income and vulnerable older adults and people with disabilities out of institutional levels of care and in the community.

The proposed cuts to Medi-Cal and IHSS (summarized below) would disproportionately impact older adults and adults with disabilities. Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS), the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP),

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), and Caregiver Resource Centers (CRCs) provide for a higher quality of life and are lower-cost alternatives to nursing homes. The proposed budget has the unintended consequence of increasing the number of individuals in nursing homes and other institutions, negating savings by eliminating or reducing funding for these programs.

The CCLTSS opposes the budget cuts outlined below and encourages the legislature to engage in robust analysis of the short-term savings versus the long-term costs to the system that eliminating funding for programs that support people, especially during a pandemic, will have.

Medi-Cal/Department of Health Care Services

- Elimination of the CBAS and MSSP programs with the effective date no sooner than July 1, 2020
- Elimination of the proposal for Full-Scope Medi-Cal to undocumented older adults
- Elimination of the proposal for the expansion of Medi-Cal to aged, blind, and disabled individuals with incomes between 123 percent and 138 percent of the federal poverty level and it proposes not to implement the Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicare Part B disregard
- Reduction of the adult dental benefits to the partial restoration levels of 2014 and to eliminate audiology, incontinence creams and washes, speech therapy, optician/optical lab, podiatry, acupuncture, optometry, nurse anesthetists services, occupational and physical therapy, pharmacist services, screening, brief intervention and referral to treatments for opioids and other illicit drugs in Medi-Cal, and diabetes prevention program services
- Elimination of previously proposed augmentation for Senior Nutrition, the LTC Ombudsman, the Aging & Disability Resource Centers, and the Caregiver Resource Centers
- Reduction of provider rates for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by \$300 million GF, with an additional cut of \$31 million GF through the re-implementation of the Uniform Holiday Schedule.
- Restoration of full Medi-Cal Estate Recovery provisions

Department of Social Services

- Assumes a 7-percent reduction in the number of hours provided to IHSS beneficiaries, effective January 1, 2021
- Freezes IHSS county and Public Authority administration funding at the 2019-20 level
- Shifts IHSS payroll responsibilities from the counties to a contract vendor
- Cuts to Independent Living Centers
- Offsets to the SSP grant equivalent to the amount of the federal January 2021 cost of living adjustment to the SSI portion of the grant

The CCLTSS strongly urges you to consider the unintended consequences of cutting these programs that ultimately result in savings to the state by keeping low income and vulnerable older adults and people with disabilities out of institutional levels of care and in the community.

Sincerely,



Eric Dowdy, Chair
Board of Directors
California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports

CC: Senator Holly J. Mitchell
Senator Richard Pan