



CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR LONG TERM SERVICES & SUPPORTS (CCLTSS)

December 28, 2018

Hon. Toni Atkins
President pro Tempore
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95820

Hon. Anthony Rendon
Speaker
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95820

Re: 2019 Priorities for Long-Term Services and Supports

Dear Senator Atkins and Speaker Rendon:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is comprised of 37 statewide aging and disability organizations that promote dignity, health 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.

Collectively, the members of the Collaborative hold an enormous scope of responsibilities for Californians of all ages who experience disabilities, functional limitations or chronic conditions and who need LTSS. Long-term services and supports are a wide range of personal, medical and social or financial assistance needed by persons with functional limitations over an extended time. The services may be publicly or privately financed,

delivered in a range of settings, and may change as the needs of the individual who uses the services change.

Because California does not have a single unified system of care that addresses LTSS across populations, support for these services is necessarily spread throughout different departments and programs, and the advocacy efforts on their behalf are many and diverse. **We have attached for you a list of LTSS policy priorities that members of the Collaborative will be advancing in 2019.**

The proposals fall into three general categories:

- I. Preventing Losses of Currently Authorized and Expected Services
- II. Expanding Access to Needed Services That Bend the Cost Curve
- III. Strengthening and Modernizing Community Living and Supports

In the judgment of our members, these are the important issues and key investments that will move forward the programs and services on which seniors and people with disabilities depend.

In the past, due to the fragmented nature of California's separate aging and disability systems, services and financing, these programs have often been weighed against one another in Legislative deliberations. This is problematic approach that replicates the fragmentation, disarray and fragility of these crucial systems of care. An older adult with dementia who needs assisted living, a disabled person who needs supported living services, a family caregiver struggling to hold a job along with intense caregiving responsibilities, workforce shortages across social services programs, lack of access to the right program at the right time – all of the policy challenges that face California's aging and disability systems are important, and it is a disservice to vulnerable Californians when these programs are pitted against one another in budget deliberations.

Members of the Collaborative members strongly believe that California needs a system of high-quality, cost-effective long-term services and supports (LTSS) that strengthen the person, his or her family, caregivers, circles of support, and the community at large. That system must promote the person's well-being and social participation, promote economic independence, prevent impoverishment and remove barriers to employment. These needs are similar across programs and populations. The attached priorities will be brought

before the Legislature for your consideration in the upcoming session. Our members, who have deep expertise in these programs and services, believe these priorities and investments need to be addressed. We urge the Legislature to take a comprehensive and holistic approach to financing of LTSS and the broad array of needs as well as the vast number of Californians of all ages who depend upon these programs and supports.

Please feel free to let me know if we can provide any further information. The Collaborative looks forward to working with the Legislature in 2019 to strengthen and advance LTSS for the vulnerable Californians who need them.

Sincerely,



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

Attachment

cc: Marjorie Swartz, Consultant, President pro Tempore Policy Office
Mareva Brown, Consultant, President pro Tempore Policy Office
Agnes Lee, Consultant, Speaker's Policy Office
Gail Gronert, Consultant, Speaker's Policy Office
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget Committee
Theresa Pena, Consultant, Senate Budget Committee
Andrea Margolis, Assembly Budget Committee
Nichole Vazquez, Assembly Budget Committee



**CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR
LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS
MEMBER BUDGET AND POLICY ISSUES
2019**

ISSUE	SPONSOR	TYPE	DETAILS
I. PREVENTING LOSSES OF CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED AND EXPECTED SERVICES			
MSSP Rate Increase	MSSP Site Association	Budget Item	\$4.7 - \$5 million for rate increase for Multipurpose Senior Services Programs.
DD Rate Increase	The Arc of California	Budget Item	The Arc is asking for an 8% across-the-board rate increase to Regional Center-funded services as a “down payment” toward the recommendations made thru the rate study.
IHSS Service Restoration	SEIU Local 2015 UDW	Budget Item	Permanent restoration of the 7% service cut in IHSS hours for program recipients.
II. EXPANDING ACCESS TO NEEDED SERVICES THAT BEND THE COST CURVE			
Expand and Improve Assisted Living Waiver	Justice in Aging and Coalition of Organizations	Budget Item	AB 2233 language may be the starting place (vetoed by Governor 2018).
Increase eligibility for full Medi-Cal for seniors to 138% FPL	Justice in Aging, Disability Rights CA, Western Center on Law & Poverty	Legislation and Budget Item	Based on AB 2430, which died on Assembly Suspense File in 2018.
Public Health Infrastructure Investments for Alzheimer’s Disease Prevention	Alzheimer’s Association	Budget Item	\$9.75 million to build statewide public health infrastructure at the state level using several strategies, including adding clinical experts to the CA Dept of Public Health, implementing the Healthy Brain Initiative roadmap, promoting public awareness and other improvements. Also provides funding for competitive grants for 8 local Public Health Departments to implement the Healthy Brain Initiative.

III. STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING COMMUNITY LIVING AND SUPPORTS

CA Community Transitions Program	Disability Rights CA	TBD	California General-Funded version of the federal Money Follows the Person program to provide services for people to transition out of nursing homes to the community.
Modify PACE Rate Methodology	CalPACE	Budget Trailer Bill	The changes will make the PACE rate methodology more supportive of PACE’s capital needs and mission of serving exclusively high-risk beneficiaries.
Funding for Adult Protective Services Training	CA Commission on Aging CA Elder Justice Coalition	Budget Item	Proposal to finance APS training to replace 3-year funding that is expiring. This will be another 3-year request.
DD Rate Study	Lanterman Coalition	Budget Trailer Bill	The rate study is anticipated to highlight the underfunding of the DD system and make recommendations for more equitable funding.
California Caregiver Resource Centers Funding	Association of California Caregiver Resource Centers	TBD	Proposal to improve access, quality and efficiency in service delivery to caregivers using next generation service platforms to scale tailored services to working and isolated California family caregivers and expand partnerships with health systems.
Establish California Community Living Act	California Association of Area Agencies on Aging	TBD	Policy initiative to establish No Wrong Door system, consolidate several aging and disability programs and enhance access to community-based services.
Affordable Housing		CONCEPT	California Supported Living Network is concerned about affordable housing.
Increase Medi-Cal Allowance for Living Expenses		CONCEPT	LifeSTEPS is concerned that the Medi-Cal allowance for living expenses is unreasonable for affordable housing residents at \$600 per individual and \$934 per couple.
Fix for IHSS First Paycheck Delay Problem		CONCEPT	Californians for Disability Rights is very concerned that the problem of late IHSS paychecks for new workers is having a negative impact on consumers being able to find IHSS workers.