



April 9, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair
Senate Committee on Budget
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee #3
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Eloise Reyes, Acting Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
State Capitol, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Increase to the Medi-Cal Reimbursement Rate for the Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) program in the 2019-2020 Budget

Dear Chairpersons:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Support (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.

The CCLTSS supports the request by the California Association for Adult Day Services (CAADS) to restore the 10% cut to the current Medi-Cal fee-for-service published rate for the Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) program to prevent potential closures of CBAS centers (per AB 97, Chapter 3, Statutes of 2011). The CBAS centers are daytime health facilities serving 36,000 of the state's most complex and vulnerable Medi-Cal recipients. Currently in California, there are 251 licensed and certified CBAS centers, in 32 counties, contracted with Medi-Cal Managed Care Organizations. An adequately funded CBAS program is a vital part of the long-term services and supports network. We respectfully ask the Committees to invest \$12 million of Proposition 56 funding to restore the Medi-Cal fee-for-service published rate for the CBAS program.

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Unfortunately, the Medi-Cal reimbursement rate for CBAS services has failed to keep up with rising costs and the increasingly complex needs of persons served in this program. The disparity between costs and reimbursement is unsustainable, given the need for these cost-effective services to address the demographics of an aging population. The estimated \$12 million cost increase would allow CBAS providers to continue to deliver essential nursing, occupational, and other supports to adults with complex medical, cognitive, and psychological conditions.

The Collaborative also supports CAADS' request for a 15% cost-of-living increase to the published Medi-Cal rate to adjust for more than a decade of cost increases, including the rise in minimum wages, rent, fuel, transportation, food, insurance, technology, and the associated burdens of implementing new federal and state regulations. Failure to act on this increase may well result in denial or delay of care throughout the state, in addition to more costly interventions such as emergency room visits, hospital admissions, and nursing home placement. We need to prevent these negative impacts from affecting the health and well-being of many of California's most complex and vulnerable Medi-Cal recipients.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

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