



CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR LONG-TERM SERVICES & SUPPORTS (CCLTSS)

February 9, 2018

Hon. Joaquin Arambula, MD
Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1 on Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hon. Richard Pan, MD
Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Budget Proposal for Senior Nutrition - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Arambula and Senator Pan:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports 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.

We are writing in strong support of funding for California senior nutrition programs.

The Home-Delivered Nutrition Program and Congregate Nutrition Program, administered through Area Agencies on Aging, provide meals and nutrition services to individuals age 60 and over, targeting those with the greatest

economic or social needs; particularly if they are homebound, isolated, low-income, minority or living in rural areas. **In 2015/16, these programs together provided 17.75 million meals to 223,352 unduplicated California seniors.**

These essential nutrition services are a core component of a system of home and community-based services, reducing the risk of chronic health conditions as well as assisting at-risk seniors to avoid inappropriate institutionalization. A [Brown University Study](#) estimated that every \$25 spent by a state on home-delivered meals to persons over age 65 reduces the low-care nursing home population by 1%.

However, funding for the senior nutrition programs has not kept pace with the need. According to the Berkeley Labor Center, three out of every ten California seniors do not have enough income to cover their basic needs – 29% live below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Among the oldest, age 80 and older, that figure is 36%. This is the very demographic that senior nutrition programs are designed to address.

When we do not meet the need for cost-effective home and community-based services, we pay the price in unnecessary costs in the health system, including nursing home admissions, hospital re-admissions and emergency department costs. California's senior nutrition programs are overdue for a funding increase that will help them keep pace with the growing numbers of California seniors living in poverty.

We respectfully ask for your support for this proposal.

Sincerely,



Laurel Mildred, MSW
For the California Collaborative
Laurel.Mildred@mildredconsulting.com

cc: Hon. Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Hon. Jay Obernolte, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Hon. Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget Committee
Hon. Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair, Senate Budget Committee
The Hon. Members of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1
The Hon. Members of the Senate Budget Subcommittee 3
Diana Dooley, Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency
Michael Cohen, Director, Department of Finance
Lora Connolly, Director, Department of Aging
Hon. Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Hon. Brian Dahle, Assembly Republican Leader
Hon. Kevin de León, President pro Tempore, California State Senate
Hon. Patricia Bates, Senate Minority Leader