



May 20, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via e-mail: SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 602
Sacramento, CA 95814
AsmBudget@asm.ca.gov

RE: Support for Funding Goals of the Master Plan for Aging

Dear Chairs Skinner and Ting:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports (CCLTSS) is comprised of of [60 statewide and regional aging and disability organizations](#) that promote dignity, health, and independence in community 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 would first like to thank the Legislature for its leadership and restoration of funding for home and community-based support programs during the 2020-2021 budget cycle. Programs that were saved from budget cuts or elimination such as MSSP, CBAS and IHSS, proved critical to saving and supporting lives during the pandemic, wildfires, and power outage crises of the past year. We are hopeful that the Legislature will continue to support and fund these critical programs in the 2021-2022 budget process that is currently underway.

Specifically, the CCLTSS would like to voice our strong support for the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) implementation activities that are part of the Governor's May Revision. We applaud the leadership and commitment by the Governor, the Administration, and the Legislature that resulted in this bold vision and we encourage the Legislature to fully fund the MPA activities in the budget to support a substantive package of bills that will make the vision of the MPA possible.

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 formed bold new initiatives and possibilities, including:

- Funding for the Statewide Expansion of Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRC)

- Integrated Data Collection and Transparency Relating to Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Provided Through the Medi-Cal Program
- 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 and in Partnership with the Legislature and Stakeholders

The MPA addresses systemic gaps that proved costly to life and safety during the pandemic, including a patchwork model of disconnected health services and non-medical social supports, an over-reliance on congregate care as a first resort, and an under-reliance on the at-home and community-based services that prevent or delay entry and re-entry into higher levels of care. Community-based LTSS service providers were able to meet the moment for Californians in many communities across California by drawing upon their expertise in LTSS models that defer and/or prevent institutional placement. Many older adults and people with disabilities remain isolated without access to critical services and supports due to the lack of a statewide HCBS infrastructure and ineligibility under current funding structures. The MPA, when implemented, will result in an integrated, statewide model of long-term care that will provide access to care and aging supports for millions more.

We therefore request that the Legislature fully fund the MPA activities and continue to support the framework that will allow older adults and those with disabilities to thrive in the community.

Sincerely,



Eric Dowdy, Chair
Board of Directors

California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports

cc: Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee 3
Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, Health & Human Services Agency
Dr. Tomas Aragon, Director, Department of Public Health
Elizabeth Landsberg, Director, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Kim McCoy Wade, Director, Department of Aging
Kim Johnson, Director, Department of Social Services
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Marko Mijic, Deputy Secretary, Health & Human Services Agency
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee (Health)
Dr. Renita Polk, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee (Human Services)
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Nicole Vazquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Adam Dorsey, Department of Finance
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate Pro Tem
Gail Gronert, Assembly Speaker's Office
Myesha Jackson, Assembly Speaker's Office