



# Master Plan for Aging: FACT SHEET

## Building an Equitable California for ALL Ages and Abilities

Since its launch in January 2021, the Newsom Administration and the Legislature have committed billions of dollars in unprecedented investments to advance equity and priorities outlined in the state's Master Plan for Aging (MPA) for 2030. More than 50 MPA initiatives have been adopted to strengthen existing programs while simultaneously launching new services for targeted populations. Today, older Californians, people with disabilities, and caregivers have expanded access to health care, more housing opportunities, greater home and community-based care options, and a host of new supports to enhance community living.



## Goal One: Housing for all Ages & Stages

California communities are expanding age-friendly housing options as part of the overall historic investments in affordable housing production, mortgage and rent relief, and accessible transportation. These include Community Care Expansion (\$855M); Accessory Dwelling Units (\$131M); Veterans Housing (\$100 M); Housing Modifications & Fall Prevention (\$5M); Healthier Homes-Aging in Place (\$12.5M); Adult Family Homes (\$9M); and Age-Friendly Communities (\$4.5M). California is also among the first states designated as an AARP Age-Friendly State.



## Goal Two: Health Reimagined

California is establishing the foundation of a true home and community-based care system, which is a top priority of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

### Enhanced Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS)

CalAIM's groundbreaking Medi-Cal Community Supports and Enhanced Care Management \$3B HCBS Spending Plan; In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) home care restorations (\$496M); Adult Day Care COVID-19 recovery grants (\$61M); an increase in the number of Medi-Cal Assisted Living Waiver slots by 7,000, and more.

### Expanded Health Care Access

Medi-Cal had four expansions for older and disabled adults: Elimination of the asset test by 2024; elimination of the working disabled premium; coverage for people 50+ who are undocumented; and plans to address share of cost in 2025. In addition, California is the first state to focus squarely on Medicare coordination by aligning Medicare/Medi-Cal plans statewide and creating a new Office of Innovation and Integration.

### Bold Alzheimer's Investments

Nine of ten Governor's Task Force recommendations are being implemented, including Healthy Brain initiatives, a new Medi-Cal benefit for dementia screening, and dementia-capable care in home and at community centers.

### Focus on Nursing Home Quality

California implemented major financing reform to drive quality care. For residents and families, that includes expanded on-line facility quality information, outreach on Long-Term Care Ombudsman services, a review of visitor access policies during emergencies, and new robotic pets.

### Data-Driven Planning for Future Needs

California is embarking on statewide planning to assess HCBS infrastructure and capacity and to identify gaps in coverage for all income levels (\$9M). Additionally, the state is leveraging data from the California Health Interview Survey to center planning on Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) and caregiving.





## Goal Three: Inclusion and Equity, not Isolation

A new public information and navigation system is being built to help older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers stay connected and protected in communities, with new investments in a statewide web portal for 24/7 access to community resources with improved language access and telephone support. Progress is also being made toward reducing isolation with home delivered meals (\$106M), technology grants for digital devices (\$50M), and Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion Volunteer programs (\$10M). In the midst of the pandemic, California lowered the age for Adult Protective Services (APS) from 65 to 60 (\$70M) to reflect growing inequities and created the first state position to coordinate with Public Guardians.



## Goal Four: Caregiving that Works

California is prioritizing support for the direct care workforce, such as home care aides, IHSS providers, and community health workers/promotores, as well as health professionals including mental and behavioral health clinicians, social workers, nurses, primary care doctors, and geriatricians. Support for unpaid family caregivers, who continue to provide the vast majority of long-term care, is also prioritized as part of the historic \$2.5B overall investment in the health and human service workforce.



## Goal Five: Affording Aging

Unprecedented progress was made to repair the safety net and to address homelessness for older adults and people with disabilities living well below the Federal Poverty Limit.

### **Homelessness**

Initiatives targeting the fastest growing age segment, individuals (50+), include the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (\$300M) and Home Safe (for APS) (\$185M).

### **Cash Assistance**

Increased Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payments (SSI/SSP) in 2022 and 2023, rescinding cuts that date back to 2009 (\$291M).

### **Hunger**

Expansion of CalFresh access to undocumented people 55+, as well as Home and Community Meals expansion (\$58M ongoing) and infrastructure (\$40M).

### **Affordability**

California continues to explore new ways to address the affordability gap for a growing number of older adults and people with disabilities who don't qualify for Medi-Cal but need financial assistance to cover the cost of care, housing, and a secure retirement. Significant but modest steps have been taken to date such as expanded employment re-training for older adults (\$17M) and, most recently, CalSavers employer expansions. There is renewed interest in Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) financing (\$5M), coupled with progress on the Long-Term Care Insurance Task Force results.



To learn more about the MPA's progress, read the [First Annual Progress Report](#) and visit the [Data Dashboard for Aging](#).

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