

## **Older Californians Act – Cheat Sheet**

In 1980, AB 2975 established the Older Californians Act (OCA). The 1980 OCA:

- Established the California Department of Aging (CDA) as the single state agency responsible for administering the Older Americans Act (OAA) within California
- Defined the duties and functions of CDA as well as the state's 33 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs).

In 1996, the Legislature amended the OCA via the Mello-Granlund Act (AB 2800). AB 2800 expanded upon the 1980 OCA by establishing new programs and making structural changes to service delivery in the following ways:

- Established state-funded programs and services for older adults and adults with disabilities through community-based services.
- Defined the roles of the AAAs, Commission on Aging (COA), Senior Legislature (SL), & Advisory Councils.
- Established specific OCA targeting & formulas for allocating AAA base administrative funding.
- Transferred contractual and administrative responsibility for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program and the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) from CDA to the AAAs.
- Established the following OAA programs:
  - Access Services – Enabling seniors to access OAA services through community resources, community referrals, targeted outreach, and comprehensive assessment.
  - Nutrition Services – Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals, Nutrition Education, and Nutrition Counseling.
  - Legal Services – Provision of legal advice, counseling, and representation by an attorney via OAA Title III.
  - Supportive Services – Care Management, Chore Assistance, Home Modifications, Transportation, Senior Centers, etc.
  - Health Promotion/Disease Prevention—Evidence based programs to assist older adults maintain their health, avoid injuries, and manage chronic health/behavioral health conditions, such as the Falls Prevention program.
  - Caregiver Support Services – Information & Assistance, counseling and supportive services, training, and respite.
  - Long Term Care Ombudsman Program - Identifies, investigates, & resolves complaints made by (or on behalf of) long term care facility residents.
  - Senior Community Employment Program (Title V) - Fosters and promotes useful part-time opportunities in community service activities for unemployed low-income persons.

AB 2800 also established the following community-based services<sup>1</sup> that were not included in the OAA but funded by the State's general fund and/or Medi-Cal:

- Alzheimer's Day Care-Resource Center program- provides access to specialized day care resource centers for individuals with Alzheimer's disease & other dementia-related disorders and support to their families & caregivers.
- Brown Bag Program – provides opportunities for sponsors & volunteers to glean through excess food stuffs that are donated & distributed in bags to help meet the nutritional needs of low-income older individuals.
- Foster Grandparent Program – provides personally meaningful volunteer community service opportunities to low-income older individuals through mentoring children with exceptional physical, developmental, or behavioral needs.
- Linkages - provides care and case management services to frail elderly and functionally impaired adults, with enrollment priority given to low-income individuals, to help prevent or delay placement in nursing facilities.
- Respite - provide temporary or periodic services for frail elderly or functionally impaired adults to relieve persons who are providing care, or recruitment and screening of providers and matching respite providers to clients.
- Senior Companion - provides personally meaningful volunteer community service opportunities to low-income older individuals for the benefit of adults who need assistance in their daily living.
- Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) – administered via interagency agreement with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide social & health care management to assist nursing home eligible older adults to remain at home.
- Established the Senior Bond Act – awards from the bond act were awarded to non-profit agencies for the purpose of acquiring, renovating, constructing, and purchasing of equipment for senior centers, or funding startup costs of programs, or program expansion of senior center programs.
- Required CDA to establish an Aging Information and Education Fund, from funds made available pursuant to the annual Budget Act, to implement public awareness of various issues.
- Established a Senior Wellness Program – providing educational information about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle, including, but not limited to, nutrition, exercise, injury prevention, and mental well-being.

In 2017, the Legislature amended the OCA to establish the Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) to be administered by CDA, with DHCS and Dept of Rehabilitation as core State partners (2017) - provides a single more coordinated system for people seeking reliable information and access to Long-Term Services and Supports by

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<sup>1</sup> While the authorizing language remains in statute, budget cuts during the Great Recession eliminated funding for the Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center, Brown Bag, Foster Grandparent, Linkages, and Respite & Senior Companion programs.

building community partnerships, providing services using a person-centered approach, and reducing the number of barriers for accessing services.

In 2019, SB 80 established the ADRC Infrastructure Grants Program for the purpose of providing a single more coordinated system for people seeking reliable information and access to Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS).

With relations to the California Code of Regulations, initial regulations were promulgated in 1980 following the OCA. Since then, few pieces of the regulations relating to the Conflict of Interest Code; Title III and Ombudsman programs have been updated over the years.