

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING
Division of Home and Community Living
Older Adults Program Branch

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**PROGRAM MEMO****TO:** Area Agencies on Aging**NO:** 21-29**DATE ISSUED:** December 31, 2021**EXPIRES:** Until Superseded or Rescinded**PROGRAMS AFFECTED:** Older Americans Act Programs**SUPERSEDES:** N/A**SUBJECT:** HIV status added to Welfare and Institutions Code section 9015**Purpose**

This program memo provides information about a new factor that Area Agencies on Aging must consider when targeting services to older adults who face the “greatest social need” (Welfare and Institutions Code section 9015). The new factor, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) status, was added to the code by Senate Bill 258 (Laird, Chapter 132, Statutes of 2021) and becomes effective on January 1, 2022. The new requirement seeks to address cultural and social isolation caused by HIV status and ensure that older people with HIV have the resources they need to age in place with dignity.

This requirement is consistent with “Objective D: Equitable Access for All” contained in the 2021-2025 Older Americans Act State Plan, which emphasizes the importance of advancing equity by working to ensure that those individuals living with HIV have the services and supports they need, and with guidance released by the Administration for Community Living in August 2021 requesting that states include a description of strategies to serve older adults living with HIV in their future state plans.

CDA is sharing this information both to encourage attention to this newly targeted group and to alert AAAs that are planning their next formal Area Plan needs assessment.

Background

AAAs are required to target services to older adults facing the greatest economic and social need. Welfare and Institutions Code section 9015 defines “greatest social need” as “the need caused by noneconomic factors that restrict an individual’s ability to perform normal daily tasks or that threaten an individual’s capacity to live independently. These factors include physical or mental disability, language barriers, and cultural or social isolation caused by, among other things, racial and ethnic status, sexual orientation, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) status, gender identity, or gender expression.”

Area Plan Needs Assessment

Before developing a new four-year Area Plan, each AAA must conduct a needs assessment to:

- Identify target populations.
- Identify the types and extent of existing and potential needs of older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers in the PSA.
- Identify the services or resources existing within the PSA that are available for addressing the identified needs.
- Identify the existing constraints on addressing needs.
- Estimate unmet needs, under-utilized services, and barriers preventing access to available services.

Once the type and extent of existing and potential needs are determined, each AAA must identify priorities from which to develop goals and objectives. These goals and objectives should now include the needs of older adults with HIV.

Resources Related to HIV

- [ACL: Older Adults with HIV/AIDS](#)
- [HIV Surveillance Reports: California Department of Public Health](#)
- [SAGE \(Advocacy & Services for LGBT Elders\)](#)
- [ACRIA](#)
- [National Resource Center on HIV & Aging](#)
- [Positive Women's Network](#)

Inquiries

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