



**Governor's 2020-21 Budget  
Proposed Investments in Aging & Disability  
January 13, 2020**

[The Governor's 2020-21 Budget \(Budget\)](#) makes bold investments to advance key health and human services priorities for aging and disabled Californians, including quality, affordable health care regardless of your age or income; transformed health care services through the Medi-Cal program; lower prescription drug costs; integrated behavioral health care services; and support for those who struggle with homelessness.

The following is a summary of proposed investments in aging-related programs and investments in other programs and initiatives that will benefit older adults and adults with disabilities:

**Expanding Health Coverage and Benefits to Older Californians**

The Administration's goal is to achieve universal health coverage, and the Budget takes incremental steps to provide every person in California access to meaningful and affordable health insurance. This Budget looks to build on prior investments by expanding full-scope Medi-Cal coverage to all older adults aged 65 years and older regardless of immigration status.

In addition, Medi-Cal Healthier California for All (formerly CalAIM) will provide a wider array of services and supports for individuals with complex needs, including older adults, whose health outcomes are, in part, driven by unmet social needs such as housing, transportation and food. To fund this effort, the Budget includes \$695 million in FY 2020-21, increasing to \$1.4 billion in FY 2021-22.

The Budget also includes five proposals to reduce the costs of prescription drugs, which will make health care more affordable for the many older and disabled Californians with multiple prescriptions.

### **Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP)**

The Budget includes \$2.66 billion General Fund in 2020-21 for the SSI/SSP program. This represents a 1.6 percent decrease from the revised 2019-20 Budget. The average monthly caseload in this program is estimated to be 1.18 million recipients in 2020-21, a 1.8 percent decrease from the 2019-20 projection. The SSI/SSP caseload consists of 69.4 percent disabled persons, 29.3 percent aged, and 1.4 percent blind.

Effective January 2020, the maximum SSI/SSP grant levels are \$943 per month for individuals and \$1,583 per month for couples. The projected growth in the Consumer Price Index is 1.7 percent for 2021. As a result, the maximum SSI/SSP monthly grant levels will increase by approximately \$13 and \$20 for individuals and couples, respectively, effective January 2021. The 2019 Budget Act also included \$25 million General Fund ongoing to assist homeless, disabled individuals applying for SSI/SSP benefits.

### **In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)**

The Budget includes \$14.9 billion (\$5.2 billion General Fund) for the IHSS program in 2020-21, a 16 percent increase in General Fund costs over the revised 2019-20 level. Average monthly caseload in this program is estimated to be 586,000 recipients in 2020-21, a 4.5 percent increase from the revised 2019-20 projection. The Budget further includes \$3.7 million (\$1.9 million General Fund) in 2020-21 and \$240,000 (\$120,000 General Fund) ongoing to support additional training for county social workers and managers in conducting needs assessments for IHSS recipients to promote consistency across all counties with respect to program requirements.

## **Behavioral Health**

The Budget supports new and expanded behavioral health programs and services across various departments while establishing a Behavioral Health Task Force. The Task Force will examine existing policies and programs and will coordinate system transformation efforts to better prevent and respond to mental illness and substance use disorders in California, including older adults facing isolation and increased risks of depression, opioid misuse, and suicide. The Budget also includes \$45.1 million to implement a Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program to provide funding to county-operated community mental health and substance use disorder systems.

## **Alzheimer's and Related Dementias**

The Budget includes \$3.6 million one-time General Fund to establish a coordination and training initiative through the Alzheimer's Disease Centers to help family caregivers. This initiative aligns closely with the work underway through the Governor's Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force.

## **Homelessness**

The Budget makes new investments in addressing the homelessness crisis by proposing \$750 million in new investments this year to help vulnerable Californians, including people 50 and over who are estimated to be half of the homeless population. To help people who are currently homeless or at risk of becoming so, the Budget will establish the California Access to Housing and Services Fund to address the key drivers of homelessness, while helping to stabilize board and care facilities where many older adults and people with disabilities reside. It will both move more people into stable housing and help create stable new housing units.

## **Home and Community Based Care**

The Budget extends by 18 months the suspension date of funding appropriated in the 2019 Budget Act to July 1, 2023 for In Home Supportive Services, as well as the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) and Nutrition programs' funding for older adults and adults with disabilities.

## **Nursing Facilities**

The Budget reforms Nursing Facility financing to incentivize value and quality and invests in Licensing and Certification of health facilities (\$32.9 million), including skilled nursing facilities, to improve care and patient safety.

**Veterans' Services**

California is home to nearly 1.6 million veterans - including more than 700,000 over age 65. The Budget includes investments in veteran services, including \$2.3 million ongoing General Fund to improve behavioral health services at veteran homes by standardizing mental health support staffing and \$6.8 million ongoing General Fund related to funding shortfalls at the three oldest veteran homes.

**Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**

The Budget includes \$10.2 million in 2020-21, growing to \$19.3 million ongoing in 2022-23, to establish and administer the California Consumer Financial Protection Law, which will provide consumers with more protection against unfair and deceptive practices when accessing financial services and products. Specific new activities include offering services to empower and educate consumers, especially older Californians.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Budget includes \$984 million (\$203 million ongoing) in additional funding to enhance the state's emergency preparedness and response capabilities. This funding includes major wildfire protection investments, funding to facilitate immediate response by state and local governments during utility-led power shutoff events, funding to review and enforce utility wildfire mitigation plans, and for a new Wildfire Safety Division and Wildfire Fund. These investments will help address the particular vulnerability of older Californians and Californians with disabilities during emergencies and disasters.